



“But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.” Acts 27:21

3 This entire chapter of Acts is most prophetic of our day, for it foretells the shipwreck of the Church and the reason for it. Paul spoke here “after long abstinence,” and just as his warning in verse 10: “Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage,...” was ignored as “...the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul,” (V.11) so also the apostle’s voice has been grossly missing in the Church during these last days. “Ye should have hearkened unto me...,” is in no wise, a testimony of Paul’s ego, but rather confirmation of the fact that he is the chief apostle to the Church, and his message has been vehemently denied and rejected by the shipmasters. Jesus Himself, chose Paul, declaring that “.... he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake..” Acts 9:15,16. Twice, Paul declares that an entire dispensation (this entire Church Age) was given unto him. I Cor. 9:14, Col. 1;25. He claimed that place in Rom. 11:13, boldly declaring, “For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am **the** apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.” There are 27 books in the New Testament and it is neither accident nor coincidence, that this one man wrote 14 of them, over three times as many as any other single writer. We have often been criticized for giving Paul this place, as some have said we were exalting him above Christ. Paul’s message magnifies **only** Christ. The Church at Corinth is representative of the Church as a whole in its very carnal condition and Paul took them to task because they were calling themselves by the name of the minister who had brought the gospel to them, rather than being called by the Name of Christ. I Cor. 1. Is not the Church guilty

of the same practice today when they choose to indentify themselves as being a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Mormon, Catholic, etc. Paul declared that he lived his own life "...by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20 He further announced to the Corinthians: "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;" (1Cor. 1:23) "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Cor. 2:1-5 "Ye should have listened unto me," cried Paul, meaning that The Church should have hearkened unto his message declaring the depths of Christ and His message of grace for this age. The gross failure of those shipmasters resulted in severe destruction, and the same analogy can be applied to the Church as a whole.

This ship was broken into two parts in v. 41 and history 4 plainly shows that The Church was divided into two major parts when Protestantism emerged from Catholicism as Martin Luther received the glorious revelation of justification by faith alone. Since that time Protestantism has been broken and splintered by sects and divisions just as the hinder part of Paul's ship was broken by the waves of that violent sea.

"Ye should have listened to me," bespeaks the fact that Paul's message has warned us of the very conditions that prevail in our world today. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" I Tim. 4:1 Paul warns not against having no faith, but departing from "the faith." There is only one, and it comes from God's Word. **The** faith means simply the truth of God's Word and the principles of righteousness set forth therein. He spoke to the Thessalonians of this same truth, time, and atmosphere. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" II Thess. 2:3 We have used this verse repeatedly to show that there will be no world-wide revival before Jesus comes, as so much of the Church teaches. The Greek word "apostasia," here

translated “falling away” means “defection from truth.” It carries the same message as departing from **the faith**, and is evidenced in multiple areas regarding the Church. Gay rights issues have been front and center in this country and around the world for some time now. There has been total disregard for God’s Word among lawmakers on this abominable practice, and New York is the latest and largest state to pass legislation to legalize gay marriage. The associated press reported “Hundreds of gay couples dressed in formal suits and striped trousers, gowns and T-shirts, recited vows and triumphantly hoisted their marriage certificates Sunday as New York became the sixth and largest state to recognize same-sex weddings.” Though there were some protesting these actions, holding forth the Bible as their authority, one couple “made it official” with a marriage license, having been married by a Unitarian minister 7 years prior even though they would not be recognized by the state – until now. This is just one example of how men have completely ignored the tenets of “the faith” choosing instead to believe that if enough people say it is right, then that makes it right.

5

The ways of dealing with the gay issue are legion. Headlines on the internet scream “Is it hard to be gay and Catholic?” The A.P. also reports that “The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a theologically conservative denomination, said that direct work with its larger and more liberal counterpart, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has become “difficult if not impossible,” because of doctrinal conflicts, including the 2009 decision by liberal Lutherans to lift barriers for ordaining gays and lesbians.”

A long on-line search is not necessary to determine that many “Church going” people simply twist the scripture to justify their approval of this ungodly lifestyle, and some of the explanations would be laughable if they were not so tragic. We have also been disappointed to hear other Christians declare that “a person’s sexual preference makes no difference to me,” when even Lot, as carnal as he was, is declared to be “vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:” that is, this same ungodly conduct in Sodom. II Pet. 2:7-8

Coming judgments will prove the fallacy of justifying such a lifestyle and wresting the scripture trying to prove that God has ordained it. We have heard various reports of men assuming that



the violent earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, floods, droughts, and a host of other “acts of God” are His judgment for the ungodliness going on in this world. Scripture teaches that such judgment is coming but, as some would say, “this world ain’t seen nothin’ yet,” for the judgment of the great tribulation will be so severe that Jesus said “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:....” Matt. 24:22 There are those, such as The Reverend Fred Phelps (pastor of Westboro Baptist Church based in Topeka, Kansas, with whom we can in no wise, identify, sympathize, or approve) who hold protests at funerals supposedly calling for God’s judgment against many of the ungodly practices in this country. Jesus’ words in John 8 would surely apply here as He denounced the self righteous Pharisees who openly condemned the woman taken in adultery, with these scathing words: “He that is **without sin** among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” V. 8 I am sure many would love to cast these words in the face of Fred Phelps, and some seem to think they can excuse their own actions because of the judgmental attitudes of others, but Jesus did not do that. His glorious words of grace, “neither do I condemn thee,” gave her life instead of death, but some seem to forget that He said further, “go, and sin no more.” Translation: 6 “Lady these claims against you are true, so stop it!”

Simply stated, the Church, as a whole, has failed miserably because she has departed from the faith or truth of God’s Word. Paul admonished the Church at Ephesus that “... all things that are reprov’d are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” Eph. 5:13,14 The light is missing and darkness has ensued because men have not proclaimed the Light of God’s Word. The Church has instead adopted the ways and marketing techniques of the world. She found out very quickly that young people, especially, are attracted to the hypnotic, repetitious, beat and lyrics of rock music and planned her tactics accordingly. She assumed the world’s mantra of “give them what they want,” and she did it all at the expense of Truth, for “contemporary music” has primarily replaced The Word of God in the meeting house.

We have reported previously that prominent Mega Church Pastors like Joel Osteen and Rick Warren absolutely refused to proclaim on national television that Jesus is “the way the truth and

the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me,” (John 14:6) and “...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 Pastor Osteen was asked the specific question, “What if you’re Jewish or Muslim, you don’t accept Christ at all?” He was also asked other questions along the same line and his repeated answer was “I don’t know.” Such evasive answers can in no wise dispel darkness, and with all this departure from the faith, it is no wonder that the darkness of Islam and countless other evil religions, so contradictory to the truth and Light of Jesus Christ, prevail in this country and around the world.

7 Such practices also go beyond the truth of fundamental salvation. Many Churches across the land actually boast that “we do not teach doctrine,” the reason being that we do not want to create controversy. The truth of the matter is that they want to build their numbers, which cannot be done if people are offended. Paul never used the gospel as a hammer of judgment, but he most certainly did tell us that “...the word of God is quick, and powerful, and **sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12 Such statements mean that there must of necessity be intense pain in our lives at times, as God changes us into the very image of Christ, but that change will never happen apart from God’s Word. Thus, because some would avoid controversy at all costs, we have Mega Churches that often stand for nothing. Some have become simply “feel good about yourself social clubs,” many of them designed to attract lonely “singles” looking for a mate, or trying to fill some other void in their lives. The tragedy, in all these examples of departing from the faith, is that men cannot possibly grow up into Christ in all things, for only “speaking the truth in love” can do that. Eph. 4:15

Paul’s pattern is found in Acts 20:20, in his farewell address to the Ephesian elders, as he gave his own testimony of “...how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house...” Paul’s primary purpose in ministry was to constantly declare God’s Word, even in very small forums “from house to house.” It is surely far different from the atmosphere of today where Churches are often evaluated by the “bigger is

better” standard. Every true and dedicated minister of the gospel should be comforted with Paul’s words in I Cor. 3:6. “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” Our only responsibility is to plant the seed. The results belong to God, and whether that increase is in numbers or just spiritual fruit produced in individual Christians, it is still His burden of responsibility.

The whole of Paul’s ship never reached land in one piece and neither will the Church. Many have decried the teaching of a “split rapture” over the years, but scripture plainly teaches that all Christians will not arrive in heaven at the same time. Our text here in Acts reveals “...the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; (killing the prisoners V. 42) and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land. V. 43,44 They all escaped to land but the “swimmers” undoubtedly reached it first. They represent those who step out by faith, even today, and just believe God, apart from any connection to “The Church” except absolute trust in the promises of His Word. These are those of the Church at Philadelphia who will arrive first in heaven claiming the promise: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10 This verse means that these will arrive in glory **before** the tribulation even begins.

“The rest” who came “on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship” represent those who did claim at least parts of God’s Word that were taught in various Churches, and thus have reaped the benefit of it. These become part of “...a great multitude, which no man could number,” (V.9) and they do not stand before the throne until well after the first group, for “These are they which came **out of** great tribulation,...” V. 14

The shipwreck of both the world and the Church is inevitable. We can do nothing to save either of them as a whole, but Jude, like Paul, gives much instruction for these last days concerning “the faith.” He closes his epistle with these glorious admonitions as to how we must conduct our own lives and minister to those around us. Note the order here. We must take heed to ourselves first, and then we will be able to build up those

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

### **‘The Bride Hath Made Herself Ready’**

The Bride is standing all glistening bright  
In her wedding `garments so pure and white;  
Her hands have sewed the needlework fine;  
The gold was brought by her life divine.

9 It has not been easy, this garment to make,  
But all that `she did was for Jesus’ sake.  
There were trials and pains and heartaches sore;  
Many were the needle pricks and cuts she bore.

There were times when dark doubts would flood her  
soul;

Yet His divine Word again made her whole.  
Disappointments came and trials to test,  
But in this, she learned to trust Him best.

At last, her garment was ready to wear  
Though many dire hardships, she oft did bear.  
Then came her Bridegroom to call her away,  
And gone was the night, behold now the day!

Her life of toils are remembered no more,  
As she and Christ enters the Open Door;  
Glory and Light fills her once-burdened heart,  
For now she’s in heaven, ne’er to depart!



## Christ As Lord

**“THEREFORE, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”** -Acts 2 :36. This verse holds the key to the new spiritual house that began to be built at Pentecost. Jesus Christ is Lord and The Anointed One of the new regime. Around this pivotal point--the Lordship, or Headship of Jesus Christ--all the events of this Church Age revolve. God put the soldiers of the Cross in battle array under the direct Generalship of His Son, who had purchased His right to Lordship by His heroic, substitutionary death on Calvary a few days before. His resurrection from among the dead proved His Holy Sonship -- Rom. 1:4. "It was not possible that He should be holden of death" -V. 24. Peter explains the cause of the strange phenomena. He says of Jesus, "**Being by the right hand of God exalted** (to the highest place --Eph. 1:21), and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, **He hath shed forth** (or poured out) **THIS which ye now see and hear**"-V. 33.

10

Jesus had prayed that the Father would send another Comforter (John 14:16), but Peter here declares that Jesus Himself sent Him. Comp. John 15:26. This precludes the utter possibility of anyone else claiming the Lordship. Even the Holy Spirit cannot be Lord. At the beginning of Jesus' career, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted, or tested by the devil -- Luke 4:1. Mark 1:12 says, "He driveth Him." As the Man, Jesus was "led." As the Servant, He was "driven," or "sent" --Mk. 1:43. His victory over Satan proved His holiness and His preparedness and ability, thru the power of the Spirit, to enter upon His life work. But now being exalted to Headship, He is no longer led, or sent by the Spirit. Instead, He sent the Spirit, who executes the will of the Father and of the Son on earth.

The eighth chapter of Romans records an epitome of the full ministration of the Holy Spirit in a Christian



life. Twelve telling facts are named. First, He witnesses with our spirit at conversion, "**that we are the children of God**" - V. 16. Then "as many as are led by the Spirit of God (implying that some are not), **they are the sons** (grown-up children) **of God**" V. 14. In experience these two verses of course are interchanged. Thus by the safe leadership of the Holy Spirit, we are made to "**walk after the Spirit**" instead of the flesh. Finally our most necessary service is inspired by the Spirit. He "**helps our infirmities.**" He teaches us what to pray for -- yea more, "**the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**" How remarkable that our service -- preaching, teaching and witnessing -- are not even intimated in this chapter. Praying is the only activity named. It is therefore the most important. Profitable preaching and sound teaching develop from a life of prayer indited by the Spirit, because it is according to the will of God as revealed in the Word. The Spirit and the Word always agree. The Spirit operates

11 by means of the Scriptures.

### **Operations of the Spirit**

All the ministrations of the Holy Spirit are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. "To us there **is one God the Father**, of whom are all things and we in Him; **and one Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom are all things and we by Him"-1 Cor. 8:6. When God exalted His Son to heaven, He "**put all things under His feet** and gave Him to be **the Head** over all things to the Church, which is His body" -- Eph. 1:21-23. Observe the sublime things said about Jesus Christ in Colossians 1. Note especially verse 18. "**And He is the Head of the body, the Church**; who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, **that in all things** He might have the preeminence," or chief place. The Apostle brings complaint against the vain philosophers for "**not holding The Head**"-Col. 2:19. And who could be The Head but Christ? All the activities of the apostles, being filled with the Spirit, were "**in the name of Jesus.**" See the first chapters of the Acts and Col. 3:7.

The departure from this fundamental doctrine and practice of holding Jesus Christ as the head, or Lord of His people is the root of the gigantic tree of religious confusion, contention and disruption. Men began to meet together and form codes or beliefs, or doctrines. Brainy men wrote books on theology. They organized and put certain strong-willed fellows at the head, giving them various titles, as bishops, viceroys, cardinals, presidents, superintendents, presiding elders, etc., etc. Men coveted places of power. They sought to be rulers in the Church. Certain sites became "head-quarters," as they were called. The human head had to have a "quarter" from which to exercise dominion. *How* expressive that is of division, The true Head, the one only scriptural Head, Christ Jesus, does not occupy a "quarter," nor a half, but He fills the whole Church, which is "one body, with His very life. He governs by love, reigning within the heart. Here consider the simplicity of the Church in the beginning.

Every message of Peter in the Acts exalted Jesus Christ. The ministry of Peter and John put Christ to the front. Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans and to the Ethiopian Eunuch. Stephen magnified the Christ and was faithful unto death. Immediately after his conversion, Saul proclaimed that Christ is the Son of God. All their activities were in the Name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Every baptism in water recorded in the Acts was in the Name of Jesus, or the Lord Jesus, thus acknowledging His Lordship over believers in the new age. **A very important fact -- All the apostles received the Gift of the Holy Spirit after they had received Christ** as Messiah and Savior. This is no small item. Even Saul of Tarsus was filled with the Spirit three days after he surrendered and believed on Jesus. And when people were filled with the Holy Ghost under their several ministries, invariably they magnified God in other tongues. Supernatural phenomena was never wanting among them. How is it today and why?

### **Our Supply House**

In due time, the four Gospel records of Christ were

written. Also, the Acts of the Apostles by Luke. Then, the Epistles. The later Christians, the apostolic fathers, were fully persuaded that those writings were inspired. They were called "The New Testament," because they set forth the teachings and practice of Jesus Christ and His immediate successors. Therefore ministers and assemblies during the following centuries have been without excuse. We are without excuse today. If we observe and adopt the simplicity of the apostles and their teachings, we will first of all, "tarry until we are **endued with power from on high.**" If we do not travel with them of course we will be derailed. Back to the Bible for truth and divine guidance, means forward to victory and progress by the life, liberty, love, wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. It means to recognize Jesus Christ as the one only Head and Lord in this age, and only "one body, the church," against which the gates of hell shall not prevail.

13 A small remnant of believers are endeavoring to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and his associates. They represent the true church, though they do not constitute the entire body. Many members of Christ's mystical body, the Church; are caged in the sects, or denominations. The condition in Christendom is deplorable. Jesus prayed for His own that they might all be one in order that the world might believe and know that He is indeed the Son of God -- John 17:20-23. Probably 95% of the Christians ignore that prayer. They bite and devour one another. Some of the sects claim that their group is The Church. Hence they have no fellowship with the other sects. Some assemblies do not have fellowship with other assemblies of their own group. Some denominations are merging with others, but it is an empty form. What a pitiful state. The mustard tree parable (Matt. 13:31, 32) pictures Christendom as it is. The parable of the leaven indicates the cause. The "three measures of meal," the doctrine of the Trinity, have been leavened with evil doctrine and practice. It started by substituting human heads for the one supreme Head, Christ. Men, unwilling to be led by the Holy Spirit, itch to be leaders. Self seeks to have dominion,

and Satan dupes ignorant folk to follow. And what have we?  
"Envy, strife and division."

Let us come closer home. Doubtless the Lord's last words to all of us are the seven letters to the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3. The Head of the Church addresses Himself to "**the angel,**" the pastor of each assembly. He holds him responsible for permitting error to creep in. He speaks to the assembly thru its leader. Every shepherd is amenable to Jesus Christ. So also is every congregation. No pastor, or congregation is held responsible for the teaching and conduct of other assemblies. No group of pastors has any scriptural right to meet and try to discipline another pastor. The Apostle Paul, together with the assembly in Corinth, disfellowshipped a fornicator. -- 1 Cor. 5. That was local discipline. No other congregation had any say in the matter. Do you read of another case of discipline? Paul instructed his associates to "rebuke, reprove, exhort," but "**with all longsuffering and doctrine.**"

If we insist on discipline, let us beware lest it be exercised first on us. Fornication and adultery are not the only sins in the catalogue. How about "covetousness, which is idolatry?" How about "railing" against a brother, or sister? Paul classes it with fornication and drunkenness. Among the 19 "**works of the flesh**" (Gal.5:19-21) are found "hatred, variance (contention), emulations, (jealousy) strife, envyings," etc. "The fruit of the Spirit" is the only offset for them. Love in action is the remedy for failures among us. When a brother was brought on the carpet for correction, and the examiners were fussing about him, a five-year old urchin stepped into the ring and shouted, "**Let brotherly love continue.**" The battle ceased and the accused was set free. If he was guilty, they forgave him.

The words "Grace and Glory" should not be considered the name of another organization, or movement. They are the title of the magazine we publish in Kansas City. We believe that the Lord has led us to send forth literature, **not to develop** a movement, **but to feed** the flock of Christ



as far as possible wherever they are found. If assemblies have sprung up as a result of our writings, God has done it. In all our activities, we insist on exalting Christ as Head and Lord of the Church throughout the world. Every believer on Jesus Christ is our brother, or sister, no matter what label may be on his bottle, or what unkind names he may tack on us. We are for peace; but when we speak, or seek fellowship, they are for war sometimes. Psa. 120 :7. Let us all remember 1 Cor. 13. "Love suffereth long and is kind. Love envieth not. Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Love never faileth,"

(Ed. Note: this is a reprint of an article from July 1941. There is no author ascribed to it, but with the reference to Grace and Glory literature, along with the truth of it, it is undoubtedly the handiwork of Bro. Copley.)

15

### **Christ Is Coming**

Maranatha! Maranatha!

Hear the blessed Advent chimes.  
Peace and joy and comfort bringing  
To the earth and to all climes.  
Let the bells ring out the story-  
Christ, the Jew, brings Jewish times.

Maranatha! Christ is coming!  
Eve in Eden heard the sound,  
Pealing forth redemption's glory--,  
Pardon, hope and blessing found.  
Maranatha! Maranatha!  
Let the glorious news abound.

Maranatha! Maranatha!  
Christ is coming back again.  
Advent bells repeat the story.  
Tell it out in sweet refrain,  
Everywhere to world in sorrow  
Christ will bring surcease from pain.

Anon

## "Identifying With Christ"

"And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Matthew 8:20

A tornado took most of my house, causing the need to be rebuilt, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Sedalia, Mo. This verse kept coming to my mind right after, along with Philippians 3:7 and 8. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ, Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"

I have testified that the Lord was starting this work in me, and I wanted to love Jesus more than ANYTHING; (and I still do). Even at the time, I started to "get a hold" on this verse, I didn't have as clear of a picture of what this means, in a practical way, as I do now. I also know the Lord HEARS us! He knows our hearts' desires, and He is faithful to complete the work started in us, even if it means we will suffer things in our flesh for our eternal gain! And we have no idea what that work might put us through. But He is faithful!

16

I found out it is really hard to not have a natural home, all food and natural comforts gone, and be completely dependent on the Lord for all things. But He supplies every need!! What a wonderful way to learn more about Jesus, who depended on His Father for ALL things! I know, that I know Jesus better than before; I know now, what it means to have to continually renew my mind with the washing of the water of the word, to have little strength, to cry out to Jesus that I thought I knew Him, but now I see Him better; because I have no confidence in my flesh. This is a painful place as far as the flesh is concerned; what a glorious place to be so close to my precious Lord!

The thought came to me, that, Jesus had a natural home, as a child, growing up with Mary and Joseph, and his natural siblings, but when he started his priestly ministry, he completely depended on the Father. His Father brought circumstances, people, places, and things to him as he needed them. We are the sons of God, when we are born again, as Christ is, and He does the same for us. It's truly amazing when God takes control, and works His wonders in our lives, in ways that are so beyond what we could ever have thought or imagined!

I wouldn't trade anything for having been in that tornado, not that it has been pleasant, or easy, on the contrary, it has been the hardest thing I have ever been through; but I can say, "When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in



glory" Colossians 3:4. This is my hope, and through this hope I am being made pure, because He is working an eternal work in me, AMEN!

Joy Sparks



### **The Lord Is With Thee**

*Mrs. A. E. (Beulah) Clark*

“When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them; for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee out of Egypt.” Deut. 20:1 In these words which God spoke to Israel, we may find spiritual truths to comfort and strengthen us in our Christian walk. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places; or against the powers of Satan who is waging continual warfare against God’s children. The horses and chariots and people speak to us of any weapon which Satan may use to hinder or discourage us. Truly his weapons are many and sometimes they seem to almost engulf us.

17

But God speaks to us, “Be not afraid of them; for the Lord thy God is with thee.” Even as He walked with the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, He is not watching from afar, but ever present with them in the midst of trials and testings.

God continues that the priest shall speak to the people and say unto them, “Ye approach this day into battle against your enemies, let not your hearts faint, fear not and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them, for the Lord your God is He that goeth with you to fight for you against your enemies to save you.” So Christ our High Priest speaks to us through His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit to fear not, for it is He that will fight for us. In another place He says, “The battle is not yours but God’s.” We are so prone to struggle and try to remove the trial, but we need to cease struggling and rest in The Lord. “Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you.” I Pet. 5:7 “And ye know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28 Our battle is usually in bringing our flesh into subjection to the Lord, being willing to “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.”

“And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.”  
Num 14:40

This “mountain top” experience took place following Israel’s uniform decision **not** to go into Canaan even after the spies had returned with a glowing report of a land filled with milk and honey. Joshua and Caleb, the only two who insisted “If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land,” were almost stoned for their faithful stand. God then appeared informing them that they would wander in the wilderness for forty years, and those that had been numbered, 20 years old and upward, would perish there. It seems that they had tried to “correct” their mistake and have appeared “repentant and ready,” but Moses declared that if you pursue this venture then “...ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.” V. 43

18

Scripture plainly declares “..behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” II Cor. 6:2 The day of salvation is not just a reference to deliverance from hell alone, but testifies of any salvation we may require. It loudly proclaims that now, this present instant in our lives, is the time to believe God. We must understand, as Israel learned so painfully here, that God has His Will, and He also has a definite time to fulfill it. He had asked earlier in the chapter “...how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?” V. 11 God also has proven himself, over and over to us, and any crisis time of today, is not the time to panic and try to choose another “captain” to lead us back to Egypt, or the ways of the world, as Israel was wont to do in V. 4. It is rather the time to believe God for His purposes and plans for us. He intended for this chosen people to claim their promised inheritance, and we too have the glorious hope of being set free from this world before the throes of the great tribulation are come upon it. Jesus published exactly



this same message in Matt. 24:44 “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” The exact context of these words reveal that the time of which Jesus speaks is very near the end of the tribulation period when men are taken away **in judgment**, even as those taken away in Noah’s day. V. 39 There is absolutely no mention of being taken away to heaven, as many suppose. The principle of “readiness,” however, is exactly the same for there will be no reprieve here any more than there was for Israel in Num. 14.

The parable of the ten virgins in Matt. 25 tells exactly the same story. The timing of this parable is “midnight” the middle of the tribulation period, and tells us that it does not, as many believe, testify of the “rapture” of the Church. By this time, the Philadelphia overcomers, the first rank of the Church, are already in heaven along with the innumerable company, the second rank of the Church. The five wise virgins, who were ready, went into the marriage and correspond with the 144,000 who will be taken to heaven around the middle of the week. (midnight) Rev. 12:5 The remaining five who were not ready, were left on the earth and become the nucleus of God’s Kingdom on earth. They are the woman protected in the wilderness for the remainder of the tribulation period. Rev. 12:6

Regardless of the time in which Jesus will appear, the same principle and cry remains. BE YE READY: FOR IN SUCH AN HOUR AS YE THINK NOT THE SON OF MAN COMETH!!!!  
Matt. 24:44

GH

### **Announcement:**

The fall session of the Bible School begins on September 19, 2011. It is not too early to make your plans now. For more information you may contact us at P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64020 or by e-mail: [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com) You may also call us at 816-618-3306. We are looking forward to another glorious year of sitting at the feet of Jesus learning of Him.

## *Christian Loyalty*

### *WHAT IS IT?*

Albert Harding

It is noticeable that Jesus, when fulfilling His God-ordained office of prophet or teacher, often made use of natural, earthly things and events to illustrate spiritual, heavenly truth. So also did other prophets, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let us first consider loyalty as it is known in the natural realm; for therein we find a type and picture of the loyalty all Christians should have as citizens of heaven and obedient servants of their Lord and King. Moreover, if we do not understand earthly things, how shall we understand heavenly things?

Loyalty is the state or quality of being devoted to duty, constancy, unchangeableness, firmness, faithfulness to a friend, lover, wife, husband, king, prince, or other sovereign. It especially means faithfulness and allegiance to an established government. It is not treacherous, or untrustworthy; it does not seek to overthrow or undermine; neither does it cause, gender, stir up, or foster strife, sedition, or discontent; but it is true in every sense of the word, to a confidence, trust, friend, king, government and so forth.

20

It is plain therefore that loyalty is a quality of immense and inestimable value and one that every person should possess. For a friend, lover, wife, or husband who cannot be trusted is as bad as a loathsome disease; and a citizen who is not loyal to his country is not worthy of the name and does not deserve the privileges and rights of citizenship, nor the protection the government of his country affords. One who is not loyal is no doubt selfish and is liable to prove a slacker, if not a traitor, in the crises his country has to face.

If, then, facts are true regarding loyalty in the natural realm, and no honest person will deny that they are, how **much more** are they true of the spiritual realm. In other words, it cannot be denied that true "CHRISTIAN LOYALTY" is a quality that every Christian should possess; and if he does not possess it, he should seek with all his heart to obtain it as quickly as possible. Disloyalty, or



**not to be loyal**, to God the Father and His beloved Son, after they have proven their great love for us by making so great a sacrifice, having shown us so much mercy and grace, is **MUCH MORE SERIOUS** and **FAR WORSE**, than unfaithfulness and lack of allegiance to earthly rulers and governments. Indeed, every Christian should be so devoted to his Lord and Saviour, and should have such constant, firm and unchangeable fidelity towards Him, that he can say from the bottom of his loyal heart, "If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed," and when he hears someone else say it, he should be able to respond with a fervent "AMEN!"

21 Jesus is our friend, the **BEST** one we have ever had, or **CAN** have. He proved it by laying down His life for us, that we might be redeemed. It is to Him, that all Christians are espoused to become His bride. He is our God-ordained Lord and He is our King; hence we are His subjects. So then, is it not evident that devotion, loyalty, faithfulness and allegiance to Him are demanded of us? If our hearts are established with **GRACE** we shall not hesitate to answer "Yes!" for grace teaches us to deny ungodliness, and it cannot be gainsaid that unfaithfulness and lack of loyalty to our Lord and Saviour is as ungodly as murder and adultery. Also, Christians have no continuing city in this world; but if they are walking uprightly before God, they are walking as pilgrims and strangers on earth because, like their Lord and King, they are not of the world. They are rather looking for a city which has foundations, eternal in the heavens, whose Maker and Builder is God. They belong to Jerusalem which is above, and their names are written in heaven; hence their citizenship is in heaven also.

Therefore, like citizens of earthly countries, they should be devoted to the duties of their citizenship; they should be constant and firm in unchangeable faithfulness to their Sovereign Lord; and they should prove their loyalty and allegiance by being subject to the established government of their heavenly country; otherwise they will forfeit their rights and privileges of citizenship.

"But!" someone says, "that sounds like law; and we are not under law but under grace!" What then? Shall we neglect



the duties of our heavenly citizenship? Shall our loyalty be wavering, irresolute and changeable? Shall we be lawless, loose and lascivious, fulfilling the desires of the flesh because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid. If we are truly **under** grace, we are **controlled**, by grace and are not without law, but in absolute subjection to Christ: hence if grace is truly working in us, Christian loyalty will be in evidence. But if it is not, it is proof that grace is not working in us and that it is not known **in truth**.

Observe however that Christian loyalty can only be produced BY Christ; hence it is none but people who have Christ abiding within them who can be loyal to Him, for "if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His." Rom. 8 :9 And even then they can only be loyal THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS; for no flesh shall boast in God's presence, but he that boasts, let him boast IN THE LORD. Amen ! But we must also realize that faith without works is dead; hence if we say we have faith in Christ and there is no evidence of loyalty to Him, it proves that the faith we have is lifeless and powerless, because LIVING faith produces divine results.

22

### **WHEN IS LOYALTY MANIFESTED? OR, WHEN IS IT PROVEN?**

Like all other qualities that are of any value, loyalty is really proven, only when tested, for it is more or less easy to be loyal when there is no strain on it. This is illustrated by the fact that, when it was evident that God was with Jesus, the multitudes followed Him, but when it seemed that God was against Him and He was being condemned as a criminal, His **closest** disciples forsook Him and fled. Therefore, whether one's loyalty is true or not, or whether it lacks stamina, backbone or power of endurance, is truly manifested only in times of crises, or danger. For instance, a citizen's loyalty to his country can only be proven, or manifested in times of national crisis.

The crises earthly countries face, are only intermittent; for the nations are not ALWAYS faced with conditions, whether arising from without or within its borders, that are of so serious-and critical a nature as to be accompanied with extreme danger and doubt. Such critical stages in a nation's



experience occur only at intervals, with alternate periods of comparative peace and safety. But the kingdom of heaven is **always** and **constantly**, faced with a crisis, because Satan (the avowed enemy of Jesus Christ and therefore of all who put their trust in Him, or call upon His name) is constantly seeking to overthrow or nullify the work of the Son of God.

23 Therefore, CHRISTIAN loyalty must be far more constant and contain far more stamina, having far greater power of endurance in it than can possibly be found in NATURAL loyalty. This is because it is subjected to greater and more severe testings and trials, which are more incessant and constant, than are ever experienced in the natural realm. Consequently, it is evident that CHRISTIAN loyalty is of far greater and much more inestimable value than Natural loyalty and is therefore much more to be desired. Furthermore it is also a much greater privilege to be loyal to Jesus Christ, the holy Son of God and Saviour of the world, than to be loyal to the wisest and best earthly ruler and the most wonderful earthly country. That would be true even though no reward was attached to it, for just the privilege of being loyal to Jesus is honor in itself. Why, even to be counted worthy to SUFFER for His name is an honor of the HIGHEST DEGREE; and only those whom GOD counts worthy have that blessed privilege.

But the rewards that are obtainable for being loyal to the King of kings and Lord of lords are also far superior to those that which earthly rulers have to offer and are much more excellent; for earthly rewards are corruptible and destructible, whereas heavenly rewards are everlasting. Hence earthly rewards can only be enjoyed (if they are enjoyed at all) during a person's earthly existence; they CANNOT be enjoyed when this life is ended. But heavenly rewards will be enjoyed for all eternity. Moreover, many earthly rewards are won by the sacrifice of one's life; hence, the winner (who is after all a loser) knows nothing about it and certainly can never enjoy it. That is especially true in many instances of natural loyalty; but even though a Christian dies in winning a heavenly reward for being loyal to Jesus, he will still live to enjoy it forever and ever. Hallelujah!

Furthermore, the marvel of marvels is this. Although

we could never merit those wonderful and glorious rewards ourselves, yet if we truly set our hearts on winning them, God will reveal to us the truth that **IN THE WORTHINESS OF JESUS**, we may have them, for we are **COMPLETE** in Him; and although we could never win them by our own efforts, or good works, Jesus will also be the power by which we conquer, for we can **DO ALL THINGS** through Christ who is our strength.

#### Unsearchable Riches

O the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Wealth that can never be told;

Riches exhaustless of mercy and **GRACE**,

Precious, more precious than gold.

O the unsearchable riches of Christ!

**FREELY**, how **FREELY** they flow;

Making the souls of the loyal and true

Happy wherever they go.

O the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Who would not **GLADLY ENDURE**

Trials, afflictions and crosses of earth,

Riches like those to secure.

Ah yes, we have just cause to count them happy who endure for, Christ's sake, for our loving heavenly Father has set sufficient inducement before us to inspire us to be whole-heartedly faithful and loyal to Jesus, even unto death. And don't forget that the love which God manifests in setting those future rewards before us, is **IN ADDITION**, so to speak, or over and above, that marvelous and wondrous evidence of His great love which He commended towards us by sending His beloved Son to be the propitiation for our sins, and which Jesus also manifested by the sacrifice of Himself for our eternal redemption. Surely such wonderful love, which is so **FREELY** bestowed upon us (not because we are worthy in ourselves, for we are not, but on the **PERFECT MERIT OF JESUS CHRIST**), should stir us to the very depths. It should set every fiber of our being pulsating with fervent eagerness to sacrifice ourselves and all we have on the sacred altar of worship and service. O may God grant that it will be so, Amen.

Yes, may God produce within us that irresistible urge

by which we shall PROVE that we are truly loyal to our Lord and King. But there is only one power that will produce true loyalty, devotion and faithfulness in us, and GOD ALONE can give it to us; for that power is LOVE -- "Love" ; and it must be DIVINE love, not natural. Without it we cannot be truly loyal either to God, or to man; but if we do love the Lord, we shall obey Him, and we shall love others also. Therefore may God FILL US WITH HIMSELF. Amen!  
HOW SHALL WE PROVE THAT WE ARE LOYAL TO JESUS?

25 We have already noted, that it is in crises when loyalty, or faithfulness is proven, as to whether it is true or not. Hence, since The Kingdom of God's dear Son to which Christians belong (Col. 1:13), is ALWAYS faced with a crisis, due to principalities and powers in the heavens being arrayed against it (Eph, 6 :12), Christian loyalty will be tested CONSTANTLY, if we will to live godly in Christ Jesus. But now we are to see HOW, or in what way it may be manifested. Amen.

Of course, as with natural loyalty, Christian loyalty is tested and manifested in MANY ways, hence, we shall not be able to deal with them all at this time. We MUST, however, speak of one in particular, in connection with which, we note this prefatory remark: "It is a way in which EVERY Christian can and SHOULD be loyal to Jesus Christ; and we may safely say that if every Christian WERE, loyal to Jesus in the way of which we are going to speak, there would be FEWER DIVISIONS among them and maybe none at all. Therefore let us note it carefully." It is regarding loyalty as STEWARDS, or CUSTODIANS that we must speak. We all know, or SHOULD know; God requires that stewards be found loyal and true to their trust I Cor. 4:2 We also know that to be **un**-faithful stewards is disastrous indeed; for "confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble, is like a broken tooth and a foot out of joint." Please therefore observe, that into the custody of every Christian individually and all of them collectively, "AS ONE MAN," God has committed a most solemn obligation, to which He expects them to be true. And He offers them a just and sufficient reward if they will be faithful to it.

That obligation, which is also a most sacred, gracious and glorious privilege, is to proclaim and spread abroad the most wonderful and blessed message that man ever heard; namely, **“the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”** Rom. 1:16

That is a message which this poor, old, sadly-disillusioned, weebegone, war-torn, world sorely needs. In fact, that is the ONLY message which will truly and completely solve her many and diverse problems and relieve her numerous perplexities.

Moreover, seeing that wars, rumors of wars and many other signs plainly proclaim that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, it is also evident that the world is hastening speedily towards that terrible day when people will say **“...to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”** Rev. 6:16,17 Therefore, every Christian should realize the EXTREME URGENCY of proclaiming God's message ere the world is suddenly plunged into the great calamities and the more serious disillusionments of which God has so graciously and lovingly given clear and ample warning in His Word.

Furthermore, these same signs which prove that the day of the Lord is at hand, also prove that it is high time that every true, born-of-the-Spirit Christian be awakened to the gravity of his responsibility and the debt he owes, both to God and to man, ere the opportunity to discharge his solemn obligation is gone forever. Moreover, the greater part of the Gospel is purposed to BUILD UP Christians, so that they may obtain the inheritance which God has provided for them, and be prepared to inherit the throne of glory and be ready and waiting for Jesus to come and take them home. So Christians should be loyal to their brethren in Christ by daily exhorting each other according to the truth of the Gospel.

Therefore, instead of building up their own particular sect, or denomination, which will have no place in heaven anyway, and instead of defending the tenets and dogmas of their own faith, or Church, all Christians should be loyally standing fast



in the spirit and with one mind STRIVING TOGETHER for the faith of the gospel. Only those who do that will receive a reward for their labor. All others will suffer loss, unless they repent, because they have built corrupting material (wood, hay and stubble) into God's Temple; but they themselves will be saved, yet so as by fire.

Therefore, all Christians should be loyally obeying this commandment, "Above all things have fervent love among yourselves, for love covers the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As EVERY ONE has received the gift, minister the same one to another, as GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD." I Pet. 4:8-10 They should observe these exhortations also -- "THIS CHARGE I COMMIT UNTO THEE, SON TIMOTHY" and "O TIMOTHY, KEEP (guard, protect or defend) THAT WHICH IS COMMITTED TO THY TRUST." I Tim. 1:15 and 6:20 It is evident of course that since those two exhortations are written to Timothy, they are addressed primarily to God-ordained ministers of the Gospel. Nevertheless, since Christians are all members one of another, they are associated IN CHRIST, with one another in ALL THINGS, and so are joint sharers in all the responsibilities, privileges, reproaches, honors, sufferings and rewards of the Gospel.

Thus we see that all Christians are STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GREAT GRACE. O what a privilege! But who is the Gospel for? It is not for the Jews only, nor for white people only, nor for the British and Americans only; but it is for the Japanese, Chinese, Indians, Hindus, Italians, Russians, Germans, French and for EVERYBODY ELSE, no matter what their race, color, or creed may be. Amen. Yes, Jesus did not come to destroy men's lives, but to SAVE SINNERS. He says if His Kingdom was of this world, then His servants would fight. Hence it is not a Christians business to destroy people, but as good stewards of the manifold grace of God and as loyal subjects of the King of glory, to PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, AS THE ONE AND ONLY MEANS BY WHICH ANY ONE (YEA ALL) CAN BE SAVED FOR EVER. But it is liable to cost something to be LOYAL Christians in this day and

age. It may even cost our lives, but if we are not willing to lay down our lives for Jesus Christ's sake and the Gospel's, we are NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED HIS DISCIPLES.

There is a just and sufficient reward for CHRISTIAN LOYALTY, for Jesus will give us A CROWN OF LIFE if we are faithful unto death; and we know that to die is to be with the Lord. We also have the example of those who, in order to obtain a BETTER RESURRECTION, refused to accept deliverance. So likewise may we; and that means TO BECOME HIS BRIDE.

O what a reward! Who could want anything better? There is NO REWARD THAT IS MORE WONDERFUL! And has He not said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee?" Indeed He has. Therefore we may boldly say, "I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME." Psa. 118:6 AMEN AND AMEN!

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### *Atonement Is Made*

*A sinner I was by birth.  
My doom was deep in the earth.  
Jehovah was angry with me,  
And said, You must hang on the tree.*

*The justice of God enraged,  
Demanded that I be caged,  
Forever in darkness and gloom,  
In depths far beneath the cold tomb.*

*A messenger came my way,  
For I, unable to pay,  
Was longing for peace with my God  
And freedom from sin's galling rod.*

*Atonement he cried is made.  
Your debt has fully been paid.  
Jehovah is satisfied now,  
And justice in mercy doth bow.*

*To you. Oh, will you believe?  
And pardon and peace receive?  
No tomb and no gloom and no doom,  
But in heaven a glorious room.*

*I trusted and leaped for joy  
My neighbors I did annoy  
A Ransom I truly have found  
And surely for glory I'm bound*

## The Halfway House

D.E. Hill

The cross of JESUS Christ is my bridge to Salvation over the fixed gulf between eternity in Heaven with Christ, versus eternity in Hell without Christ. First I must accept His free gift of love and sacrifice for my sins and errors. Now that I have accepted JESUS, I may choose to stay at the base of His Mountain, but I can never re-cross that gulf or return to my former status because in Christ I am now a new creation. I am separated to Him forever! Yet others can also choose to take the cross JESUS offers for their Salvation too.

Now that I am on Christ's Mountain, I will be given opportunities to grow in Him, and may choose to yield. Either way, He will guide my every step - willingly or not - and prove Himself faithful in every need and trial. This tough, yet manageable road, has some rough hazards, but He leads me reasonably toward The Halfway House. This House is located on His Mountain and seems to be where most of the saved-in-Christ arrive. His accommodations meet every need. No trial is beyond bearing. The path is well-worn and many have trod this way, in His care, so there is much support along the way from those who have gone before.

And yet: a small, almost unnoticeable door leads to a very narrow path up the mountain further. It appears treacherous and almost invisible - yet JESUS is standing at the threshold calling to me: "Rise up, My Love, My fair one and come away." Song of Solomon 2:10. Very few follow Him through this doorway. Those of the innumerable multitude are highly engaged in discussions, activities, and events - all with the intent to please JESUS with what they do. Yet so few see His calling, His wooing, His heart's desire for us to continue His way. He continues His urging until I go towards Him. He covers me with His protection, His armor against the elements to come: Ephesians 6:14 My loins are girt about with His Truth; I am covered by His breastplate of righteousness.

V.15. My feet are shod with His preparation in His gospel of peace;

V. 16 His shield of faith is before me to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;

V. 17: His helmet of Salvation is upon my head, and He gives me His Sword of the Spirit -- The Word of GOD;

V. 18: All the while He encourages me to pray always...for me and



all the saints.

Bearing His perfect coverings, we step out of The Halfway House together and are immediately barraged by a multitude of distractions, turbulent winds, slippery slopes, blinding storms, deadly cliffs, sleepless nights, battering cold, blazing heat, prayerfully crying unto JESUS desperate for help for me and others,! and, as we ascend toward His summit, the stifling lack of oxygen! "Oh My Beloved JESUS, I cannot take a step or breathe without You! I clutch Him, trying to understand why He would take me on this way; when all was seemingly so manageable below at The Halfway House. We are alone - yet together. Every time I look into His loving eyes, I see His desire is only for me to be with Him. What trials abound; yet as I keep my eyes fixed on Him, I see His perfect love for me, and His abounding grace for me that He could love me beyond so much more than I could ever imagine. I only want to be with my Beloved JESUS!

I know the tempests surround me, the beating storms prevail, and dear friends-in-Christ try to pull me back to the shelter and comfort of The Halfway House. But He leads me ever onward, upward toward His summit - still keeping our eyes locked on each other in the beauty of His love for me! I cannot desire anything but to continue by His side, in His embrace, leaning upon His breast for strength, and looking into His eyes to constantly know His perfect abundant love for me. And we continue onward, upward. At times I wonder what is the reward of reaching His summit, or the beauty we will behold - but it does not matter. I am with my Beloved JESUS, and all I desire is to be where He is - and He is my rest, so wherever He is taking me is perfect.

As we climb ever onward, upward, I try to take His steps which are secure and steady. He helps me continue. As He leans into the mountain, I lean. As He grips the mountain of trials, He holds me as I grip it too. Our pace is sure as I become more one with JESUS' movements. I am secure, though the way of every step has become ever more dangerous and obviously more solitude: just JESUS and me.

My heart beats feverishly as I clingingly hold Him - truly understanding that He is the One holding me!

After a time we reach His summit - my Beloved JESUS and me. I have left everything for His love just to be with Him,

my only desire: for I am My Beloved's, and His desire is toward me! JESUS introduces me to our ABBA-Daddy, Father GOD, as: His fair one, His dove, His Holy City, His BRIDE!  
Revelation 21:2,10, 11, 23; 3:7-13; 7:9-17: and Song of Solomon 7: 10, 8:5-7



### **Jesus Went To Calvary**

On the cross of Calvary  
Jesus bled and died for me  
Took my pain and misery  
Made me free bless God, made me freed.

All the burden He did bear  
None with Him the load could share  
Christ for me was crucified  
And in Him, I now abide.

Worthy is The Lamb once slain  
He washed away all guilt and stain.  
Home with Him we soon will be  
For Jesus went to Calvary.

Soon He'll say come unto Me.  
Grant it Jesus is my plea  
Ever walking close to thee  
Let it dear Lord let it be.

(Chorus)

Now I can closer walk with thee  
Grant it Jesus is my plea  
Daily walking close to thee  
Let it be dear Lord, let it be

Gene Hawkins

May be Sung to the tune: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

# PAUL'S GOSPEL

## IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Alice S. Mooneyhan

Ch. 7 Concl.

7:11. "Come, my Beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages." This verse introduces their honeymoon. In Matthew 13:38 we read that "the field is the world." The vineyards represent Israel. This woman manifests an interest in her husband's affairs immediately after the wedding. The time of Israel's restoration will be drawing near when Christ reveals Himself to the nation. As the overcomers will be associated with Christ in judging the world, so they will also be associated with Him in restoring all things unto God. This will begin with the fulfillment of the promises of God to the nation of Israel. "And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you; whom the Heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" - Acts 3:20-21. 32

7:12. "Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give Thee my loves." This verse indicates the deep interest this woman will have in the welfare of Israel, which is symbolized by the vineyard and the vine. The pomegranates speak of Israel as a new creation.

7:13. "The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for Thee, O my Beloved." Mandrakes remind us of the story in Genesis concerning Rachel who was barren. It seems to have been a superstition that mandrakes would produce fertility. Leah's son found some mandrakes which Rachel obtained by bargaining with Leah. In this verse, it hints of fruitfulness also, for the nations will hear the Gospel in the Kingdom Age and shall be saved. Israel will be the firstborn among the nations.

This Bride, as the custom is, has been canning fruit in view of her coming marriage. She preserves the Word of God in her heart, and it becomes precious fruit for her Bridegroom. She is like the scribe in Matthew 13:52, "which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."



*Chapter 8*  
*THE SECOND RANK IN THE CHURCH*  
*8:1-7*

This portion of Chapter eight corresponds with II Thessalonians, in the fact that it concerns those who will be translated after the Bride is gone, and others who will remain until the revelation of Christ. This portion is typical prophecy which will be fulfilled after the Bride company has been translated to Glory.

The woman here represents the Sardis Church, while the Shulamite represents the Philadelphia Church. Let us read the Scripture concerning the Sardis church.: "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write: these things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch I will  
33 come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white; for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" - Revelation 3:1-6.

Most of the Christian people today believe that the whole Church will be the Bride of Christ. The first part of this chapter shows definitely that some will be disappointed. Those who have not really and truly walked in the light of this Bridal truth, will not be found in this select company.

8:1. "O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! When I should find thee without, I would kill thee; yea, I should not be despised." In these few verses concerning this group, there are about eight expressions of disappointment -- things that should have been, according to her expectation, but are not. The first one is, "O that thou wert as my brother." Actually, Christ is the Brother of every believer, but this woman did not enter into the closest relationship with

Christ. In 1:6 the Shulamite spoke of another group which she calls, "My mother's children." That group seems identical with this woman of chapter eight. They were like Martha who was not only happy to serve the Lord, but also wanted Mary to get busy instead of sitting at Jesus' feet. There is a closer fellowship with the Lord than by serving, which is a good work, but it is secondary to companionship, communion, and worship.

8:2. "I would lead Thee, and bring Thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me; I would cause Thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate," Chapter 3:4 is a contrast with this verse: "I held Him, and would not let Him go, until I had brought Him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me." The Bride company actually did bring Him into her mother's house, into the house of Mother Grace. There is where she learned these precious truths of communion and worship, and that is where the engagement was announced.

But this woman expresses her wish to find Him, that she might bring Him into her mother's house. Every verse shows longing, but disappointment. She did not enter into the place that the Bride company did. The reason is evident. She did not have the longing for Him that the Bride company had as expressed in the second verse of this chapter: "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth." Every verse indicates an awareness of her failure to attain to the highest place. 34

8:3. "His left hand *should* be under my head, and His right hand *should* embrace me." This verse is positive proof that the group of saints which is represented by this woman will not win Christ as Bridegroom. Contrast the assurance expressed in Chapter 2:6 by the Bride company: "*His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.*" This expresses the assurance which comes through complete yielding to the will of the Lord and the faith to appropriate His promises. After Paul announced that he had espoused the Church to one Husband that he might present a chaste virgin to Christ, he said, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" - II Corinthians 11:3. There was, even in Paul's time, a group of saints who were not entering into all the Truth. He feared that they would miss this wonderful Bridal call.

of the same practice today when they choose to indentify themselves as being a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Mormon, Catholic, etc. Paul declared that he lived his own life "...by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20 He further announced to the Corinthians: "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;" (1Cor. 1:23) "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Cor. 2:1-5 "Ye should have listened unto me," cried Paul, meaning that The Church should have hearkened unto his message declaring the depths of Christ and His message of grace for this age. The gross failure of those shipmasters resulted in severe destruction, and the same analogy can be applied to the Church as a whole.

This ship was broken into two parts in v. 41 and history plainly shows that The Church was divided into two major parts when Protestantism emerged from Catholicism as Martin Luther received the glorious revelation of justification by faith alone. Since that time Protestantism has been broken and splintered by sects and divisions just as the hinder part of Paul's ship was broken by the waves of that violent sea. 4

"Ye should have listened to me," bespeaks the fact that Paul's message has warned us of the very conditions that prevail in our world today. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" I Tim. 4:1 Paul warns not against having no faith, but departing from "the faith." There is only one, and it comes from God's Word. **The** faith means simply the truth of God's Word and the principles of righteousness set forth therein. He spoke to the Thessalonians of this same truth, time, and atmosphere. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" II Thess. 2:3 We have used this verse repeatedly to show that there will be no world-wide revival before Jesus comes, as so much of the Church teaches. The Greek word "apostasia," here



translated “falling away” means “defection from truth.” It carries the same message as departing from **the faith**, and is evidenced in multiple areas regarding the Church. Gay rights issues have been front and center in this country and around the world for some time now. There has been total disregard for God’s Word among lawmakers on this abominable practice, and New York is the latest and largest state to pass legislation to legalize gay marriage. The associated press reported “Hundreds of gay couples dressed in formal suits and striped trousers, gowns and T-shirts, recited vows and triumphantly hoisted their marriage certificates Sunday as New York became the sixth and largest state to recognize same-sex weddings.” Though there were some protesting these actions, holding forth the Bible as their authority, one couple “made it official” with a marriage license, having been married by a Unitarian minister 7 years prior even though they would not be recognized by the state – until now. This is just one example of how men have completely ignored the tenets of “the faith” choosing instead to believe that if enough people say it is right, then that makes it right.

5

The ways of dealing with the gay issue are legion. Headlines on the internet scream “Is it hard to be gay and Catholic?” The A.P. also reports that “The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a theologically conservative denomination, said that direct work with its larger and more liberal counterpart, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has become “difficult if not impossible,” because of doctrinal conflicts, including the 2009 decision by liberal Lutherans to lift barriers for ordaining gays and lesbians.”

A long on-line search is not necessary to determine that many “Church going” people simply twist the scripture to justify their approval of this ungodly lifestyle, and some of the explanations would be laughable if they were not so tragic. We have also been disappointed to hear other Christians declare that “a person’s sexual preference makes no difference to me,” when even Lot, as carnal as he was, is declared to be “vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:” that is, this same ungodly conduct in Sodom. II Pet. 2:7-8

Coming judgments will prove the fallacy of justifying such a lifestyle and wresting the scripture trying to prove that God has ordained it. We have heard various reports of men assuming that

the violent earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, floods, droughts, and a host of other “acts of God” are His judgment for the ungodliness going on in this world. Scripture teaches that such judgment is coming but, as some would say, “this world ain’t seen nothin’ yet,” for the judgment of the great tribulation will be so severe that Jesus said “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:....” Matt. 24:22 There are those, such as The Reverend Fred Phelps (pastor of Westboro Baptist Church based in Topeka, Kansas, with whom we can in no wise, identify, sympathize, or approve) who hold protests at funerals supposedly calling for God’s judgment against many of the ungodly practices in this country. Jesus’ words in John 8 would surely apply here as He denounced the self righteous Pharisees who openly condemned the woman taken in adultery, with these scathing words: “He that is **without sin** among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” V. 8 I am sure many would love to cast these words in the face of Fred Phelps, and some seem to think they can excuse their own actions because of the judgmental attitudes of others, but Jesus did not do that. His glorious words of grace, “neither do I condemn thee,” gave her life instead of death, but some seem to forget that He said further, “go, and sin no more.” Translation: 6 “Lady these claims against you are true, so stop it!”

Simply stated, the Church, as a whole, has failed miserably because she has departed from the faith or truth of God’s Word. Paul admonished the Church at Ephesus that “... all things that are reprov’d are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” Eph. 5:13,14 The light is missing and darkness has ensued because men have not proclaimed the Light of God’s Word. The Church has instead adopted the ways and marketing techniques of the world. She found out very quickly that young people, especially, are attracted to the hypnotic, repetitious, beat and lyrics of rock music and planned her tactics accordingly. She assumed the world’s mantra of “give them what they want,” and she did it all at the expense of Truth, for “contemporary music” has primarily replaced The Word of God in the meeting house.

We have reported previously that prominent Mega Church Pastors like Joel Osteen and Rick Warren absolutely refused to proclaim on national television that Jesus is “the way the truth and

the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me,” (John 14:6) and “...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 Pastor Osteen was asked the specific question, “What if you’re Jewish or Muslim, you don’t accept Christ at all?” He was also asked other questions along the same line and his repeated answer was “I don’t know.” Such evasive answers can in no wise dispel darkness, and with all this departure from the faith, it is no wonder that the darkness of Islam and countless other evil religions, so contradictory to the truth and Light of Jesus Christ, prevail in this country and around the world.

7 Such practices also go beyond the truth of fundamental salvation. Many Churches across the land actually boast that “we do not teach doctrine,” the reason being that we do not want to create controversy. The truth of the matter is that they want to build their numbers, which cannot be done if people are offended. Paul never used the gospel as a hammer of judgment, but he most certainly did tell us that “...the word of God is quick, and powerful, and **sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12 Such statements mean that there must of necessity be intense pain in our lives at times, as God changes us into the very image of Christ, but that change will never happen apart from God’s Word. Thus, because some would avoid controversy at all costs, we have Mega Churches that often stand for nothing. Some have become simply “feel good about yourself social clubs,” many of them designed to attract lonely “singles” looking for a mate, or trying to fill some other void in their lives. The tragedy, in all these examples of departing from the faith, is that men cannot possibly grow up into Christ in all things, for only “speaking the truth in love” can do that. Eph. 4:15

Paul’s pattern is found in Acts 20:20, in his farewell address to the Ephesian elders, as he gave his own testimony of “...how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house...” Paul’s primary purpose in ministry was to constantly declare God’s Word, even in very small forums “from house to house.” It is surely far different from the atmosphere of today where Churches are often evaluated by the “bigger is



better” standard. Every true and dedicated minister of the gospel should be comforted with Paul’s words in I Cor. 3:6. “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” Our only responsibility is to plant the seed. The results belong to God, and whether that increase is in numbers or just spiritual fruit produced in individual Christians, it is still His burden of responsibility.

The whole of Paul’s ship never reached land in one piece and neither will the Church. Many have decried the teaching of a “split rapture” over the years, but scripture plainly teaches that all Christians will not arrive in heaven at the same time. Our text here in Acts reveals “...the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; (killing the prisoners V. 42) and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land. V. 43,44 They all escaped to land but the “swimmers” undoubtedly reached it first. They represent those who step out by faith, even today, and just believe God, apart from any connection to “The Church” except absolute trust in the promises of His Word. These are those of the Church at Philadelphia who will arrive first in heaven claiming the promise: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10 This verse means that these will arrive in glory **before** the tribulation even begins.

“The rest” who came “on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship” represent those who did claim at least parts of God’s Word that were taught in various Churches, and thus have reaped the benefit of it. These become part of “...a great multitude, which no man could number,” (V.9) and they do not stand before the throne until well after the first group, for “These are they which came **out of** great tribulation,...” V. 14

The shipwreck of both the world and the Church is inevitable. We can do nothing to save either of them as a whole, but Jude, like Paul, gives much instruction for these last days concerning “the faith.” He closes his epistle with these glorious admonitions as to how we must conduct our own lives and minister to those around us. Note the order here. We must take heed to ourselves first, and then we will be able to build up those

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

### **‘The Bride Hath Made Herself Ready’**

The Bride is standing all glistening bright  
In her wedding `garments so pure and white;  
Her hands have sewed the needlework fine;  
The gold was brought by her life divine.

9 It has not been easy, this garment to make,  
But all that `she did was for Jesus’ sake.  
There were trials and pains and heartaches sore;  
Many were the needle pricks and cuts she bore.

There were times when dark doubts would flood her  
soul;

Yet His divine Word again made her whole.  
Disappointments came and trials to test,  
But in this, she learned to trust Him best.

At last, her garment was ready to wear  
Though many dire hardships, she oft did bear.  
Then came her Bridegroom to call her away,  
And gone was the night, behold now the day!

Her life of toils are remembered no more,  
As she and Christ enters the Open Door;  
Glory and Light fills her once-burdened heart,  
For now she’s in heaven, ne’er to depart!

## Christ As Lord

**“THEREFORE, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”** -Acts 2 :36. This verse holds the key to the new spiritual house that began to be built at Pentecost. Jesus Christ is Lord and The Anointed One of the new regime. Around this pivotal point--the Lordship, or Headship of Jesus Christ--all the events of this Church Age revolve. God put the soldiers of the Cross in battle array under the direct Generalship of His Son, who had purchased His right to Lordship by His heroic, substitutionary death on Calvary a few days before. His resurrection from among the dead proved His Holy Sonship -- Rom. 1:4. "It was not possible that He should be holden of death" -V. 24. Peter explains the cause of the strange phenomena. He says of Jesus, "**Being by the right hand of God exalted** (to the highest place --Eph. 1:21), and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, **He hath shed forth** (or poured out) **THIS which ye now see and hear**"-V. 33. 10

Jesus had prayed that the Father would send another Comforter (John 14:16), but Peter here declares that Jesus Himself sent Him. Comp. John 15:26. This precludes the utter possibility of anyone else claiming the Lordship. Even the Holy Spirit cannot be Lord. At the beginning of Jesus' career, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted, or tested by the devil -- Luke 4:1. Mark 1:12 says, "He driveth Him." As the Man, Jesus was "led." As the Servant, He was "driven," or "sent" --Mk. 1:43. His victory over Satan proved His holiness and His preparedness and ability, thru the power of the Spirit, to enter upon His life work. But now being exalted to Headship, He is no longer led, or sent by the Spirit. Instead, He sent the Spirit, who executes the will of the Father and of the Son on earth.

The eighth chapter of Romans records an epitome of the full ministration of the Holy Spirit in a Christian



life. Twelve telling facts are named. First, He witnesses with our spirit at conversion, "**that we are the children of God**" - V. 16. Then "as many as are led by the Spirit of God (implying that some are not), **they are the sons** (grown-up children) **of God**" V. 14. In experience these two verses of course are interchanged. Thus by the safe leadership of the Holy Spirit, we are made to "**walk after the Spirit**" instead of the flesh. Finally our most necessary service is inspired by the Spirit. He "**helps our infirmities.**" He teaches us what to pray for -- yea more, "**the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**" How remarkable that our service -- preaching, teaching and witnessing -- are not even intimated in this chapter. Praying is the only activity named. It is therefore the most important. Profitable preaching and sound teaching develop from a life of prayer indited by the Spirit, because it is according to the will of God as revealed in the Word. The Spirit and the Word always agree. The Spirit operates

11 by means of the Scriptures.

### **Operations of the Spirit**

All the ministrations of the Holy Spirit are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. "To us there **is one God the Father**, of whom are all things and we in Him; **and one Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom are all things and we by Him"-1 Cor. 8:6. When God exalted His Son to heaven, He "**put all things under His feet** and gave Him to be **the Head** over all things to the Church, which is His body" -- Eph. 1:21-23. Observe the sublime things said about Jesus Christ in Colossians 1. Note especially verse 18. "**And He is the Head of the body, the Church;** who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, **that in all things** He might have the preeminence," or chief place. The Apostle brings complaint against the vain philosophers for "**not holding The Head**"-Col. 2:19. And who could be The Head but Christ? All the activities of the apostles, being filled with the Spirit, were "**in the name of Jesus.**" See the first chapters of the Acts and Col. 3:7.

The departure from this fundamental doctrine and practice of holding Jesus Christ as the head, or Lord of His people is the root of the gigantic tree of religious confusion, contention and disruption. Men began to meet together and form codes or beliefs, or doctrines. Brainy men wrote books on theology. They organized and put certain strong-willed fellows at the head, giving them various titles, as bishops, viceroys, cardinals, presidents, superintendents, presiding elders, etc., etc. Men coveted places of power. They sought to be rulers in the Church. Certain sites became "head-quarters," as they were called. The human head had to have a "quarter" from which to exercise dominion. *How* expressive that is of division, The true Head, the one only scriptural Head, Christ Jesus, does not occupy a "quarter," nor a half, but He fills the whole Church, which is "one body, with His very life. He governs by love, reigning within the heart. Here consider the simplicity of the Church in the beginning.

Every message of Peter in the Acts exalted Jesus Christ. The ministry of Peter and John put Christ to the front. Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans and to the Ethiopian Eunuch. Stephen magnified the Christ and was faithful unto death. Immediately after his conversion, Saul proclaimed that Christ is the Son of God. All their activities were in the Name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Every baptism in water recorded in the Acts was in the Name of Jesus, or the Lord Jesus, thus acknowledging His Lordship over believers in the new age. **A very important fact -- All the apostles received the Gift of the Holy Spirit after they had received Christ** as Messiah and Savior. This is no small item. Even Saul of Tarsus was filled with the Spirit three days after he surrendered and believed on Jesus. And when people were filled with the Holy Ghost under their several ministries, invariably they magnified God in other tongues. Supernatural phenomena was never wanting among them. How is it today and why?

### **Our Supply House**

In due time, the four Gospel records of Christ were

written. Also, the Acts of the Apostles by Luke. Then, the Epistles. The later Christians, the apostolic fathers, were fully persuaded that those writings were inspired. They were called "The New Testament," because they set forth the teachings and practice of Jesus Christ and His immediate successors. Therefore ministers and assemblies during the following centuries have been without excuse. We are without excuse today. If we observe and adopt the simplicity of the apostles and their teachings, we will first of all, "tarry until we are **endued with power from on high.**" If we do not travel with them of course we will be derailed. Back to the Bible for truth and divine guidance, means forward to victory and progress by the life, liberty, love, wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. It means to recognize Jesus Christ as the one only Head and Lord in this age, and only "one body, the church," against which the gates of hell shall not prevail.

13 A small remnant of believers are endeavoring to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and his associates. They represent the true church, though they do not constitute the entire body. Many members of Christ's mystical body, the Church; are caged in the sects, or denominations. The condition in Christendom is deplorable. Jesus prayed for His own that they might all be one in order that the world might believe and know that He is indeed the Son of God -- John 17:20-23. Probably 95% of the Christians ignore that prayer. They bite and devour one another. Some of the sects claim that their group is The Church. Hence they have no fellowship with the other sects. Some assemblies do not have fellowship with other assemblies of their own group. Some denominations are merging with others, but it is an empty form. What a pitiful state. The mustard tree parable (Matt. 13:31, 32) pictures Christendom as it is. The parable of the leaven indicates the cause. The "three measures of meal," the doctrine of the Trinity, have been leavened with evil doctrine and practice. It started by substituting human heads for the one supreme Head, Christ. Men, unwilling to be led by the Holy Spirit, itch to be leaders. Self seeks to have dominion,



and Satan dupes ignorant folk to follow. And what have we?  
"Envy, strife and division."

Let us come closer home. Doubtless the Lord's last words to all of us are the seven letters to the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3. The Head of the Church addresses Himself to "**the angel,**" the pastor of each assembly. He holds him responsible for permitting error to creep in. He speaks to the assembly thru its leader. Every shepherd is amenable to Jesus Christ. So also is every congregation. No pastor, or congregation is held responsible for the teaching and conduct of other assemblies. No group of pastors has any scriptural right to meet and try to discipline another pastor. The Apostle Paul, together with the assembly in Corinth, disfellowshipped a fornicator. -- 1 Cor. 5. That was local discipline. No other congregation had any say in the matter. Do you read of another case of discipline? Paul instructed his associates to "rebuke, reprove, exhort," but "**with all longsuffering and doctrine.**"

If we insist on discipline, let us beware lest it be exercised first on us. Fornication and adultery are not the only sins in the catalogue. How about "covetousness, which is idolatry?" How about "railing" against a brother, or sister? Paul classes it with fornication and drunkenness. Among the 19 "**works of the flesh**" (Gal.5:19-21) are found "hatred, variance (contention), emulations, (jealousy) strife, envyings," etc. "The fruit of the Spirit" is the only offset for them. Love in action is the remedy for failures among us. When a brother was brought on the carpet for correction, and the examiners were fussing about him, a five-year old urchin stepped into the ring and shouted, "**Let brotherly love continue.**" The battle ceased and the accused was set free. If he was guilty, they forgave him.

The words "Grace and Glory" should not be considered the name of another organization, or movement. They are the title of the magazine we publish in Kansas City. We believe that the Lord has led us to send forth literature, **not to develop** a movement, **but to feed** the flock of Christ

as far as possible wherever they are found. If assemblies have sprung up as a result of our writings, God has done it. In all our activities, we insist on exalting Christ as Head and Lord of the Church throughout the world. Every believer on Jesus Christ is our brother, or sister, no matter what label may be on his bottle, or what unkind names he may tack on us. We are for peace; but when we speak, or seek fellowship, they are for war sometimes. Psa. 120 :7. Let us all remember 1 Cor. 13. "Love suffereth long and is kind. Love envieth not. Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Love never faileth,"

(Ed. Note: this is a reprint of an article from July 1941. There is no author ascribed to it, but with the reference to Grace and Glory literature, along with the truth of it, it is undoubtedly the handiwork of Bro. Copley.)

15

### **Christ Is Coming**

Maranatha! Maranatha!

Hear the blessed Advent chimes.  
Peace and joy and comfort bringing  
To the earth and to all climes.  
Let the bells ring out the story-  
Christ, the Jew, brings Jewish times.

Maranatha! Christ is coming!  
Eve in Eden heard the sound,  
Pealing forth redemption's glory--,  
Pardon, hope and blessing found.  
Maranatha! Maranatha!  
Let the glorious news abound.

Maranatha! Maranatha!  
Christ is coming back again.  
Advent bells repeat the story.  
Tell it out in sweet refrain,  
Everywhere to world in sorrow  
Christ will bring surcease from pain.

Anon



## "Identifying With Christ"

"And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Matthew 8:20

A tornado took most of my house, causing the need to be rebuilt, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Sedalia, Mo. This verse kept coming to my mind right after, along with Philippians 3:7 and 8. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ, Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ"

I have testified that the Lord was starting this work in me, and I wanted to love Jesus more than ANYTHING; (and I still do). Even at the time, I started to "get a hold" on this verse, I didn't have as clear of a picture of what this means, in a practical way, as I do now. I also know the Lord HEARS us! He knows our hearts' desires, and He is faithful to complete the work started in us, even if it means we will suffer things in our flesh for our eternal gain! And we have no idea what that work might put us through. But He is faithful!

16

I found out it is really hard to not have a natural home, all food and natural comforts gone, and be completely dependent on the Lord for all things. But He supplies every need!! What a wonderful way to learn more about Jesus, who depended on His Father for ALL things! I know, that I know Jesus better than before; I know now, what it means to have to continually renew my mind with the washing of the water of the word, to have little strength, to cry out to Jesus that I thought I knew Him, but now I see Him better; because I have no confidence in my flesh. This is a painful place as far as the flesh is concerned; what a glorious place to be so close to my precious Lord!

The thought came to me, that, Jesus had a natural home, as a child, growing up with Mary and Joseph, and his natural siblings, but when he started his priestly ministry, he completely depended on the Father. His Father brought circumstances, people, places, and things to him as he needed them. We are the sons of God, when we are born again, as Christ is, and He does the same for us. It's truly amazing when God takes control, and works His wonders in our lives, in ways that are so beyond what we could ever have thought or imagined!

I wouldn't trade anything for having been in that tornado, not that it has been pleasant, or easy, on the contrary, it has been the hardest thing I have ever been through; but I can say, "When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in



glory" Colossians 3:4. This is my hope, and through this hope I am being made pure, because He is working an eternal work in me, AMEN!

Joy Sparks



### **The Lord Is With Thee**

*Mrs. A. E. (Beulah) Clark*

“When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them; for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee out of Egypt.” Deut. 20:1 In these words which God spoke to Israel, we may find spiritual truths to comfort and strengthen us in our Christian walk. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places; or against the powers of Satan who is waging continual warfare against God’s children. The horses and chariots and people speak to us of any weapon which Satan may use to hinder or discourage us. Truly his weapons are many and sometimes they seem to almost engulf us.

17

But God speaks to us, “Be not afraid of them; for the Lord thy God is with thee.” Even as He walked with the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, He is not watching from afar, but ever present with them in the midst of trials and testings.

God continues that the priest shall speak to the people and say unto them, “Ye approach this day into battle against your enemies, let not your hearts faint, fear not and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them, for the Lord your God is He that goeth with you to fight for you against your enemies to save you.” So Christ our High Priest speaks to us through His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit to fear not, for it is He that will fight for us. In another place He says, “The battle is not yours but God’s.” We are so prone to struggle and try to remove the trial, but we need to cease struggling and rest in The Lord. “Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you.” I Pet. 5:7 “And ye know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28 Our battle is usually in bringing our flesh into subjection to the Lord, being willing to “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.”

“And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.”  
Num 14:40

This “mountain top” experience took place following Israel’s uniform decision **not** to go into Canaan even after the spies had returned with a glowing report of a land filled with milk and honey. Joshua and Caleb, the only two who insisted “If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land,” were almost stoned for their faithful stand. God then appeared informing them that they would wander in the wilderness for forty years, and those that had been numbered, 20 years old and upward, would perish there. It seems that they had tried to “correct” their mistake and have appeared “repentant and ready,” but Moses declared that if you pursue this venture then “...ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.” V. 43

18

Scripture plainly declares “..behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” II Cor. 6:2 The day of salvation is not just a reference to deliverance from hell alone, but testifies of any salvation we may require. It loudly proclaims that now, this present instant in our lives, is the time to believe God. We must understand, as Israel learned so painfully here, that God has His Will, and He also has a definite time to fulfill it. He had asked earlier in the chapter “...how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?” V. 11 God also has proven himself, over and over to us, and any crisis time of today, is not the time to panic and try to choose another “captain” to lead us back to Egypt, or the ways of the world, as Israel was wont to do in V. 4. It is rather the time to believe God for His purposes and plans for us. He intended for this chosen people to claim their promised inheritance, and we too have the glorious hope of being set free from this world before the throes of the great tribulation are come upon it. Jesus published exactly



this same message in Matt. 24:44 “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” The exact context of these words reveal that the time of which Jesus speaks is very near the end of the tribulation period when men are taken away **in judgment**, even as those taken away in Noah’s day. V. 39 There is absolutely no mention of being taken away to heaven, as many suppose. The principle of “readiness,” however, is exactly the same for there will be no reprieve here any more than there was for Israel in Num. 14.

The parable of the ten virgins in Matt. 25 tells exactly the same story. The timing of this parable is “midnight” the middle of the tribulation period, and tells us that it does not, as many believe, testify of the “rapture” of the Church. By this time, the Philadelphia overcomers, the first rank of the Church, are already in heaven along with the innumerable company, the second rank of the Church. The five wise virgins, who were ready, went into the marriage and correspond with the 144,000 who will be taken to heaven around the middle of the week. (midnight) Rev. 12:5 The remaining five who were not ready, were left on the earth and become the nucleus of God’s Kingdom on earth. They are the woman protected in the wilderness for the remainder of the tribulation period. Rev. 12:6

Regardless of the time in which Jesus will appear, the same principle and cry remains. BE YE READY: FOR IN SUCH AN HOUR AS YE THINK NOT THE SON OF MAN COMETH!!!!  
Matt. 24:44

GH

### **Announcement:**

The fall session of the Bible School begins on September 19, 2011. It is not too early to make your plans now. For more information you may contact us at P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64020 or by e-mail: [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com) You may also call us at 816-618-3306. We are looking forward to another glorious year of sitting at the feet of Jesus learning of Him.



## *Christian Loyalty*

### *WHAT IS IT?*

Albert Harding

It is noticeable that Jesus, when fulfilling His God-ordained office of prophet or teacher, often made use of natural, earthly things and events to illustrate spiritual, heavenly truth. So also did other prophets, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let us first consider loyalty as it is known in the natural realm; for therein we find a type and picture of the loyalty all Christians should have as citizens of heaven and obedient servants of their Lord and King. Moreover, if we do not understand earthly things, how shall we understand heavenly things?

Loyalty is the state or quality of being devoted to duty, constancy, unchangeableness, firmness, faithfulness to a friend, lover, wife, husband, king, prince, or other sovereign. It especially means faithfulness and allegiance to an established government. It is not treacherous, or untrustworthy; it does not seek to overthrow or undermine; neither does it cause, gender, stir up, or foster strife, sedition, or discontent; but it is true in every sense of the word, to a confidence, trust, friend, king, government and so forth.

20

It is plain therefore that loyalty is a quality of immense and inestimable value and one that every person should possess. For a friend, lover, wife, or husband who cannot be trusted is as bad as a loathsome disease; and a citizen who is not loyal to his country is not worthy of the name and does not deserve the privileges and rights of citizenship, nor the protection the government of his country affords. One who is not loyal is no doubt selfish and is liable to prove a slacker, if not a traitor, in the crises his country has to face.

If, then, facts are true regarding loyalty in the natural realm, and no honest person will deny that they are, how **much more** are they true of the spiritual realm. In other words, it cannot be denied that true "CHRISTIAN LOYALTY" is a quality that every Christian should possess; and if he does not possess it, he should seek with all his heart to obtain it as quickly as possible. Disloyalty, or



**not to be loyal**, to God the Father and His beloved Son, after they have proven their great love for us by making so great a sacrifice, having shown us so much mercy and grace, is **MUCH MORE SERIOUS** and **FAR WORSE**, than unfaithfulness and lack of allegiance to earthly rulers and governments. Indeed, every Christian should be so devoted to his Lord and Saviour, and should have such constant, firm and unchangeable fidelity towards Him, that he can say from the bottom of his loyal heart, "If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed," and when he hears someone else say it, he should be able to respond with a fervent "AMEN!"

21 Jesus is our friend, the **BEST** one we have ever had, or **CAN** have. He proved it by laying down His life for us, that we might be redeemed. It is to Him, that all Christians are espoused to become His bride. He is our God-ordained Lord and He is our King; hence we are His subjects. So then, is it not evident that devotion, loyalty, faithfulness and allegiance to Him are demanded of us? If our hearts are established with **GRACE** we shall not hesitate to answer "Yes!" for grace teaches us to deny ungodliness, and it cannot be gainsaid that unfaithfulness and lack of loyalty to our Lord and Saviour is as ungodly as murder and adultery. Also, Christians have no continuing city in this world; but if they are walking uprightly before God, they are walking as pilgrims and strangers on earth because, like their Lord and King, they are not of the world. They are rather looking for a city which has foundations, eternal in the heavens, whose Maker and Builder is God. They belong to Jerusalem which is above, and their names are written in heaven; hence their citizenship is in heaven also.

Therefore, like citizens of earthly countries, they should be devoted to the duties of their citizenship; they should be constant and firm in unchangeable faithfulness to their Sovereign Lord; and they should prove their loyalty and allegiance by being subject to the established government of their heavenly country; otherwise they will forfeit their rights and privileges of citizenship.

"But!" someone says, "that sounds like law; and we are not under law but under grace!" What then? Shall we neglect



the duties of our heavenly citizenship? Shall our loyalty be wavering, irresolute and changeable? Shall we be lawless, loose and lascivious, fulfilling the desires of the flesh because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid. If we are truly **under** grace, we are **controlled**, by grace and are not without law, but in absolute subjection to Christ: hence if grace is truly working in us, Christian loyalty will be in evidence. But if it is not, it is proof that grace is not working in us and that it is not known **in truth**.

Observe however that Christian loyalty can only be produced BY Christ; hence it is none but people who have Christ abiding within them who can be loyal to Him, for "if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His." Rom. 8 :9 And even then they can only be loyal THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS; for no flesh shall boast in God's presence, but he that boasts, let him boast IN THE LORD. Amen ! But we must also realize that faith without works is dead; hence if we say we have faith in Christ and there is no evidence of loyalty to Him, it proves that the faith we have is lifeless and powerless, because LIVING faith produces divine results.

22

### **WHEN IS LOYALTY MANIFESTED? OR, WHEN IS IT PROVEN?**

Like all other qualities that are of any value, loyalty is really proven, only when tested, for it is more or less easy to be loyal when there is no strain on it. This is illustrated by the fact that, when it was evident that God was with Jesus, the multitudes followed Him, but when it seemed that God was against Him and He was being condemned as a criminal, His **closest** disciples forsook Him and fled. Therefore, whether one's loyalty is true or not, or whether it lacks stamina, backbone or power of endurance, is truly manifested only in times of crises, or danger. For instance, a citizen's loyalty to his country can only be proven, or manifested in times of national crisis.

The crises earthly countries face, are only intermittent; for the nations are not ALWAYS faced with conditions, whether arising from without or within its borders, that are of so serious-and critical a nature as to be accompanied with extreme danger and doubt. Such critical stages in a nation's



experience occur only at intervals, with alternate periods of comparative peace and safety. But the kingdom of heaven is **always** and **constantly**, faced with a crisis, because Satan (the avowed enemy of Jesus Christ and therefore of all who put their trust in Him, or call upon His name) is constantly seeking to overthrow or nullify the work of the Son of God.

23 Therefore, CHRISTIAN loyalty must be far more constant and contain far more stamina, having far greater power of endurance in it than can possibly be found in NATURAL loyalty. This is because it is subjected to greater and more severe testings and trials, which are more incessant and constant, than are ever experienced in the natural realm. Consequently, it is evident that CHRISTIAN loyalty is of far greater and much more inestimable value than Natural loyalty and is therefore much more to be desired. Furthermore it is also a much greater privilege to be loyal to Jesus Christ, the holy Son of God and Saviour of the world, than to be loyal to the wisest and best earthly ruler and the most wonderful earthly country. That would be true even though no reward was attached to it, for just the privilege of being loyal to Jesus is honor in itself. Why, even to be counted worthy to SUFFER for His name is an honor of the HIGHEST DEGREE; and only those whom GOD counts worthy have that blessed privilege.

But the rewards that are obtainable for being loyal to the King of kings and Lord of lords are also far superior to those that which earthly rulers have to offer and are much more excellent; for earthly rewards are corruptible and destructible, whereas heavenly rewards are everlasting. Hence earthly rewards can only be enjoyed (if they are enjoyed at all) during a person's earthly existence; they CANNOT be enjoyed when this life is ended. But heavenly rewards will be enjoyed for all eternity. Moreover, many earthly rewards are won by the sacrifice of one's life; hence, the winner (who is after all a loser) knows nothing about it and certainly can never enjoy it. That is especially true in many instances of natural loyalty; but even though a Christian dies in winning a heavenly reward for being loyal to Jesus, he will still live to enjoy it forever and ever. Hallelujah!

Furthermore, the marvel of marvels is this. Although

we could never merit those wonderful and glorious rewards ourselves, yet if we truly set our hearts on winning them, God will reveal to us the truth that **IN THE WORTHINESS OF JESUS**, we may have them, for we are **COMPLETE** in Him; and although we could never win them by our own efforts, or good works, Jesus will also be the power by which we conquer, for we can **DO ALL THINGS** through Christ who is our strength.

#### Unsearchable Riches

O the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Wealth that can never be told;

Riches exhaustless of mercy and **GRACE**,

Precious, more precious than gold.

O the unsearchable riches of Christ!

**FREELY**, how **FREELY** they flow;

Making the souls of the loyal and true

Happy wherever they go.

O the unsearchable riches of Christ!

Who would not **GLADLY ENDURE**

Trials, afflictions and crosses of earth,

Riches like those to secure.

Ah yes, we have just cause to count them happy who endure for, Christ's sake, for our loving heavenly Father has set sufficient inducement before us to inspire us to be whole-heartedly faithful and loyal to Jesus, even unto death. And don't forget that the love which God manifests in setting those future rewards before us, is **IN ADDITION**, so to speak, or over and above, that marvelous and wondrous evidence of His great love which He commended towards us by sending His beloved Son to be the propitiation for our sins, and which Jesus also manifested by the sacrifice of Himself for our eternal redemption. Surely such wonderful love, which is so **FREELY** bestowed upon us (not because we are worthy in ourselves, for we are not, but on the **PERFECT MERIT OF JESUS CHRIST**), should stir us to the very depths. It should set every fiber of our being pulsating with fervent eagerness to sacrifice ourselves and all we have on the sacred altar of worship and service. O may God grant that it will be so, Amen.

Yes, may God produce within us that irresistible urge

by which we shall PROVE that we are truly loyal to our Lord and King. But there is only one power that will produce true loyalty, devotion and faithfulness in us, and GOD ALONE can give it to us; for that power is LOVE -- "Love" ; and it must be DIVINE love, not natural. Without it we cannot be truly loyal either to God, or to man; but if we do love the Lord, we shall obey Him, and we shall love others also. Therefore may God FILL US WITH HIMSELF. Amen!  
HOW SHALL WE PROVE THAT WE ARE LOYAL TO JESUS?

25 We have already noted, that it is in crises when loyalty, or faithfulness is proven, as to whether it is true or not. Hence, since The Kingdom of God's dear Son to which Christians belong (Col. 1:13), is ALWAYS faced with a crisis, due to principalities and powers in the heavens being arrayed against it (Eph, 6 :12), Christian loyalty will be tested CONSTANTLY, if we will to live godly in Christ Jesus. But now we are to see HOW, or in what way it may be manifested. Amen.

Of course, as with natural loyalty, Christian loyalty is tested and manifested in MANY ways, hence, we shall not be able to deal with them all at this time. We MUST, however, speak of one in particular, in connection with which, we note this prefatory remark: "It is a way in which EVERY Christian can and SHOULD be loyal to Jesus Christ; and we may safely say that if every Christian WERE, loyal to Jesus in the way of which we are going to speak, there would be FEWER DIVISIONS among them and maybe none at all. Therefore let us note it carefully." It is regarding loyalty as STEWARDS, or CUSTODIANS that we must speak. We all know, or SHOULD know; God requires that stewards be found loyal and true to their trust I Cor. 4:2 We also know that to be **un**-faithful stewards is disastrous indeed; for "confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble, is like a broken tooth and a foot out of joint." Please therefore observe, that into the custody of every Christian individually and all of them collectively, "AS ONE MAN," God has committed a most solemn obligation, to which He expects them to be true. And He offers them a just and sufficient reward if they will be faithful to it.



That obligation, which is also a most sacred, gracious and glorious privilege, is to proclaim and spread abroad the most wonderful and blessed message that man ever heard; namely, **“the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”** Rom. 1:16

That is a message which this poor, old, sadly-disillusioned, woebegone, war-torn, world sorely needs. In fact, that is the ONLY message which will truly and completely solve her many and diverse problems and relieve her numerous perplexities.

Moreover, seeing that wars, rumors of wars and many other signs plainly proclaim that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, it is also evident that the world is hastening speedily towards that terrible day when people will say **“...to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”** Rev. 6:16,17 Therefore, every Christian should realize the EXTREME URGENCY of proclaiming God's message ere the world is suddenly plunged into the great calamities and the more serious disillusionments of which God has so graciously and lovingly given clear and ample warning in His Word.

Furthermore, these same signs which prove that the day of the Lord is at hand, also prove that it is high time that every true, born-of-the-Spirit Christian be awakened to the gravity of his responsibility and the debt he owes, both to God and to man, ere the opportunity to discharge his solemn obligation is gone forever. Moreover, the greater part of the Gospel is purposed to BUILD UP Christians, so that they may obtain the inheritance which God has provided for them, and be prepared to inherit the throne of glory and be ready and waiting for Jesus to come and take them home. So Christians should be loyal to their brethren in Christ by daily exhorting each other according to the truth of the Gospel.

Therefore, instead of building up their own particular sect, or denomination, which will have no place in heaven anyway, and instead of defending the tenets and dogmas of their own faith, or Church, all Christians should be loyally standing fast

in the spirit and with one mind STRIVING TOGETHER for the faith of the gospel. Only those who do that will receive a reward for their labor. All others will suffer loss, unless they repent, because they have built corrupting material (wood, hay and stubble) into God's Temple; but they themselves will be saved, yet so as by fire.

Therefore, all Christians should be loyally obeying this commandment, "Above all things have fervent love among yourselves, for love covers the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As EVERY ONE has received the gift, minister the same one to another, as GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD." I Pet. 4:8-10 They should observe these exhortations also -- "THIS CHARGE I COMMIT UNTO THEE, SON TIMOTHY" and "O TIMOTHY, KEEP (guard, protect or defend) THAT WHICH IS COMMITTED TO THY TRUST." I Tim. 1:15 and 6:20 It is evident of course that since those two exhortations are written to Timothy, they are addressed primarily to God-ordained ministers of the Gospel. Nevertheless, since Christians are all members one of another, they are associated IN CHRIST, with one another in ALL THINGS, and so are joint sharers in all the responsibilities, privileges, reproaches, honors, sufferings and rewards of the Gospel.

Thus we see that all Christians are STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GREAT GRACE. O what a privilege! But who is the Gospel for? It is not for the Jews only, nor for white people only, nor for the British and Americans only; but it is for the Japanese, Chinese, Indians, Hindus, Italians, Russians, Germans, French and for EVERYBODY ELSE, no matter what their race, color, or creed may be. Amen. Yes, Jesus did not come to destroy men's lives, but to SAVE SINNERS. He says if His Kingdom was of this world, then His servants would fight. Hence it is not a Christians business to destroy people, but as good stewards of the manifold grace of God and as loyal subjects of the King of glory, to PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, AS THE ONE AND ONLY MEANS BY WHICH ANY ONE (YEA ALL) CAN BE SAVED FOR EVER. But it is liable to cost something to be LOYAL Christians in this day and

age. It may even cost our lives, but if we are not willing to lay down our lives for Jesus Christ's sake and the Gospel's, we are NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED HIS DISCIPLES.

There is a just and sufficient reward for CHRISTIAN LOYALTY, for Jesus will give us A CROWN OF LIFE if we are faithful unto death; and we know that to die is to be with the Lord. We also have the example of those who, in order to obtain a BETTER RESURRECTION, refused to accept deliverance. So likewise may we; and that means TO BECOME HIS BRIDE.

O what a reward! Who could want anything better? There is NO REWARD THAT IS MORE WONDERFUL! And has He not said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee?" Indeed He has. Therefore we may boldly say, "I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME." Psa. 118:6 AMEN AND AMEN!

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### *Atonement Is Made*

*A sinner I was by birth.  
My doom was deep in the earth.  
Jehovah was angry with me,  
And said, You must hang on the tree.*

*The justice of God enraged,  
Demanded that I be caged,  
Forever in darkness and gloom,  
In depths far beneath the cold tomb.*

*A messenger came my way,  
For I, unable to pay,  
Was longing for peace with my God  
And freedom from sin's galling rod.*

*Atonement he cried is made.  
Your debt has fully been paid.  
Jehovah is satisfied now,  
And justice in mercy doth bow.*

*To you. Oh, will you believe?  
And pardon and peace receive?  
No tomb and no gloom and no doom,  
But in heaven a glorious room.*

*I trusted and leaped for joy  
My neighbors I did annoy  
A Ransom I truly have found  
And surely for glory I'm bound*



## The Halfway House

D.E. Hill

The cross of JESUS Christ is my bridge to Salvation over the fixed gulf between eternity in Heaven with Christ, versus eternity in Hell without Christ. First I must accept His free gift of love and sacrifice for my sins and errors. Now that I have accepted JESUS, I may choose to stay at the base of His Mountain, but I can never re-cross that gulf or return to my former status because in Christ I am now a new creation. I am separated to Him forever! Yet others can also choose to take the cross JESUS offers for their Salvation too.

Now that I am on Christ's Mountain, I will be given opportunities to grow in Him, and may choose to yield. Either way, He will guide my every step - willingly or not - and prove Himself faithful in every need and trial. This tough, yet manageable road, has some rough hazards, but He leads me reasonably toward The Halfway House. This House is located on His Mountain and seems to be where most of the saved-in-Christ arrive. His accommodations meet every need. No trial is beyond bearing. The path is well-worn and many have trod this way, in His care, so there is much support along the way from those who have gone before.

And yet: a small, almost unnoticeable door leads to a very narrow path up the mountain further. It appears treacherous and almost invisible - yet JESUS is standing at the threshold calling to me: "Rise up, My Love, My fair one and come away." Song of Solomon 2:10. Very few follow Him through this doorway. Those of the innumerable multitude are highly engaged in discussions, activities, and events - all with the intent to please JESUS with what they do. Yet so few see His calling, His wooing, His heart's desire for us to continue His way. He continues His urging until I go towards Him. He covers me with His protection, His armor against the elements to come: Ephesians 6:14 My loins are girt about with His Truth; I am covered by His breastplate of righteousness.

V.15. My feet are shod with His preparation in His gospel of peace;

V. 16 His shield of faith is before me to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;

V. 17: His helmet of Salvation is upon my head, and He gives me His Sword of the Spirit -- The Word of GOD;

V. 18: All the while He encourages me to pray always...for me and

all the saints.

Bearing His perfect coverings, we step out of The Halfway House together and are immediately barraged by a multitude of distractions, turbulent winds, slippery slopes, blinding storms, deadly cliffs, sleepless nights, battering cold, blazing heat, prayerfully crying unto JESUS desperate for help for me and others,! and, as we ascend toward His summit, the stifling lack of oxygen! "Oh My Beloved JESUS, I cannot take a step or breathe without You! I clutch Him, trying to understand why He would take me on this way; when all was seemingly so manageable below at The Halfway House. We are alone - yet together. Every time I look into His loving eyes, I see His desire is only for me to be with Him. What trials abound; yet as I keep my eyes fixed on Him, I see His perfect love for me, and His abounding grace for me that He could love me beyond so much more than I could ever imagine. I only want to be with my Beloved JESUS!

I know the tempests surround me, the beating storms prevail, and dear friends-in-Christ try to pull me back to the shelter and comfort of The Halfway House. But He leads me ever onward, upward toward His summit - still keeping our eyes locked on each other in the beauty of His love for me! I cannot desire anything but to continue by His side, in His embrace, leaning upon His breast for strength, and looking into His eyes to constantly know His perfect abundant love for me. And we continue onward, upward. At times I wonder what is the reward of reaching His summit, or the beauty we will behold - but it does not matter. I am with my Beloved JESUS, and all I desire is to be where He is - and He is my rest, so wherever He is taking me is perfect.

As we climb ever onward, upward, I try to take His steps which are secure and steady. He helps me continue. As He leans into the mountain, I lean. As He grips the mountain of trials, He holds me as I grip it too. Our pace is sure as I become more one with JESUS' movements. I am secure, though the way of every step has become ever more dangerous and obviously more solitude: just JESUS and me.

My heart beats feverishly as I clingingly hold Him - truly understanding that He is the One holding me!

After a time we reach His summit - my Beloved JESUS and me. I have left everything for His love just to be with Him,

my only desire: for I am My Beloved's, and His desire is toward me! JESUS introduces me to our ABBA-Daddy, Father GOD, as: His fair one, His dove, His Holy City, His BRIDE!  
Revelation 21:2,10, 11, 23; 3:7-13; 7:9-17: and Song of Solomon 7: 10, 8:5-7



### **Jesus Went To Calvary**

On the cross of Calvary  
Jesus bled and died for me  
Took my pain and misery  
Made me free bless God, made me freed.

All the burden He did bear  
None with Him the load could share  
Christ for me was crucified  
And in Him, I now abide.

Worthy is The Lamb once slain  
He washed away all guilt and stain.  
Home with Him we soon will be  
For Jesus went to Calvary.

Soon He'll say come unto Me.  
Grant it Jesus is my plea  
Ever walking close to thee  
Let it dear Lord let it be.

(Chorus)

Now I can closer walk with thee  
Grant it Jesus is my plea  
Daily walking close to thee  
Let it be dear Lord, let it be

Gene Hawkins

May be Sung to the tune: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"



# PAUL'S GOSPEL

## IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Alice S. Mooneyhan

Ch. 7 Concl.

7:11. "Come, my Beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages." This verse introduces their honeymoon. In Matthew 13:38 we read that "the field is the world." The vineyards represent Israel. This woman manifests an interest in her husband's affairs immediately after the wedding. The time of Israel's restoration will be drawing near when Christ reveals Himself to the nation. As the overcomers will be associated with Christ in judging the world, so they will also be associated with Him in restoring all things unto God. This will begin with the fulfillment of the promises of God to the nation of Israel. "And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you; whom the Heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" - Acts 3:20-21. 32

7:12. "Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give Thee my loves." This verse indicates the deep interest this woman will have in the welfare of Israel, which is symbolized by the vineyard and the vine. The pomegranates speak of Israel as a new creation.

7:13. "The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for Thee, O my Beloved." Mandrakes remind us of the story in Genesis concerning Rachel who was barren. It seems to have been a superstition that mandrakes would produce fertility. Leah's son found some mandrakes which Rachel obtained by bargaining with Leah. In this verse, it hints of fruitfulness also, for the nations will hear the Gospel in the Kingdom Age and shall be saved. Israel will be the firstborn among the nations.

This Bride, as the custom is, has been canning fruit in view of her coming marriage. She preserves the Word of God in her heart, and it becomes precious fruit for her Bridegroom. She is like the scribe in Matthew 13:52, "which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

*Chapter 8*  
*THE SECOND RANK IN THE CHURCH*  
*8:1-7*

This portion of Chapter eight corresponds with II Thessalonians, in the fact that it concerns those who will be translated after the Bride is gone, and others who will remain until the revelation of Christ. This portion is typical prophecy which will be fulfilled after the Bride company has been translated to Glory.

The woman here represents the Sardis Church, while the Shulamite represents the Philadelphia Church. Let us read the Scripture concerning the Sardis church.: "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write: these things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch I will  
33 come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white; for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" - Revelation 3:1-6.

Most of the Christian people today believe that the whole Church will be the Bride of Christ. The first part of this chapter shows definitely that some will be disappointed. Those who have not really and truly walked in the light of this Bridal truth, will not be found in this select company.

8:1. "O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! When I should find thee without, I would kill thee; yea, I should not be despised." In these few verses concerning this group, there are about eight expressions of disappointment -- things that should have been, according to her expectation, but are not. The first one is, "O that though wert as my brother." Actually, Christ is the Brother of every believer, but this woman did not enter into the closest relationship with

Christ. In 1:6 the Shulamite spoke of another group which she calls, "My mother's children." That group seems identical with this woman of chapter eight. They were like Martha who was not only happy to serve the Lord, but also wanted Mary to get busy instead of sitting at Jesus' feet. There is a closer fellowship with the Lord than by serving, which is a good work, but it is secondary to companionship, communion, and worship.

8:2. "I would lead Thee, and bring Thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me; I would cause Thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate," Chapter 3:4 is a contrast with this verse: "I held Him, and would not let Him go, until I had brought Him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me." The Bride company actually did bring Him into her mother's house, into the house of Mother Grace. There is where she learned these precious truths of communion and worship, and that is where the engagement was announced.

But this woman expresses her wish to find Him, that she might bring Him into her mother's house. Every verse shows longing, but disappointment. She did not enter into the place that the Bride company did. The reason is evident. She did not have the longing for Him that the Bride company had as expressed in the second verse of this chapter: "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth." Every verse indicates an awareness of her failure to attain to the highest place. 34

8:3. "His left hand *should* be under my head, and His right hand *should* embrace me." This verse is positive proof that the group of saints which is represented by this woman will not win Christ as Bridegroom. Contrast the assurance expressed in Chapter 2:6 by the Bride company: "*His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.*" This expresses the assurance which comes through complete yielding to the will of the Lord and the faith to appropriate His promises. After Paul announced that he had espoused the Church to one Husband that he might present a chaste virgin to Christ, he said, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" - II Corinthians 11:3. There was, even in Paul's time, a group of saints who were not entering into all the Truth. He feared that they would miss this wonderful Bridal call.