

The Way of Truth

Vol. 84

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

No. 3

April 2026



“Truly, this was the Son of God!”

(See Editorial Inside)

“TRULY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD”

SOME YEARS AGO, I came across a reading that had a profound effect upon me. I don't know who wrote it or when it was written. All I remember is the first time I read it, it brought tears to my eyes. And the several times I read it in public, it had a similar effect. It captures the reality of the crucifixion of our blessed Savior some 2,000 years ago. As we approach the season commemorating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let the reality of His suffering deepen your devotion to His cause. As you read this, do so slowly and take in the entire scene. You, too, will be touched by its witness of the truth.

THE CRUCIFIXION THROUGH LONGINUS' EYES

My name is Longinus. I am a Roman centurion. If you would have lived in my day and looked into my face, you would have seen carved there the image of Caesar. Caesar's army was invincible. My business was death and I was a master at my trade. I had just come on duty at 6:00 in the morning on the eventful day. To my amazement, there before me stood the entire Sanhedrin and the high priest with a prisoner whose hands were bound. They demanded that Pilate immediately try this prisoner before the bar of Roman justice. As you can well imagine, Pilate was not overly thrilled to be awakened at that hour of the morning, but he quickly dressed and came out. When he learned that the accused was a Galilean, he gladly sent Jesus to Herod. That was that. Pontius Pilate could return to sleep. If only that had been the end of the matter!

When they brought Jesus back to Pilate, they hurled more accusations against Him. But the accused did not even defend Himself. Pilate asked Him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you? What have you done?” Jesus answered him never a word. I marveled at His silence. Even Pilate was astonished to the point of irritation. “Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have the power to crucify you, and the power to release you?” Then Jesus said the most astonishing thing, “You could have no power at all against me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered me to you has the greater sin.” From that moment Pilate seemed to want to let this man go. He brought Him out again, but after saying he found no fault in Christ he, much to my surprise, added, “I will therefore scourge Him.”

We led Jesus into the back courtyard, and there He was stripped of His robes and tied to a column. I appointed two of my burliest guards the task of scourging. The short-handled whips were made of three long pieces of rawhide with sharp sheep bones embedded in the end of each. There was no flailing. Upon contact these bones would bite into the skin, and oftentimes tear a rib right out of the rib cage. This man has held His peace until now, I thought, but here He, like all the rest will find His voice. The first guard brought back the whip. I heard it whistle through the air and then crack as it contacted the skin. There was an instant inhaling of air, but the cursing never came. I thought,

perhaps it will take two blows of whip for Him to find His voice. Again the whip came down—and again. The crack was heard throughout the courtyard over and over and over again, until finally there wasn't a part of His body that wasn't bloody, dripping red. At last, I gave the order to cut Him down. He collapsed to the pavement, but our soldiers were ready for that as well. They took a bucket filled with vinegar water and splashed it on His back. That brought Him instantly back to consciousness. Then my soldiers decided to enjoy themselves. They found a filthy old purple robe and put it on His back. They placed a reed in His hand and pressed a crown of thorns in His brow, then bowed the knee and said mockingly, “Hail, King of the Jews!” When the taunt had gone on long enough, I brought Him back to Pilate who led Him out before the mob and said, “Behold the Man!” You know how it turned out. Pilate called for a basin of water and ceremoniously dipped his hands in the water and washed them and said, “I am innocent of the blood of this just person—you see to it.” I could not believe it. What had happened to Roman law and justice that an innocent man should be crucified? However, it was not my job to disobey.

We prepared the crosses for Him and two other prisoners and made our way down what you call, *Via de la Rosa*, turning this way and that. As I rode before them on my horse, I could look back and see the trail of blood running down and dripping from His feet. Finally, His strength was gone altogether and He collapsed beneath the heavy load of the cross just as we reached the city gate. There I dragooned another man to take up the load.

At Golgotha, we threw this Man down, stretching Him out on the cross. With one legionnaire on each foot and arm, I placed my knee on His right forearm and took one of the spikes out of my belt and with heavy iron hammer I prepared to pound it into the base of His hand. Then I looked at His face. To my astonishment His eyes were open. He was looking right into my face with a look that I swear to the gods was a look of compassion—yes, a look of love which I could not understand. I tore my gaze away. Duty beckoned me, and with one powerful blow I drove the spike through His hand into the wood of the crossbeam. The same was done to His left hand and into His feet. When the soldiers lifted the cross and dropped it into a cubit deep hole in the ground, I was sure the rending of flesh and ripping of ligaments would bring the most blood-curdling scream from His lips as it did from everyone else. But again, there was no cry, just the inhalation of breath.

I looked up in amazement. Why wasn't He cursing me? Then He lifted up His eyes towards heaven and said the most amazing thing that I have ever heard in my life, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” The heavy hammer fell from my hand with a thud upon the rocky hill. I had seen hatred in battle; I had seen determination in death; I had seen courage in the raw; but I

ABOUT THE COVER

The dramatic scene of Roman soldiers observing the crucifixion of Jesus on Golgotha, symbolizing sacrifice, redemption, and Christian faith. No wonder Longinus cried out, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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

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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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Strive to give no occasion for blame. Let your goodness be the only fault they can discover in you. Like Daniel, compel them to say of you, “*We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.*”—Daniel 6:5.

Seek to be useful as well as consistent. Perhaps you think, “If I were in a more favorable position I might serve the Lord’s cause, but I cannot do any good where I am”; but the worse the people are among whom you live, the more need have they of your exertions; if they be crooked, the more necessity that you should set them straight; and if they be perverse, the more need have you to turn their proud hearts to the truth.

Where should the physician be but where there are many sick? Where is honor to be won by the soldier but in the hottest fire of the battle? And when weary of the strife and sin that meets you on every hand, consider that all the saints have endured the same trial. They were not carried on beds of ease to heaven, and you must not expect to travel more easily than they. They had to hazard their lives unto the death in the high places of the field, and you will not be crowned till you also have endured hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Therefore, “*stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*”—I Corinthians 16:13.

—Taken from Charles Spurgeon’s *Morning and Evening Readings* †

had never in my life—ever—seen anyone pray for those who were killing him. I staggered back from the cross amazed and hardly even able to think or to speak.

Then at three o’clock in the afternoon the silence was suddenly torn in two by a cry from the Man of Galilee, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabathani.” That is Aramaic, the native tongue of Jesus, for, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” He cried again with a loud voice, “It is finished.” But it was not in the voice of a dying man, it was the voice of a conqueror. “It is done; it is paid; it is accomplished.” With that His head fell onto His breast and He gave up the ghost. My mouth was hanging open when I saw Him hanging, thus crying aloud and giving up the ghost. Suddenly there was a tremor in the ground, and I said, “Truly, this was a righteous man.” That tremor changed into a positive shaking—an earthquake. Boulders began to split, fall, and roll down the hill. People were thrown to the ground onto their faces and backs. Women were screaming. Then finally there was drawn forth out of my heart and my mind the cry, “Truly, this was the Son of God!” †

—Author Unknown

IN THE MIDST OF AN UNGODLY WORLD

As a Christian you have to live in the midst of an ungodly world, and it is of little use for you to cry “Woe is me.” Jesus did not pray, O that you should be taken out of the world, and what He did not pray for you need not desire. Better far in the Lord’s strength to meet the difficulty, and glorify Him in it. The enemy is ever on the watch to detect inconsistency in your conduct; be therefore very holy.

Remember that the eyes of all are upon you, and that more is expected from you than from other men.

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THE RESURRECTION WAS NECESSARY FOR OUR SALVATION

Radio Message by the late Bro. Alvin Craig

IT IS REALLY surprising in a way to hear and to read of so many professed Christians who do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Of course, there are many who simply do not believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and yet profess to be Christians. They do not believe in the virgin birth, and they do not believe Jesus was the Son of God. They do not believe that He is the only Savior of the world, the only way to eternal life, and to heaven. You might wonder just why some of these people profess to be Christians at all.

Since I do believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, then what I have to say in the message today will be based on what the Bible teaches.

First, please note what the apostle Paul says in Romans, chapter 10, verses 8-11: "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

Now, Paul, in that passage of scripture to the Romans, lets us know that Jesus was resurrected, and not only that He was resurrected, but that we must *believe* that He was resurrected; otherwise, we cannot be saved. Yes, the resurrection was necessary for our salvation. So this passage of scripture teaches us that one of the conditions for us to be saved is to believe in the resurrection. Why is it so important to believe in the resurrection? Well, first of all, to deny the resurrection is to call God a liar. The Scriptures declare that God cannot lie, and of course, anyone who really believes in God knows that He cannot lie.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, said, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in [hades], neither his flesh did see corruption" (Acts 2:29-31). You notice here that God swore in an oath to David that He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne. So I say, to not believe in the resurrection is to call God a liar. Had Christ's body been left in the grave, it would have seen corruption.

Backing up to Peter's sermon, as we have read here in the second chapter of Acts, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate

counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:22-24).

Later on in Acts 2, we read that around 3,000 souls were saved as a result of the sermon Peter preached. If what Peter preached was something false, do you think those 3,000 would have received Christ as their Savior? If they were standing there listening to Peter preach and knew what he was saying was not true, do you think they would have been converted? Do you think they would have believed? No. They knew what Peter was preaching was true, for we read, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Inasmuch as to say, "Peter, what you are saying is true. We are guilty. We did demand Jesus' crucifixion. We are responsible. Now, since we are guilty and responsible, what shall we do about it?" Peter told them, "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" (verse 38). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (verse 41). Why? Because they knew what Peter preached was true. To deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ, one would also have to call Jesus a liar. How could He be such a good, holy Man if He was a deceiver and a liar?

Jesus had gone north of Galilee into the area of Caesarea Philippi, and He asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Some said, "John the Baptist." Some said, "Elias," and others, "Jeremias, or one of the prophets." Then He asked, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). "Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ" (verse 20). Also, "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (verse 21).

Jesus said, in effect, the very same things in Matthew 17:23, Luke 9:22, Luke 18:33, Mark 9:31, and in Mark 10:34. In all of those verses, Jesus said, in effect, to His disciples that He must be crucified and that He would be raised on the third day. So to deny the resurrection, I say, is not only to make God a liar, but also to make Jesus Christ a liar.

It isn't just the present day Sadducees who do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Sadducees of His day did not believe in a resurrection at all. They didn't believe in anybody being resurrected. Paul dealt with this in I Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 1-6: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day accord-

ing to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep [died].” Paul also said that he saw Christ “as of one born out of due time [season]” (verse 8).

If Jesus Christ was not resurrected, then He was not the Messiah, and the world has no Savior. We’re all sinners, and there are no true Christians in the world today. Paul also covered these points in I Corinthians 15. Here we read, “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (verses 12-20). So Paul had no doubt, no question, as to the resurrection of Christ.

Not only was Jesus Christ resurrected, but the time will come when all that are in the graves will be resurrected. We read in John, chapter 5, verses 28 and 29: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” I Corinthians 15:51, 52: “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [There will be some people living on this earth when Christ comes to judge the world.], but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

The righteous will be given a spiritual, glorified body likened unto the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle John said, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2). What a day that will be!

We read in the Scriptures that on the third day after Jesus was crucified, “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:1-6). We read in Luke, chapter 24, verses 5 and 6: “Why seek ye the living among the

dead? He is not here, but is risen.” Thank God for a living, risen Lord! †



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

QUESTION: I was told that the Passover is coming up and that it’s a sin if we don’t clean out the cupboards, clean house, get rid of all leaven and leavened products for a seven-day period. I’ve never been told this before, so I am coming to you for advice. What shall I do?

ANSWER: If you believe the Old Covenant is still in force, then you need to do what you were told! However, I do not believe it is.

Paul tells us in Galatians 4:21-31 about Hagar and her son (the Old Covenant) and Sarah and her son (the New Covenant).

Agar (Hagar), the Old Covenant, Paul said, “gendereth to bondage” (verse 24). And just as Sarah demanded that Hagar and her son be cast out (and God told Abraham to do as Sarah said), so the Old Covenant has been cast out (verse 30), and Sarah and her son remained in the house with Abraham. So the New Covenant is for God’s people today, for Paul said, “We are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free” (verse 31).

According to Jesus, and also the apostle Paul, leaven represented false doctrine, error, sin, malice, etc. When the Hebrews were required to cleanse their homes of all leaven for seven days, it was a type of our cleansing our hearts of all evil, which is possible only through Jesus Christ. Under the New Covenant we are to live a holy life, so we do not have to have this cleansing take place every year. We are to “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees” all through the year, not just for seven days. Seven was a complete or perfect number, which shows holiness is to be our manner of living every day.

R. R. Byrum in his book, *Shadows of Good Things*, points out that the children of Israel ate bitter herbs only with the Passover meal, the bitter herbs representing true repentance, godly sorrow. They ate unleavened bread with the meal and also for seven days after, and on this Byrum says, “It is well to note that bitter herbs were eaten only at the Passover meal, but they ate unleavened bread for seven days or a complete period of time following, signifying that our repentance is to accompany our first partaking of Christ, but the holy life must continue on throughout life. Those who teach we must sin more or less every day have utterly failed to grasp the significant truth of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.”

So those who are truly saved, and living a holy life, have the reality of what the Feast of Unleavened Bread represented, and if you have the reality, or the experience, then you do not need the type or shadow.

QUESTION: Would you please explain how the soul sins (Ezekiel 18:4), because in reading II Corinthians 5:10 it says we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive good or evil according to what he has done in the body?

ANSWER: Ezekiel 18:4 states a simple truth. II Corinthians 5:10 does the same. We are to understand from Paul's statement that it is to be understood as saying that we must give an account to God for the life that we live in this time world.

You will notice that he did not say that only sinners shall give an account; he said, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." This verse does not teach that the physical man, the flesh, is what sins. The Bible does not cross itself.

QUESTION: Why did Jesus in the wedding of Galilee change water into wine? (John 2:1-11). What is the symbolic meaning, while wine is seriously condemned in the Bible?

ANSWER: As we have explained a number of times, not all *wine* was the kind that would make a person drunk. It is a mistake to assume that every time you find the word *wine* in the Bible that it is fermented wine. The Greek word *oinos* translated wine in our Bible, referred to both fermented and unfermented grape juice.

Just because it was called the best does not prove it was fermented. Pliny was quoted as saying, the "good wine" was unfermented which did not "inflamm the brain or infest the mind." Further, it could have simply meant high quality.

One thing we know, Jesus did not transgress the Word of God. Paul says the drunkard will not inherit the kingdom of God because drunkenness is one of the works of the flesh.

Why did Jesus make this wine? This was the first of His many miracles which helped His disciples to know He was the promised Messiah.

"There is not a hint that the wine He made was intoxicating. It was fresh-made wine, new-made wine is never intoxicating. It is not intoxicating until some time after the process of fermentation has sent it. ... There is not a hint that our Lord produced alcohol, which is a product of decay and death. He produced a living wine uncontaminated by fermentation."

—R. A. Torrey.

QUESTION: In Mark 5:2, there is a man with an unclean spirit, while in Matthew 8:28, there are two men with unclean spirits. Now which one is correct?

ANSWER: What is wrong with saying both are correct? Mark and Luke mention only one, while Matthew speaks of two. Mark goes into considerable detail in regard to the one he speaks of. Possibly the other was not "wild" like the one in Mark, thus was not referred to. Adam Clarke comments on this: "Mark and Luke

mention only *one* demoniac, probably the fiercer of the two." This does not mean the Bible is not true, and it does not mean Matthew, Mark, and Luke were not inspired when they wrote their books. †

THE NEED OF HOLY GHOST POWER

BY THE LATE J. W. LYKINS

IN ACTS 1:8 we have these words: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." In Acts 2:1, 2 we read, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."

On every hand men are searching for power. For thousands of years the wind blew, demolished houses, uprooted trees, destroyed life and property. Finally man harnessed that power and used its energy for his own good. For thousands of years the waters plunged and roared as they leaped over the rocks. Man is now using that power to make electricity, to saw logs, grind the grits, etc. Electricity has been harnessed and its power is moving the wheels of industry, lighting millions of homes, and sending messages around the world. What blessings and comforts these powers have brought!

But the greatest need of this age is spiritual power. It brings the greatest blessings that can come to the human soul and life. It was a great day when God said to Abraham: "I will make of thee a great nation, ... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." It was a great day when God gave the law to Moses amidst the thunder and lightning and the smoke of Mount Sinai. It was a great day when the angels announced the birth of the Savior to this lost world. The pall of darkness and gloom that had hung over the world for ages was then broken and dispersed. It was a great day when Jesus burst the tomb asunder and rolled away the stone from the sepulcher. But the "power day" was the greatest day in history. Without it Christianity would have died.

It is said that Rome gave us the law, Greece gave us culture, and Judea gave us religion. Jesus gave us salvation, and the Holy Ghost gave us power. If law could have saved the world, Rome would have been the capital of the world. If culture could have saved the world, Athens would have been the capital of the world. But God made Calvary, with a Pentecost, capital of the world.

The Spirit-filled life is the proper element for the Christian. Take a fish out of water and it soon loses its power and life. Put a bird in water and it dies. Engulf a man in water and he soon expires. That is because they are out of their proper element. We must be filled with the Spirit if we expect to succeed in the Christian life.

The early church had power because they had the Holy Ghost. There is much praying for power, but we must pray for Him, the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is not giving out power apart from Himself. He wields that power; He does not rent His power. God's attributes are not detached from His presence. There is no substitute for the Holy Ghost or His power.

Who may receive the Holy Ghost? Jesus told the apostles to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). The disciples had already had their sins forgiven. Jesus said of the apostles, "Ye ... have followed me, in the regeneration" (Matthew 19:28). He said that they were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13). When the Seventy returned rejoicing because of their success, Jesus told them not to rejoice because the devils were subject to them, but to rejoice because their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). That surely meant that they were Christians. They were called to preach the gospel and to cast out devils. ... Yet they were not sanctified or filled with the Holy Ghost, but Jesus prayed that they might be (John 17:17). These are hard facts for the person who does not believe in two works of grace to explain away.

Let us notice who were waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost. Peter was there. John and James, who were on the Mount of Transfiguration with Christ, and in Gethsemane, were there. They knew more of Christ's inner life than they did any others. There was Andrew who had a reputation for bringing others to Jesus. There was Nathanael in whom there was no guile. Christ said for such to tarry for power. No doubt Stephen, Philip, the Marys, Mary Magdalene, and Martha the housekeeper, were there. These were the kinds of people whom Jesus told to tarry for the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

The disciples had enough knowledge, but they needed power. Knowledge cannot save the world. Culture cannot redeem itself. Knowledge is the fuel piled up in the fireplace, but that alone will leave the people shivering. The living, glowing fire is what is needed. Jesus said we should be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Matthew 3:11). Fire refines and purifies the soul. It burns up all dross, all vanity, all self-righteousness, bad temper, pride. It destroys the "old man" (Romans 6:6), the carnal disposition. Heart purity was the important thing about Pentecost. It was not the wind, not tongues, not gifts, but purity that was important.

We do not grow into this experience. We do not grow over into Canaan. We must go over. You cannot consecrate the "old man" out; you cannot bless him out; you cannot shout him out. He must be crucified. He must be consumed in the fire. It is not suppression, but destruction of the old man that is needed.

Our perfection does not consist in our consecration, in our cleansing, but in the indwelling God by the Holy Ghost. The greatest promise God ever made to any creature is, "I will dwell in you." The receiving of the Holy Ghost is our inauguration into the fullness of the presence of God.

Let us notice the results of the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It brought unity and a

revival. The passion of Christ burned in the hearts of these early Christians for the lost. When men are ablaze for God they will win converts. Holy Ghost power transforms a preacher. If all preachers were filled with the Holy Ghost fire, indifference to religion would be impossible. The apostles had to face the cultural indifference of their age; they had to meet the superstition of their age. Sectarian fences were higher in their day than in ours. They accepted the challenge. They feared not the face of man; they knew they had a message from God that met all conditions of life. The Holy Ghost was working with them and they spread Christianity all over the world. The amazing contagion of a spiritual church outweighs all the testimony of words.

The gospel never met such baffling obstacles as it did when the apostles rose to speak on the day of Pentecost and afterward. The gospel never faced such bitter contempt; it was never so despicable as then; it never met such depths of poverty, such ignorance. Yet these fire-baptized men met these conditions and planted Christianity everywhere. Their preaching had effect. Human nature and human hearts are the same in all ages. The same preaching of the gospel by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven will do the same today.

The early church lived in a godless age, a materialistic age, an age characterized by a dominant passion for gain. Can the church surmount such obstacles today? Those early Christians had a remedy for their age. They applied the remedy to that age and changed it. They wrought wonders and miracles. What followed has baffled all historians and defied all explanations that lie in the realm of the natural. The simple gospel, preached by the anointing of the Holy Ghost, conquered the perverse heart and mind of a pagan society. It will do the same today.

May God give us more Christ-illuminated and spiritually-inflamed men with an apostolic passion. Then the lost will be saved, dead Christianity revived, and a great world-wide revival will break out again.

Let us again put ourselves at the disposal of the Spirit of God, and pray for a fresh outpouring of heaven's glory upon us. God has always put His approval on such a people, and has worked mightily among them. †

—Reprinted from July 1990 issue

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.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesdays is aired LIVE. There is a chatroom where you can interact with us and share your prayer requests.

STREAMING CHRISTIAN MUSIC ONLINE

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

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

Message by Bro. Doug Shenberger

I WOULD LIKE to draw your attention to Genesis, chapter 4, verses 3-8: “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?” I’d like to entitle our thoughts “Am I My Brother’s Keeper?”



When we hear the words *Am I my brother’s keeper?* often many different thoughts can pass through our minds. We could think: *No, I don’t want to be responsible for my brother. I can barely take care of myself.* Or, *Yes, I want to be responsible for my brother. I want to tell him what to do and set him straight.* There are a lot of different thoughts that can pass through our minds at times.

CAIN AND ABEL

As we look at the story of Cain and Abel, it’s a sad story. Just think, at the beginning of God’s creation, two brothers had the opportunity to be together, grow up together, work together, and know something about each other. But you see from the verses I just read, that to some degree they had an understanding of worshiping God and sacrificing to God. Both of them were either taught or had a desire to bring something as a sacrifice and offering to the Lord. But notice, Abel obviously brought out of his heart, out of a true desire. It appears Cain brought out of necessity because he thought he had to.

God did not approve of what Cain had done—his attitude—the purpose of his offering. Cain became angry. He didn’t come to a place of repentance. God tried to talk to him, to explain to him. He said to Cain, in effect, “Why are you so angry? You don’t have to get angry about it. Just do what’s right. I’m not showing favoritism here. I’m just accepting that which is right.”

We know what happened to Cain. He didn’t listen to what he was told. The Bible says in verse 8 of Gen-

esis 4, “And Cain talked with Abel his brother.” Obviously, that talk didn’t go well. The anger and jealousy that was in his heart, and whatever emotions he was dealing with, came to a head. He became so angry that he lost control of himself to the point where he attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

This brings us now to verse 9 of Genesis 4: “The Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother?” What did Cain do? He lied to God. He said, “I know not.” In a sense, he went beyond that. He asked God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” I know that could be said in some situations of life and it wouldn’t necessarily be a serious thing. But Cain was talking to God. Not only did he lie to God, but you see in this answer, it was almost a rudeness to God: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The connotation there in those words is almost that he despised his brother, saying in effect, “Why should I be worried about him? I’m not responsible for what he does or where he goes. I don’t want to be involved with him. Am I my brother’s keeper?” He was expressing some of the hatred that was in his heart. Of course, we know that God was displeased with Cain.

The slaying of Abel was not an accidental killing. It was not something that was truly just a crime of sudden passion or anger that sprang up and someone lost control. Cain had been angry and God endeavored to deal with him about it. He refused to be dealt with by God. He allowed that to build up in his heart. Cain judged his brother, maybe out of jealousy or anger. He was the judge, the jury, and the executioner. There was no mercy, no love there. God punished Cain severely. He gave him a permanent punishment. God told him what his punishment was going to be. Cain said, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.” The punishment was so serious because Cain was so wroth.

CAIN’S WHOLE ATTITUDE

I’d like to speak somewhat about not only how very wrong Cain was to commit murder, but his whole attitude, especially his attitude when he asked, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Even though he did a great wrong, there might have been a degree of repentance available to him. He might have been able to escape some of the seriousness of the punishment he received if he had shown a different attitude.

Whenever we think of the word *keeper*, one definition of it is “someone who looks after someone else.” Synonyms for keeper are guardian, protector, defender, bodyguard. There’s a positive connotation to the word *keeper*—“someone who looks after someone else.” In that sense, Cain was truly not his brother’s keeper. He was not concerned about taking care of Abel. He was not concerned about his needs, his rights, and in protecting and appreciating him. It was far, far from that.

In thinking about it, I’d like to draw your attention also to I Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 26: “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with

it.” When we think about the question, Am I my brother’s keeper? we realize, according to the verse I just read, that we are members of one body. We are connected together. We’re not complete in ourselves as individuals in the sense of our Christian faith. We’re a part of one body. We’re a part of a bigger entity and a bigger purpose than just *me*. We’re responsible to the other people that we are a part of. This chapter in the Bible gives a great example, if you take the time to read through it and think about the different parts of the body and the way they work together. They form something that is effectual and powerful and capable. I’d like for us to just think about that from the standpoint of our thoughts this evening, Am I my brother’s keeper?

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SUFFERING

Now, if we think about one member suffering, a lot of times we think about it in the sense that someone is physically ill or going through a time of trial or hurt in some way, but sometimes it can also be a member suffering because of his own actions and lack of spiritual effort or lack of faithfulness. One of the thoughts that I had about that was the weaknesses that each of us have. They’re not an isolation. Just think about it from the standpoint of how it affects all of us, for we’re a part of a group. We’re a part of the church. Things that happen to us happen to everyone. We have a responsibility as a part of the church. We have a place to fill, a work to do. If we allow weaknesses in ourselves, it impacts everyone else. It impacts our brothers. It impacts our ability to be a keeper for our brother. If we allow ourselves to become spiritually weak, then there’s a lack. Someone else has to try to fill in where we’re not there, or we’re not where we could be. The body overall doesn’t have as much strength if we allow ourselves to become selfish and self-centered. We’re then not in a position where we can be able to provide that help to others, to help the body to go forward and prosper and grow. The realization that we are our brother’s keeper should impact our lives. As I said in the introduction, sometimes you might wish you could say “No, I don’t want to be my brother’s keeper.” But the reality is, in the Christian race, we are to be our brother’s keeper. That is the reality.

I’ve talked about weaknesses and problems, but on the other side, our victories strengthen others. Our successes build up the congregation, the church. When we overcome, what does it say? When “one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.” Whenever we overcome, we rejoice together. It strengthens us. When we do things selflessly for the glory of God, it inspires other people. It touches other lives. It’s a part of being our brother’s keeper. When we set the right example in our Christian walk, it’s an inspiration and an example to all the others that are a part. It has an impact, and many times a much bigger impact than what we realize or expect.

We need the body (the church) to be healthy and strong. We need to be “keeping” one another, holding one another up through our example and through our words. There are so many different ways in which that happens. Whenever we are close to God, there is something there that makes a difference in our lives in the

way we interact with other people, in what they feel, and what the Spirit can achieve. It gives God more to work with. A healthy body is a beautiful thing. Think about our own bodies. Whenever everything is working together, it’s a wonderful thing. It feels good. We can do more. We can accomplish more. We’re happier. When the church is experiencing that, when the body of Christ comes together and works together, and loves one another, they’re keeping one another.

When Cain asked God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” he was expressing hatred. When God asked him, “Where is Abel thy brother?” in effect, he answered, “I don’t even want to know. That’s not my problem.” But we are our brother’s keeper. We need to identify with that, rejoice in that, and realize there’s power in that. There’s a blessing, not just for our brother, but for us, too. When I’m my brother’s keeper, there’s another brother who can be my keeper. We work together and accomplish things together through our strengths and abilities. It’s hard to think of being in an environment where someone is fighting and devouring another, and someone destroying or tearing down another. We don’t want to do that. We want to be our brother’s keeper. We want the body of Christ to be strong and capable, not a skeleton, not just barely there. May God help us to get a vision of our responsibility. Sometimes it’s easy for us to be very self-focused, to deal with our own problems, our own desires and needs. They’re real, and we have to take care of some of our own problems. That’s the reality of life. We all have things to do, but we also need to be our brother’s keeper.

WE CAN’T LIVE UNTO OURSELVES

I’d like to also draw your attention for a few moments to Romans, chapter 14. When we think about it, the Bible really has a lot to say about the relationship among brethren. Verse 7: “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.” Do you ever feel like you would just like to live to yourself? *I’ll go away to the mountains and live. I won’t have any problems.* Those thoughts come to your mind sometimes. When things go wrong, sometimes you feel those things. But you know, that’s not practical, and you know you can’t even do that. If you attempt to live to yourself, you can’t do that without basically going to the same place that Cain went to. It’s not just about *me*. If you say “I’m going to go and do that,” (saying, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” in a sense), that’s the reality. We can’t do that. Even if you attempt to live to yourself, automatically, it affects everybody you should have had contact with. You’re not able to have the influence that God intended for you to have. “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”

Now, if you jump back up to the beginning of chapter 14 of Romans, there are some things said here that are very powerful scriptures when you think about the thought of being your brother’s keeper. In verse 1, it says: “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.” That verse is saying that you don’t just receive someone who is strong, someone who has everything going well. It says, “Him that is weak in the faith.” He has some struggles. He has some trials he’s dealing with. Maybe he has some misunderstandings. “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye,”

not to bring in a lot of arguments and problems, but you just want to receive that person that's weak in the faith, if possible.

Romans 14 goes on to elaborate in the next couple verses. Verses 2 and 3 say: "For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him." There are a couple of important points there. "Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not." So if you eat all things, and you acknowledge God and know that He blessed what you are eating, but then you see someone who has a conviction that he's just to eat vegetables, you're not to despise him. You're not to look down on him. You're not to treat him as though he's of no worth. But that one who is doing that, is also to do what? He's not to judge that person who is eating all things, and say, "You're wrong. You need to stop doing that." For God hath received him. And you see here what both of those two people need to do: they have to be their brother's keeper. They have to be their brother's guardian. They have to be their brother's protector. They have to care about their brother. Despise not the weak, judge not the wrong.

WE ARE NOT OUR BROTHER'S JUDGE

Verse 4: "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth." It is important that we remember we're to be our brother's keeper. We're not to be our brother's judge. That spirit of wanting to be right rose up in Cain so much that he slew his own brother. He said, in effect, "I'm not my brother's keeper," but we are to be our brother's keeper.

Romans 14 goes on to mention about one man esteeming one day and another regarding a different day. These verses are clearly saying that there are some people who are going to have a different understanding, but verse 7 in reality says, "For none of us liveth to himself." We are to live and work together and be our brother's keeper.

On down in verse 10, we read: "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." It's very important that we not do either thing. It's easy to judge another brother and it's also easy to set at nought another brother. It's easy to say, "Well, they're not that important. It's not worth the trouble." Either one could get us into trouble. We need to be truly our brother's keeper. That has to come out of our heart. That has to be the Spirit of God working in our heart, seeing and knowing each other, valuing each other, and being willing to be used by God to indeed be our brother's keeper.

Romans, chapter 15, verse 1: "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." That's not a tremendously inspiring verse in some ways. First off, it makes you want to be one of the weak. "Do I really want to be strong? It's easier to be one of the weak and let someone bear my infirmity." The thought of that verse is that I am willing to do for someone. I'm willing to be used for someone else. I want my strength to be used up for someone's need. I'm willing to do things that aren't for my pleasure, because I'm trying to help someone else.

That just made me think about the heart of someone who is really their brother's keeper. He's looking at other people and seeing the need that they might have. He's seeing ways that they could interact with them, that he could touch their lives, that he could make a difference for them. What did I say the definition was for a *keeper*? "Someone who looks after someone else; a guardian; protector; a defender; a bodyguard."

PROTECTING OUR BROTHER

Are you your brother's keeper? Do you look at your brother and think of them that way? *I'm going to protect them. I'm going to protect them in my prayers, in my thoughts, in my attitudes, and in my interactions with them. Where I see areas that are weak, as much that lieth within me, I'm going to endeavor to have peace with them.* It has to work both ways. Whether we think we're strong or weak, we have to be our brother's keeper. If we truly will have that spirit, I believe God will bless us in a greater way, and work in our hearts and lives to help us. We can protect, we can guard. We can sometimes see our brother through something that they might not have successfully passed through if we were not on the watch, on the lookout, seeking to be our brother's keeper.

In Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 6, it says: "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." We're not meant to be alone. We're meant to be together. "[God] hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Are we our brother's keeper? We don't want to go alone. We want to be willing to be used to help others. We want to be willing for God to work through us. We want our energy and our strength to be used up for the work of God. We're not an island. Our actions and thoughts and expressions on our faces impact people. We're responsible for those things. We're responsible for others. It's important that we not be resentful of that burden or fight against it. There are times where it would be easy to do that. You might say, "It's too big of a burden. Why should I always have to be my brother's keeper all the time? Why don't they do something?" That's God's area to deal with. Though it may seem like a thankless task at times, we are to do it as unto the Lord and not to please ourselves.

When we think about the ultimate end, the example of our brother's keeper, we have to think about our Lord. He set the example. Look how greatly He suffered to endeavor to provide for us, to keep us, to be our guardian and protector. Look at all He does for us. He's our bodyguard. Our load is light compared to what He does for us. Let us embrace the thought of being our brother's keeper and realize that it entails more than what we've commonly thought.

CONCLUSION

I've read that verse in Genesis 4, I'm sure, and realized what Cain said was improper and God was not pleased with his attitude, but I don't think I'd ever thought it through from the standpoint of realizing that we are to be our brother's keeper. God wants us to be our brother's keeper. I'm so thankful to be a part of a congregation that I believe has so much of that burden and desire. I believe we need to be conscious of the need

and ask the Lord to help us to really see ourselves and know ourselves. Some of us have strengths and weaknesses that are very different from each other, and not every one of us is going to fill exactly the same role in the same way, but I believe that if we give God our all He will help us to be some brother's or sister's keeper, and make a difference in the lives of others around us. God will be glorified, and we will be blessed. †

THE POETRY PAGE

THAT DAY AT CALVARY

Walt Huntley

I stood one day at Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died,
I never knew He loved me so,
For me was crucified.

And as I stood there in my sin
His love reached down to me,
And oh, the shame that filled my soul
That day at Calvary.

I knelt one day at Calvary,
My eyes were filled with tears
To think such love I had refused
Through all these wasted years.

And as I knelt I heard Him say,
"I did it all for thee,"
And oh, the love that filled my soul
That day at Calvary.

I prayed one day at Calvary,
"I'm Thine forevermore.
Forgive me, Lord, for all my sin,
My lost estate restore."

And as I prayed to me He gave
Salvation full and free,
And oh, the peace that filled my soul
That day at Calvary.

I SEE THEE NOW

Edward M. Brandt

I see Thee now, O wounded Christ,
Suspended, stark, 'tween earth and sky,
Forlorn, forsaken, with head bowed,
As the throes of death come very nigh.

I see Thee now, O precious One,
Dying for the world's sins,
But in Your resurrection, Lord,
New life in Christ begins.

I see Thee now, O triumphant One,
Whom the tomb could not delay,
Rising in glorious victory,
To a bright and joyous day!

THE LORD IS RISEN

Thomas Hastings

How calm and beautiful the morn
That gilds the sacred tomb,
Where once the Crucified was borne
And veiled in midnight gloom!
Oh, weep no more the Savior slain!
The Lord is risen—He lives again!

Ye mourning saints, dry every tear
For your departed Lord;
"Behold the place; He is not here!"
The tomb is all unbarred;
The gates of death were closed in vain;
The Lord is risen—He lives again!

Now cheerful to the house of prayer
Your early footsteps bend;
The Savior will Himself be there,
Your Advocate and Friend.
Oh, weep no more your comforts slain!
The Lord is risen—He lives again!

WHAT MEANETH THE CROSS?

Author Unknown

What does it mean this wood
So stained with blood;
This tree without a root
That bears such fruit;

This tree without a leaf
So leaved with grief?
What does its height proclaim
Whose height is shame;

Its piteous arms outspread
Where death lies dead;
And in the midst a heart
Cleft wide apart?

Though blind, I cannot miss
The meaning this;
My sin's stupendous price—
His sacrifice!

HE IS LIFE

Mattie Cookman Forbush

My Savior arose from the grave,
Triumphant indeed is He!
He arose, my Savior arose,
To give hope and life to me.

He broke the seals of the tomb,
He spoke to those nearby;
He went to be with His Father
In that glorious home on high.

Yes, He is our life, our strength,
Our joy, our hope, our all;
He comforts our aching hearts,
And hears us when we call. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



WHEN GRANDMA CRIED A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“How can it be snowing today?” I asked my father. “It’s Easter Sunday!” Through the kitchen window I watched large flakes of snow falling from a leaden sky, covering the early spring flowers with a blanket of white.

“Well, Easter is early this year,” replied my father. “It usually comes in April, but this year it’s in March.” I was only ten years old, but I had experienced enough seasons to know there were always surprises. This springtime snowstorm was one of them.

“I guess we won’t be able to go up to Grandma Snyder’s house after church this morning,” I said gloomily. We hadn’t seen Grandma since December, and we were all looking forward to the trip.

“Well,” said my father slowly, “Mommy and I haven’t made up our minds yet. It’s a wet snow, and it’s melting pretty fast on the roadways—at least around here. I don’t know what it’s like up in the mountains of Pennsylvania.”

Deep in thought, he looked quietly out the window for a few more moments. Then he made up his mind. “I’ll call the State Police and check on the road situation.”

In those days, we couldn’t pull up radar on a phone or computer screen to check the weather in any given area. The weatherman on the radio only told us what the roads were like in our area. If we wanted to know what the weather was like farther away, we had to call the State Police. The troopers were always communicating with their barracks. From wherever they were located, they were sure to report the driving conditions.

My father walked into the living room, picked up the telephone, and dialed the State Police barracks.

“Sir,” I heard my father say, “I wonder if you could tell me what the highway is like between here and Everett, Pennsylvania.” There was a pause, and then my father said, “I see. Thank you, Sir!”

“What did the policeman say?” I asked my father when he returned to the kitchen.

“He said the roads are plowed and passable,” replied my father.

“Did you hear that?” I asked my mother, who had just come downstairs with the baby. “The State Police said the roads up to Grandma’s house are plowed and passable!”

My mother looked at my father. “I guess they meant the main roads,” she said. “I hope the roads up to Mom’s house are plowed.”

“I think it will be all right,” said my father. “I would hate to disappoint your mother. I’m sure she has been cooking and baking since last night.”

After church, we headed up the highway toward Pennsylvania. The snow had stopped falling, and the roads were only slushy and wet. However, as we climbed higher into the mountains, we could see that they had received far more snow than had fallen into the valley where we lived. The countryside glistened with a beautiful blanket of white, but we only had eyes for the road ahead of us. Sure enough, it was plowed and passable, but we were surprised by the large piles of snow the plows had pushed to the side as they cleared the way.

When we turned off the main highway onto the little road that led to Grandma’s house, my father whistled in surprise. “Doesn’t look like the plows have gotten to the little roads yet,” he said. “We’ll be slipping and sliding a little, I guess.”

I looked at my mother. Her face was calm, but there was a worried look in her eyes. “Just take it easy,” she said to my father.

He grinned. “I’ve driven through worse than this,” he said. But he had a firm grip on the steering wheel, and a silence fell over us all. Usually, my father told stories to pass the time on our trips, but now he was quiet, concentrating on keeping the car from sliding into the other lane, or into the ditch.

We had rounded the final curve, and Grandma’s house was in sight, when we ran right into a huge pile of snow that had been blown across the road. Despite my father’s careful steering, we were stuck. He tried backing up, but the tires only spun helplessly. We could not go forward or backward.

“There’s Mom!” said my mother. “She’s looking out the window. She sees us!”

“We’re going to have to walk the rest of the way,” said my father.

“I’ll take the baby,” said my mother. “Can you carry Esther? She’s too heavy for me.”

My father picked up three-year-old Esther, while my mother wrapped baby Rosemary tightly in a blanket and stepped carefully out of the car.

“You girls hold onto each other and stay right behind us,” said my mother. Twila, Wilma, and I hung onto our parents’ coats, walking carefully in the path they broke for us.

At last, cold, wet, and shivering, we burst into our grandma’s warm house. Grandma took our coats and pulled off our wet shoes and stockings. She was crying.

“I wish you hadn’t come,” she said. “I wanted you to come, but now I wish you had stayed home where you were safe.” She kept crying.

“Don’t feel bad, Mom,” said my mother. “We’re safe now, and that’s all that matters.”

After we were warmed up and our clothes were dried, Grandma served dinner. While we were eating, the snowplow went by and cleared the road. Dad walked down and got the car. He drove it into Grandma’s driveway so it would be ready when it was time for us to go home.

On the way home that evening, I heard my parents talking. “Mom was crying when we got there today,” my mother said to my father. “It was the first time in my life I ever saw her cry!”

“The very first time?” my father asked in shocked surprise.

“Yes,” said my mother. “I’ve never even seen her cry at a funeral. But she cried today.”

Many times since that day, I have thought about the day my grandmother cried. I believe I understand the reason for her tears.

My grandmother worked hard all of her life to give her family the things they needed. She cooked, cleaned, and sewed. She was good at making things better for everyone.

But the day she watched our little family struggle through the deep snow to get to her house, she cried because she could not do anything to help us.

This month’s wise saying comes from Proverbs 3:27, which says, *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.*

Sometimes, it will not be in our power to help someone. That can make us feel helpless. It is at times like these that we must remember that the best thing we can do is to pray. It is important to keep faith shining brightly in our hearts. We can encourage others to trust in God when no one else can help.

Activity

There are some things that only God can do for us. Look up the following verses to remind yourself of what they are:

Matthew 5:45

Acts 17:25

Acts 4:12

Titus 1:2

Answer to Last Month’s Activity

Matthew 22:37-39—“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” †

RAYS OF HOPE

By the late D. O. Teasley

(Part II)

HINDRANCES TO FAITH

“For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him” (Matthew 21:32).

Some people try to believe who have not repented, so that they might believe. Such is impossible, and those who are thus striving to believe God can never succeed. There are others who have repented many times and are still repenting and yet do not—I shall not say cannot—believe. When you have repented of all wrong, forgiven all who have done aught against you, made restitution to all men to the extent of your ability, confessed that you are a sinner, and asked God’s forgiveness, you are then on believing ground. You have

a right to believe, you can believe, and nothing can hinder you from believing if you will. Repenting over and over again for the same offense will weaken your faith rather than strengthen it. Repent fully and heartily, once for all; then believe God, live for Him, and doubt no more.

“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” (John 5:44). Those who seek honor from men, pray, sing, or preach to be heard of men cannot exercise faith in God; for God is the object of our faith, and faith seeks only that honor which comes from Him.

The habit of doubting is a hindrance to faith. Those who have been in bondage to doubts and accusations often have a hard struggle to exercise faith for permanent victory; but by taking a stand on the Word of God against doubts and accusations such persons may be overcomers. Even the mental habit of doubting can, through faith in God, be completely erased, and the soul once weak and faltering can be made strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Trusting in emotions will cause one to lose sight of God’s Word and fail to trust in God’s promise, the only foundation for living faith. The glad emotions of a Christian’s heart are truly sweet; but in order of time, faith comes before joy, for the joy of the Lord is the joy of faith and God gives us joy and peace in believing. “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13).

Right belief produces right feeling, and wrong belief produces wrong feeling; for we feel according to what we believe, whether that we believe is true or false. A man who believes that he is right has good feelings even though his belief is a deception. This point is beautifully illustrated by an incident that I once read. The only son of a sick mother was lost in a forest. Sympathetic neighbors and friends volunteered to search for the lost child. The night was chilly and cold, and the mother thought only of the welfare of her child. As time after time the news came that the search was fruitless, the mother’s pulse grew fainter and all could see that her end was drawing near. Hour after hour the weary night dragged by, and shorter and shorter grew the breath of the dying mother as she worried about her lost son. Finally, just before her end, came the report, “The boy is found and is safe and well in the strong arms of a friend.” At this joyful news the mother’s aching heart was gladdened, and with a smile on her face she exclaimed, “My own dear boy is found,” and smiling, breathed her last. She died happy in the belief that her boy had been found; but the report was a false one, for several days afterward the boy was found dead.

To further illustrate this point let me call your attention to the sorrow of Jacob. This hoary-headed father, grief-stricken, was brought almost to the grave in the firm belief that Joseph was dead, and yet he was alive and the chief steward of Pharaoh’s house. Why did Jacob grieve? Because he believed the report of Joseph’s envious brethren and saw the coat of many colors, dyed, as he believed, with the lifeblood of his child. How deceiving, then, are the circumstances of

life! and how dangerous to risk the salvation of our souls on anything but the immutable Word of God!

We should not believe that we are right because we feel happy nor believe that we are wrong because we feel the weight of trials. Feeling right will make nobody right; but getting right, staying right, and believing that you are right, will make you feel right.

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” There can be no victory without battle, so those who wish to have spiritual victory must fight the good fight of faith. Sometimes the siege may seem hard and long, but the greater the battle, the greater the victory.

Many have made shipwreck by trusting in their emotions to the exclusion of God’s Word. The testimony of His Word is the strongest and surest evidence to your soul. Why, then, should you seek to found your experience on the emotions of the human heart? Our feelings are, so to speak a harp with many strings, on which every circumstance of life may play a tune. Like the tide ever rising and falling, they rise under the influence of joy and prosperity, and fall before the winds of disappointment and adversity.

The Christian’s heart is not altogether void of human emotions, yet his sadness is sweetened and his rejoicing tempered by the balm of faith. Your emotions may run as high as they will, only be careful to keep them in the bounds of reason; but when disappointments come and feelings fall, take care lest you fall below the line of faith, for faith it is that helps us to say, “Thy will be done.”

The Bible is like a great cable let down from God to man, one end of which is welded to heaven’s throne. If by faith you lay hold and keep hold of the cable, one of three things must be done—God’s throne must be moved, the cable of His Word must break, or your soul must receive the good that it seeks. If you have not yet learned how to anchor your soul to the Word of God, you should at once tie your spiritual bark to the imperishable rock of truth by the eternal cable of faith. Then, like a ship tied to an immovable rock, your soul may rise on the wave-crests of emotions, high in the atmosphere of ecstatic joy, or sink to the deepest depths of human despair, where angry billows threaten sudden destruction or lingering woe; yet through all your anchor is sure, bound by the cable of faith to the solid rock of truth.

Walking by sight, or seeking signs, is a hindrance to faith and endangers the soul to the deceptions of the devil. The Jews sought for a sign, but Jesus told them that no sign should be given them except the sign of Jonah the prophet. It is dishonoring to God and slanderous to His character to seek a sign when we have His promise. Suppose you were to give me a promise and I were to say to you, “I should like to have some sign, some miracle performed, a dream, some extraordinary impression or feeling of some kind, before I believe you.” If you are a truthful person, would you not feel that I was doing you an injustice thus to question your truthfulness? How, then, must He who cannot lie regard it when you seek for some impression or ask to see some sign before you will believe His Word.

You possibly do not like to be called doubting Thomas, yet Thomas wished only to see the prints in Jesus’ hands and to feel the wound in His side before

believing. If you ask for some special emotion or to see some sign before you believe that God’s Word is true, are you any better than doubting Thomas? Salvation has its joys, but it takes faith to receive and keep salvation. So if you wish joy, you must have faith.

Completely trusting and obeying God’s Word is the only source of true and lasting joy. If then, you refuse to take the first step toward the Christian’s joy, how can you expect to reach the goal? Do you expect an effect without a cause? Do you expect wages without labor? Do you expect favor from one whose word you will not credit?

Tradition and superstition are enemies to faith. Many of us who have been taught all our lives to trust in doctors and medicine find such teaching a stubborn barrier to our faith when we first begin to trust the Lord for the healing of our bodies. In many other ways the wrong teaching of our youth serves to weaken and hinder our faith unless we take a firm stand on the revealed Word of God. There is just one escape from the strong hand of tradition and that is to believe that the New Testament is in verity the Word of God. “Religion [Christianity] is placed between two great rocks that are equally dangerous to man and injurious to the Deity. I mean impiety and superstition. The one from an affection of free thinking, believes nothing; and the other, from a blind weakness, believes all things.”—*Plutarch*. True Christian faith believes in God and His Word; but, unlike superstition and ignorance, it does not believe all things. It believes in the true and unchanging Word of God, but has no faith in the performance of evil spirits, old wives’ fables, conjuring, powwawing, Christian Science, and such like.

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:3). People sometimes ask and receive not because they ask for a selfish purpose. Selfishness and lust are inconsistent with the principles of Christian faith and piety, and only the unselfish and pure can exercise faith in God. †



Greetings!

This month we are sharing an article written by Sis. Joley Williams, from the Craigsville, WV, congregation. She is taking a lesson from God’s wonderful creation and challenging us to consider its ways. We trust you are blessed by her thoughts!

Blessings,
Bro. Doug

GO TO THE ANT

By Sis. Joley Williams
Craigsville, WV

Have you ever observed an ant? Even the smallest of God’s creation has a lesson to teach us. Proverbs

The Way of Truth

6:6-8 reads: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

Last spring, my school was dealing with an ant infestation. One day, I walked into my classroom and saw a trail of ants going up into my desk. My students' candy box that sat on the top of my desk had been discovered by the ants. One of the candy wrappers had been opened and the ants were crawling all over it. I was a little disgusted and threw out the whole box. The trail of ants marched back and forth, to and from the residual candy, even though I kept wiping them up. For almost a week, the little bugs appeared in the same line, marching up and down my desk, making sure every grain of sugar from the candy was collected. I used sanitizing wipes and cleaning sprays and yet, the ants persisted.

I decided to investigate more about why nothing I did could deter the ants. I discovered that ants forage for their food by using a scent receptor in their antennae. Once they find a food source, they produce a chemical signal that alerts the colony that they have found food. The colony sends worker ants out to bring the food back to the nest. The reason that the ants kept to the uniform line that I saw is because of those chemical signals that the lead ants leave behind as they forage for food. The worker ants don't stray from that "scent line" because they instinctually know that if they do, they will not find the food source.

The ant in Proverbs 6 is not a simple anecdote, it is a complex example of how we, as Christians, should live our lives. As the ant diligently stores up food to sustain itself, so should we store up biblical knowledge, patience, love, and all those things that we are called to be as Christians. We should be sending out signals of God's truth as the ant sends out signals to the colony. Our lives should follow the path that God has laid out for us, and we should be steadfast to not stray from it, just like the ant follows the scent trail left for them to follow.

The ant's actions to store up food, to follow the signals, and to stay on the path is instinctual; the ant doesn't have a choice. God has given us a free will in this life and we are able to make choices in how we live. Luke 9:23 says, "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." If we make the choice to follow Jesus, we have to be prepared to make the choice to pick up our cross and follow Him every day. Taking up our cross daily means putting forth the effort to store up those valuable treasures that fill our lives with the purpose and love in Christ. Our carnal nature is not going to instinctually do hard tasks. We must willfully consecrate our lives to God daily if we want to truly follow as Jesus said in Luke 9.

How do we take up our cross though? How do we become like the ant? The ant uses its antenna to guide it to the food source. To create a strong connection to the One who knows the answer to every question, we must pray and talk to God. We must listen for His voice in every aspect of our lives. We must read and study scripture so we can have the inspiration of His words

in our thoughts. We must seek opportunities to put our faith to practice and share the truth. When we willingly deny ourselves and open our lives up for God to work through, our cross will be a joy to bear.

I think it's worth noting that when you do ask the Lord to work through you, though, you need to be prepared to follow through on your word. God WILL answer your prayer and He WILL work through you, but it may not be how you imagined. We can say that we will stay with God a million times, but if we aren't willing to back up our words with actions, then the words become meaningless. The life of Job shows us that it is possible to follow the Lord even in the worst of circumstances. The Lord had confidence in Job's faith and steadfastness, and Job had confidence in God's plan for his life. Job even said: "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). Job knew that the trying of his faith would produce an even deeper walk with God. So when we ask God to prove us, we need to be ready to walk worthy and come forth as gold.

The way that we react to tests is going to affect our testimony to others. That seems like an insane amount of pressure on us, but we know that God will never give us more than we can handle. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13). God doesn't prove us by leaving us to deal with things ourselves. He proves us by providing a test and showing us that having faith in Him is the best option to overcome it. When others see that we have grown closer to the Lord, even through the trials, it strengthens our testimony of God's goodness in our lives.

Think of the way the ant sends signals back to the colony. If we are seeking good things and taking up our cross daily, we are sending our signals. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24). The signals we send out can uplift and encourage, even if it's just sharing a kind word or truly praying for someone in need. I know of several saints that have spoken kind words to me, and have spoken truth into my life when I was struggling. That had an effect on me. It uplifted my spirit. We are called together in the church, the bride of Christ, to pray for one another and to walk in love. Those are some of our most powerful weapons against the enemy.

II Timothy 4:2 reads: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." We have a job, as young people in the church, to be diligent in our walk with Christ. The ant may seem like an insignificant little "pest" but its example of diligence is one that we should take note of. I pray that we can all create a firm foundation in our own faith that helps us to work together in the love of Christ and be just as dedicated and steadfast as the ant in our work here on earth. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Follow God with all your might and be diligent in His work. †

Living This Day as if It's Your Last

Message by Bro. Harley McClung

FOR A TEXT, I have chosen James, chapter 4, verses 13-15. James says some things here that I believe we need to give very serious consideration to: "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." I've entitled my thoughts "Living This Day as if It's Your Last."

Now, we don't expect this day to be our last day. None of us do. Quite frankly, I don't think we actually give a great deal of thought that *well, this might be my last day*. I don't think God wants us to dwell on the thought *well, is this going to be my last day, or is it not going to be my last day?* But yet, James tells us something. He said, in effect, "We just don't know what tomorrow is going to hold." So therefore, we need to be very conscious of this day, and do as the apostle Paul said. He said, "Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." So here today, we need to be very conscious of this day, and this day only that God has given us, because tomorrow is not promised.

TIME WAITS ON NO MAN

Time waits on no man, but time is our greatest commodity; that is, besides our souls, and it's up to us, each of us, how we choose to spend our time. Someone has already said tonight that our children are very, very special, and they need special attention, because they're coming up in a sin-sick, sin-cursed world. They need our time. They need us to spend time with them and help them find their way.

What if we knew this evening that this would indeed be our last day? Or, what if this morning when we woke up we knew it would be our last day? But if in some way we knew that this would be our last day, what would we do? Well, of course, none of us here actually would know what we would do, because none of us as yet have ever faced that day or had to make that decision. Most of the time, people simply don't know when their last day will come. They never really give thought to *well, this is my last day so I'm going to do this, and I'm going to do that*. But if you did know that this was the last day God has given you on this earth, would you just sit down and wait for the end to come, or would you do something about it?

Now, there was a man who knew it was his last day. In Luke, chapter 12, verses 16-21, we read: "And he [Jesus] spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground

of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." That was before he heard a voice. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee [At that point in time, this rich man knew something. What then was he going to do?]: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."



Knowing that death is appointed to all men, and then comes the judgment, should we not actually give due consideration to not only death, but the coming judgment? Would we change anything if we absolutely knew? I think we would. I really think we would start thinking *well, what can I change? What can I do?*

Steve Jobs, Apple computer cofounder, said this: "Live each day as if it was your last. When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like, 'If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right.' It made an impression on me. And since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself, If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today? And when the answer has been *no* for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something." Steve Jobs was a very smart man, and since he said something like that, maybe that should be something for you and me to consider and give some thought to.

WAKE UP!

Seven day rules we should think about—

The first one I'd like to mention to you is *wake up!* The apostle Paul said, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." That is absolutely the key to our everyday life. We need to know, and we can know, beyond any shadow of a doubt what God's will is for our lives. Thank God we can know that, but many people really don't want to know God's will. They want to do what they want to do and be whatever they want to be, but we really must know what the will of God is so that we can have all preparations in place and made for our last day. Wake up to something that's beneficial, positive, and that will give absolute assurance. Again, Paul said in I Corinthians 15:34, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not."

We live in a world where a lot of people believe that we can't keep from sinning. Some say that we have to

sin more or less in word, deed, and thought. But Paul tells us to “Awake to righteousness.” We need to live every day in a righteous way before almighty God, because He’s looking down, and as I heard a child say, “He’s taking photographs of us.” God has the all-seeing eye. He knows how we live and where we live. He even knows our thoughts and secrets of our hearts, so we need to wake up.

Jesus told us of the ten virgins. If I understand the word *virgins* there, it means that at one time they were all Christians. There were five foolish and five wise, and all of them slumbered and slept. Listen to me, even Christians can get into a haphazard way of living. I don’t really mean to be picky, but it’s true. There were ten of those virgins, and the Bible says they all slumbered and slept. The five foolish were completely lost because they had no oil in their lamps. They had no connection with God. It’s very, very important that we stay awake and alive with Christ, His Spirit, and leadership.

DRESS UP!

The second thing we want to think about is, if we’re living like this is the last day of our lives, we need to *dress up!* Revelation 3:18 says: “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” God’s attire makes us beautiful. If we’re living every day as if it’s the last, we need to dress up so that we live before a sin-sick, sin-cursed, world beautifully, and have on the white robes of righteousness. Psalm 149, verse 4, says: “The Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.” So we need to dress up in the meekness of God’s beauty and have a light so that we can shine before all men in the way that we dress, and show the world how much we love God.

LISTEN UP!

The third one is that we need to *listen up!* Have you ever wondered why God gave us two ears but only one mouth? We need to listen up. Last night I said I’m preaching to me, and tonight I’m preaching to me, too. Paul said that we need to study to be quiet. Have you ever thought about that? Well, I think what Paul was talking about, in part at least, was when someone else is talking, and we’re talking at the same time, how are we going to listen? That doesn’t mean that we can’t talk and have some conversations with people. That’s what God gave us our mouth for, but sometimes we need to give consideration to other people and listen. Jesus said, “He that hath an ear, let him hear,” and if we want to get wiser and smarter and know more today than we knew yesterday, we have to do some listening.

God said in Matthew 17:5, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.” I think we need to hear Him, don’t you? He’s worthy to be heard. He wants us to hear His Word. There are a very few people, relatively speaking, who want to really hear what Jesus says. But He had the words of eternal life. He had the words by which we can have a good life in this time world. What He told the people was the means

by which we can be happy and have peace and contentment. We can have all the things that we need to live just a wonderful life. It doesn’t mean that we won’t have any trials and tests. All people have trials. Even sinners have trials, and most certainly saints have trials and tests, but God gives us grace and help. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He’ll be right there with us. No matter what we encounter or go through, He’ll be there to help us, (Thank God for that) that is, if we’ll hear Him and listen to His Word and allow Him to guide and direct us. God has even promised His Holy Spirit. There’s a voice behind us saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” So then we have the assurance that God is with us and is helping us, if we’ll use our two ears, our hearts, and our minds to listen to the words of Jesus.

STAND UP!

The fourth one is that we need to *stand up!* II Corinthians 1:24, “For by faith ye stand.” Paul again says in I Corinthians 16:13, 14: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity.” Galatians 5:1, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.” Philippians 1:27, “Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” And then we read in Ephesians, chapter 6, something that Paul used to summarize his book to the Ephesians. He gave them so many instructions through that book. I challenge you to read the intricate details of each chapter. Write down each instruction in chapters 1-5, until you get down to chapter 6, where he said, “And having done all, to stand.” He said, in effect, “All that I have taught you, all that I have showed you, having done everything to stand, now stand.” That’s very important for us, because there are pressures coming against us every day. Satan is real. He is our adversary, and he’s determined to fight against us every day. That comes as a warning, and pressures sometimes come from directions we don’t expect. Sometimes we think, *well, where did that come from?* Sometimes we look at society, and we know society is against the truth. Make no mistake, society today is against the standard of the Church of God. Don’t let the standard down.

I said something to a brother not long ago. I was sincere. I said, “I would rather have a very few solid, genuine Christians in our little congregation than to have 20 or 40 who are lukewarm and are drawn away by every wind of doctrine.” We need to take a stand.

Dear Unsaved Ones, you don’t have the means by which to stand. You need the Holy Spirit abiding in your heart and the grace of God that comes through the born-again experience that will enable you to take a stand against Satan in every way he would pull you. You need to be saved so God can help you to stand every day.

REACH UP!

The fifth thing that I would like to mention is, if we’re going to live as this is the last day of our lives, we need to *reach up!* Jesus said in Luke 13:24, “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” One of the reasons why people will not get saved is because they

don't strive. They don't put forth any effort. It takes effort, Dear Ones, to get in that gate because there is an adversary who is fighting against us. That's why there are some who have endured for a time, but they didn't reach up, they didn't strive or work hard enough. That's why people fall by the wayside. It's not because God has failed them. His grace is sufficient. He has given us the armor by which we can fight a successful warfare. We can fight with all the defense and the power of almighty God against everything that comes against us.

If you are a part of the family of God, you're a part of the Church of God, for Jesus has said that the gates of hell shall not prevail against us. So we can strive. We can endure whatever we have to endure. We need to endure, because Mark 13:13 says, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." I don't see that the way is to get any easier than it is now, for Paul said, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse." So the society that we live in today may get worse, and we see it today. Things that we have to endure may be more difficult, but again God's grace is all-sufficient, and we can make it through. There's no question about that. "Behold, we count them happy which endure" (James 5:11).

In all our days, and especially these the last days, we need God's help. We need to keep our eyes on Him. We need to look up and keep our eyes on God. We need to endure by doing that. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord" (Psalm 121:1, 2).

There was a young sailor boy on his maiden trip on a big ship. His job was to trim the sails. In those days, you had to climb up the mast. On his first trip, as he was climbing up the mast, the waves would cause that pole to go to and fro. He got up so high and looked down. When he looked down, he looked so afraid and scared. One of the older sailors below said, "Son, look up, look up; don't look down, look up! Keep your eyes up there and you won't get scared or fall." Dear Ones, if we keep our eyes on God, we will be able to endure, no matter what we face or encounter. We need to keep our eyes on God and on the things He would have us to do.

LIFT UP OTHERS

The sixth thing that we need is to *lift up others*. I need your help. We need prayer. We need each other's prayers. We need other's help and support. It's important to encourage others. Do you know the Bible teaches us that we reap what we sow? Do you want encouragement? Do you want to be encouraged? Well, encourage someone else, then you'll get encouraged. We get back what we give. It's important to encourage others, but it's equally important that we encourage ourselves. It's important that we keep a positive attitude. Do you have a positive attitude? Do you even know what a positive attitude is? Sometimes I approach people, and I ask them, "How come you're so happy?" And do you know, it's almost like immediately a smile would come on their faces? Not always though, because not everybody has a good and a happy attitude.

I went into a bank one time and there was a teller who was talking to another lady. I didn't mean any

disrespect, but they were talking and talking and talking, so when I went up to the counter I asked, "Ladies, how come you two are having such a wonderful day?" One lady said, "Well, what's that to you?" Well, it really wasn't too much to me, but I was trying to help them have a good day the best I knew how. We need to help people. We need to encourage people, do we not?

In Hebrews 10:22, 23 we read: "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised." So we can encourage ourselves by the promises that God has given us. How many promises are in the Book? There are so many and we can test them all, because every single promise God has given us is true. God cannot lie. He is faithful to give to us and allow us to reap the rewards of every single promise, if we meet the conditions. God is faithful to remember us, so we can encourage ourselves in what the Bible teaches us. Hebrews, chapter 6, verses 10 and 11: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end."

CONSIDER OUR ACTIONS

The seventh thing in living this day as if it's our last is to *consider our actions*. I think you have, and I'm very thankful to God that you're here tonight in this revival. I think just that is an indication that you have given thought of this day which you're living. What are we going to do with the day so that matters? Will it be a day that makes a difference for you and me, or will today be just another day? Sometimes, I believe, to many it's just another day. It doesn't have to be. I believe we can make something special out of every day. What are we going to do? If we're not doing the things that matter most, then we're in a destructive pattern, caught up in daily life and we lose sight of what really matters.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion to the message, James asked a question in our text on the most serious subject: "What is your life?" What is your life and mine? I think we can sit down and say, "Well, what is my life? Is it something that is genuinely worthwhile? Am I doing something that benefits not only myself but others? Am I living so as to bring a smile to my heavenly Father? Am I doing something that I know for certain God is pleased with, and is going to bless me in all that I do?"

Our lives can be so beautiful. James said, "Your life is like a vapor." Do you know vapor is caused when the sun hits it? It causes that beautiful rainbow of many colors across the sky. Have you ever seen a really, really bright one? One time I actually got to see a double one. There was one above the other. I just marveled at its beauty. That was because there was a cloud there, and there was sunlight shining through it. When the light of God's Word shines through our lives, it's going to be bright and beautiful. It's going to be something people love to behold. But if the light of God's Word does not

shine through our vapor, if it doesn't operate in our hearts and lives, then that vapor up there just falls and goes down the drain and gone.

Sinner Friend, if your life is not filled with Jesus Christ and the love of God, if you're not in a place where God has cleansed your heart from your sinful life, you need to come so that He can give you a life whereby His Word and Holy Spirit can shine through. Then it can be a beautiful thing for the world to behold. It can be that which you can help and benefit other people by the life He has given you to live. God can make your life sublime. Every day that you live, you can see the beauty that God has placed in your heart and life. It doesn't just have to be a vapor that goes down the drain. It can be something glorious.

The very fact that this may not be the very last day of our lives, gives us all the opportunity to do what the Bible gives us instructions to do. Opportunity is not always a tangible thing. It's not something you can put in the bank and draw on, if you will. Again, James told us that we don't know what tomorrow holds. We might not have tomorrow. Today is the only day we have. If God permits us to make plans for tomorrow, then it's in Him we live and move and have our being. It will be because He willed it to be so. It will be because He allowed it to happen. If He allows us to wake up in the morning, I believe it's a very, very important thing to rise from our beds and give Him thanks and praise and ask Him for leadership for the new day He has given us.

Time is like a talent, or the talent Jesus talked about. We need to make the most of it. All of us have the same amount of time, whether we're rich or poor. The rich have no more time than you and I have. Time is so valuable. We need to give due consideration how we use it every day. Matthew 25:25, 27, 28, speaking of the talents: "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent [or in this case, time] from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents."

Today, what will we do with our time, with our opportunity? And yet, what will we do with our very lives? If we lost our time theretofore, let us double our diligence for the future. Thousands are on a dying bed and would gladly pay the price of the whole world to buy some more time. But they can't do that. When time comes to an end, it comes to an end. Therefore, the Hebrew writer says: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" How shall we escape? God has given us the opportunity in this time for us to make our calling and election sure with Him. But if we neglect it, how shall we escape? If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I'm doing today?

This service is going to close in a few minutes, and if you're here, Sinner Friend, and have had the oppor-

tunity to see that you can live the good life, you have an opportunity tonight to come down and ask God to forgive you of your sins and be pardoned. You have the opportunity to have the Word of God abiding in you and Jesus giving you a hope that will anchor your soul. But if you leave this building without getting the goods, how can you say you're making the most of your time? This very well could be the very last day of your life. You just don't know. If you feel the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart, make the most of this moment and God's beckoning call.

God bless you †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

THE FAMILY OF GOD

THE PECULIAR FAMILY

Scriptures: Hebrews 11:27; I Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 14:2; 26:18; I Corinthians 4:9-13; James 4:4.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

I Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.

Deuteronomy 14:2 For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 26:18 And the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments.

I Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Memory Verse: Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.—Titus 2:14.

Aim: To show why the family of God is peculiar or odd in the eyes of the world.

INTRODUCTION

You will note in I Peter 2:9 we are told that we are a peculiar people unto the Lord. Also, that He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. How thankful we need to be if today we are walking in the light and have fellowship with Almighty God and with His people.

The word, *peculiar*, has different meanings. In a number of verses in our lesson today the word carries the thought of our being a separate, a distinct, people unto the Lord. Thus, we are peculiar unto Him in that He has separated us from the evil of the world through redemption.

Another meaning is to be strange or odd. As you will note in the aim, the thought of this lesson is our peculiarity in the eyes of the world.

The main thing that makes the difference between the world and Christendom is that the sinner sins and the Christian does not. Peter said the world thinks it strange that the Christians do not run after the same excess of riot as they (the world) do. Down deep in his heart the sinner knows that riotous living is wrong, and a righteous life lived before him pricks his conscience. Therefore, he styles the Christian peculiar and often resorts to persecution in an effort to reduce or obliterate the pricks.

MEDITATIONS

FAITH IN THE INVISIBLE GOD—Hebrews 11:27—Seeing him—Moses was a man of God whose keen spiritual eye beheld Him who is invisible, and consequently, he was able to stand. He who lacks vision could not see what Moses did and so he would be unable to understand Moses' decision. Since he could not understand, he would consider Moses odd. In reality, the sinner, not Moses, would be the strange one.

PETER'S TESTIMONY—I Peter 2:9—A peculiar people—Peter introduces holiness as a part of the Christians' experience. This is surely obnoxious to the world and is scoffed at by most of the religious organizations. There is nothing peculiar about the modern church member, for he walks hand in hand with the world. The world considers it natural to walk in darkness. The world and church members (for the most part) live for themselves and the pleasures of the flesh. The true Christian lives for God. The Christian knows more real pleasure than the world can ever know.

THE OLD TESTAMENT STANDARD—Exodus 19:5—Peculiar treasure—From this scripture we learn that peculiarity is the result of obedience to the voice and Word of the living, invisible God. The Jews lost their peculiar nature when they disobeyed God and became like the world. They were not content to be peculiar but desired to be like the nations around them. Obedience to God produces the same results today as it did in the Old Testament times. **Deuteronomy 14:2; 26:18—Above all**—The closer anyone walks to God, or the more he is like God, the more peculiar he will be in the eyes of the world and mere religious professors. It is God's will that we all have this kind of peculiarity. No one can advance any sound reason why anyone should not want to be like God. How wonderful it would

be if the natures of all men were so marvelously transformed that they would not steal, lie, cheat, deceive, or indulge in any other moral irregularity! In this age of the gospel, the invitation to be a part of the peculiar family is extended to all, or "whosoever will."

THINGS A DISCIPLE MAY SUFFER IN THE PECULIAR FAMILY TODAY—I Corinthians 4:9—Set forth—Intense suffering and hardship was the lot of the first disciples. But bear in mind that no man suffers in vain because of the name of Christ. Persecution is a process engineered by Satan with the purpose in mind of defeating the Christian. But the true Christian loves the name of Christ more than life itself; therefore, the thoughts of death will not cause him to surrender. We are unconscious of the fact, but angels are always watching closely the battle of the Christian on earth. **Verse 10—Fools for Christ**—In the eyes of the world the apostles appeared to be fools. The service of Christ does not offer great earthly rewards, but sometimes poverty and suffering. The world forsakes Christ for the purpose of making earthly gain. The Christian forsakes the world with its earthly gain to win Christ. **Verse 11—Present hour**—Not many men suffered as much as Paul did for the gospel of Christ. Hardship was his lot day by day even to the end when, it is reported, he was beheaded with the sword. It seems that he had almost no earthly possessions, not even a place he could call home. The world would count such a man shiftless. **Verse 12—Labor**—The preacher does not feel himself too good to work for his own support if it becomes necessary. However, the Bible plan, as the general rule, is that he who preaches the gospel shall live of the gospel, and he that is taught in the Word is instructed to give good things to him that teaches. The family of God is peculiar in that it will allow nothing to turn it away from Christ who gave Himself for it. The world today, which is so far from Christian principles, sorely needs men and women who are living out the principles set forth in the Word. **Verse 13—Made as the filth**—We are compelled to accept the Word of God as absolutely true; therefore, we are compelled to state that the modern professor of religion who is a mere church member is not living the life, because he is readily accepted among the world. When the gospel is really allowed to work in the heart of a man, it attacks the evil which rules the heart. This, of course, makes the devil angry, and he does all he can to break down the Christian.

ENEMIES OF GOD—James 4:4—Enmity with God—This is plain enough for all to understand. The man who is living in sin and fellowshiping the world is the enemy of God. He is working against God and tearing down the things that God is doing. This brings to light plainly the vast difference between the world and the people of God.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Titus 2:14—Gave himself—Jesus Christ gave His life on the cruel cross of Calvary to purchase the Church of God (Acts 20:28), to redeem us, buy us back, after we had sold ourselves into sin. In redeeming us, He separated us from the sinful world so that we could be, and would be, "a peculiar people" zealous of good works. Some people are so zealous in seeking after the world; when they get saved,

they should be even more zealous in seeking to do the will of God.

CONCLUSION

Today the world is full of sin, and much of it is the very worst kind. This gives its author, the devil, great advantage over the peculiar family. Nevertheless, God is far more powerful than Satan and is able and will see His family through if they trust Him. Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. We dare not assume an attitude of compromise or indifference, but we must put on the whole Christian armor and go on the offensive. We know we shall win! The efforts of the normal Christian institutions to combine the world with Christianity have produced a very bad situation. God is no longer in their program, for the world is the enemy of God. Nevertheless, we must face the situation in the power and might of God and give to the world once more the truth of the gospel.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why is the Christian family considered odd in the eyes of the world?
2. What made it possible for Moses to endure?
3. Name some things that “peculiar” people will be found doing.
4. Who is it that can be a member of the peculiar family, and how is membership obtained?
5. What happens to the man who lives godly in Christ Jesus?
6. Why did Paul say he and the apostles were fools for Christ’s sake?
7. What is the reaction of the peculiar family when it’s persecuted?
8. What is our responsibility as members of the peculiar family today? †

THE GIVER OF LIFE

By the late H. R. Matthews

WHEN DID THE GIVING of life begin, and where was it conceived? This has become a very perplexing question to many, and many theories have been advanced. What must be done is to cast aside the many theories and cradle in our finite minds the facts as they are set forth in the Word of God. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26).

When a child is born into a family, one of the first things we do is study the facial resemblances to determine which parent the child resembles. We may determine that it has the mother’s eyes and its father’s nose, or we may declare that the child is the splitting image of the father. Be sure when God said, “Let us make man in our image,” He was not speaking of any part of the human body. In Genesis 2:7a, we are told: “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground.” And there lay the body, that house of clay in which Adam would dwell. The composition of the body was perfect in every detail, but it lay there upon the ground lifeless, dead as dead could be, but not yet being the image of God, for God is a Spirit. Man’s likeness to God is

spiritual, not physical. Adam did not take on the image of God till the Creator “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7b). God, being a Spirit, does not have human qualities. God, being a Spirit, does not have lungs that must be sustained with oxygen, so the breath of life was not oxygen from God’s lungs to Adam’s lungs that gave him life. The apostle James declared, “The body without the spirit [soul] is dead” (James 2:26). Hebrews 12:9 informs us that God is the Father of spirits. When the body keeps its appointment with death “it shall return to the dust of the earth from whence it was taken, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

After Adam had become a living soul, God prepared for him a magnificent dwelling place, the Garden of Eden. In the midst of the garden, God placed a tree which bore fruit that He called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The Lord commanded Adam not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and that in the day that he ate thereof, he would surely die. How do you explain the fact that when Adam and the wife God had given him disobeyed and ate of the tree, that they continued to live and bare children? Please be informed that the instant they ate of the forbidden fruit, they did die. What are we speaking of when we speak of death? Are we not speaking of a separation? In physical death there is a separation of soul and body. In spiritual death there is a separation between God and the disobedient soul. Let us heed the words of the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel: “Behold, all souls are mine [God’s]; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Sin brings death to the soul; that is, when the soul sins, it becomes separated from God, it loses the image of God. The apostle Paul informs us, “Every sin that a man doeth is without the body” (I Corinthians 6:18). It is the soul that sins. The soul expresses itself through the body.

Adam had neither an earthly father, nor an earthly mother, but he and Eve were to become earth’s first parents and replenish the earth. Eve became the mother of all living, but their disobedience had serious and lasting consequences, for in them, “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Wherefore, as by one man sin entered unto the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Jesus] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life” (Romans 5:18).

As the angel spoke to Joseph, he said, “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20, 21). Did Jesus become the Giver of life only to those who followed Him in the last days? No! The promise of the Messiah was given while Adam yet lived, and if Adam repented of his disobedience, he is in heaven today because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Satan knows this to be true, for as God spoke

to him, this is what He said: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). The promise was not fulfilled till centuries later, but the promise was as good as the deed.

The Giver of life was and is Jesus Christ who Himself tasted death for every man. There was no other way for the image of God to be restored. "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals" (Revelation 5:1). Before we go further, we must understand that the message that is before us is a symbolic representation of an event that brought redemption to all mankind. The fact that there are no books in heaven proves to us that this book in the right hand of God, as He sat upon His throne in heaven, is symbolic; it is symbolic of something that is absolutely essential to spiritual life. In God's economy and redemptive plan, there had to be someone that could open the seals that sealed the book. This book was a symbolic representation of the plan of redemption which was set in place before the foundation of the earth. "And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah [The lion beast is king of the jungle, strong and authoritative.] the Root of David [David, being the great king of Israel, and in the ancestral line of Christ], hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts [disembodied spirits], and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb [This is the same Lamb that John the baptizer saw coming toward him, and he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.'] as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God [the all powerful, omniscient Son of God, Jesus Christ] sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:2-10). Saints of God are reigning on the earth now. This reign shall cease at the moment of death or at the last day.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). The Giver of life, Jesus, speaks again, saying: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Jesus warned, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4, 5).

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

It is true that Jesus bore those stripes for the healing of our physical bodies. He did, and does raise from physical death, but hear again the words of the angel to Joseph: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

The beast of the field has God given life, but it is not capable of life eternal, for it is not on probation as is man that has dominion over it. The planted grain has life and will bring forth after its own kind. There are things terrestrial that reproduce and grow that help to sustain the natural life of man, but life eternal is the product only of the Giver of life, He who suffered, bled, died, and rose again. He who is now at the right hand of God interceding for repentant man, Christ Jesus. The sinful man has not this life, for he is dead in trespasses and sins, and knows not the only true God.

Do you possess life eternal? Do you know the only true God? Do you know the Giver of life who was sent by God, Jesus Christ? It is your choice. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). †

OUT OF BOX 88

Greetings, Dear Saints,

I am enclosing a check to support *The Way of Truth* publication. We are very thankful that the Word is still being brought forth in truth and direction of God's Holy Spirit, even though the devil is working hard to wipe it out from men's hearts, especially, so it seems, in these days.

We listen to your Way of Truth programs at times, and have learned to cherish and love the work there, and the saints, especially Sis. Rebecca. The lessons she gave on how the Church of God began were so interesting and informative. I appreciate her research of facts in these lessons.

My grandparents lived in Muscatine, Iowa, in the late 1900s, where they heard truth on sanctification and were saved out of sectism. Several of the early church leaders spent time in their home as circuit rider ministers where some of the gospel songs we sing yet today were composed. My father was just a child but told us how Barney Warren, Speck, and a couple others would write words and music, then bring them to my grandparent's home where my young aunt, who played the organ, would help them assemble and compose the arrangements. ...

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COMING MEETINGS

HONDURAS FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Coxen Hole, Roatan, Honduras

September 22-27, 2026, Lord willing

Bro. Lee Jeffries, Pastor



**2026 INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION**

12819 Point Salem Rd.

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

June 30-July 5, 2026, Lord willing

Bro. Doug Shenberger, Host Pastor



REVIVAL MEETINGS

Hagerstown, Maryland

April 16-19, 2026

Bro. Doug Koerner, Speaker

Bro. Doug Shenberger, Pastor



Craigsville, West Virginia

April 30-May 3, 2026, Lord willing

Bro. Doug Shenberger, Speaker

Bro. Harley McClung, Pastor

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
STANDS FOR**

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

**YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE
ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD**

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