

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

Volume 105

June 2015

Number 6



Whoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.
MATTHEW 10:32.

A FINE CLUSTER OF THREE-SIXTEENS

**The Father's
Loving Cup
to his
Children**

"I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."

E:13:99. Psalm 116:13.

2 Tim. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

1 Tim. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh."

John "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

1 John "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us"

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1 Cor. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Eph. I pray "that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

Acts "And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

Mal. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name."

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"GRACE & GLORY" (USPS#224-300 ISSN # 279-6996) is published monthly by Grace & Glory Gospel Society, 13011 Grandview Rd., P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

PERIODICALS postage is paid at Grandview, Missouri.

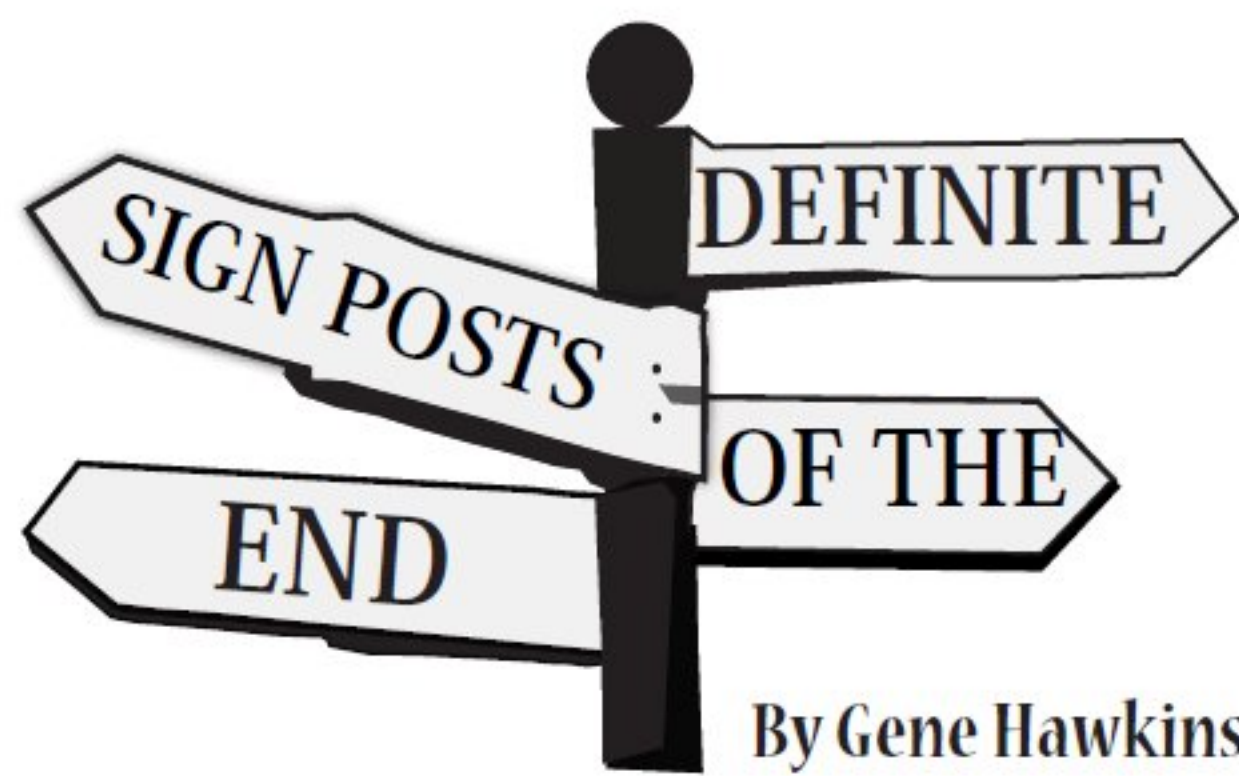
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Grace & Glory," P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

Telephone: 816-618-3306/ Print Shop: 816-322-2257 / E-mail: gjhawk1@msn.com

Web site: www.gracegod.org/ gracegod.com. Bible lessons and audio sermons are downloadable.

GRACE&GLORY is published for the purpose of proclaiming God's Holy Word. We believe that the scriptures are inspired of God and were given to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21) GRACE & GLORY has had continuous publication without subscription price since 1910. We are able to continue this ministry by your kind financial support.

Editor: Gene Hawkins



“Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them. For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.” Ezek. 34:7-12

3

Many might conclude from this text that God is reprimanding the “shepherds,” or pastors, of the Church. There is certainly cause for that, but these words from Ezekiel are a direct indictment of the nations. God calls them “my shepherds,” because He did indeed commit the over-all rule of the world into the hands of The Gentiles in 606 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar became the leader of the first world empire. Those nations have been in control ever since, and the charge against these national shepherds now, is that “...my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;” The repeated use of the terms “my flock,” and “my people,” are a direct reference to Israel, and the nations have failed miserably in looking after her interests. They have chosen instead to feed themselves. Thus God says emphatically, “...I am against the shepherds;...”

God further promises, in this text, that I will “...seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.” That cloudy and dark day

is surely upon us, for it is a reference to this present time when so many conditions are “ripe,” for Jesus’ Second Advent, wherein He will first consummate His purposes for the Church, and then gather Israel, from all places whence they have been scattered. There are some desperately dark and dreary days ahead for them, but The True Shepherd will, most assuredly, “...seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered.”

The term “shepherd,” literally means “to tend a flock; i.e. pasture, to graze, generally to rule,” and God has used it repeatedly in reference to political rulers, as well as religious ones. Jeremiah warned “the children of Benjamin,” that “The shepherds (enemy nations) with their flocks, (armies) shall come against her.” (Jerusalem.) Jer. 6:1-3 This is a direct warning of the Babylonish captivity, as well as a prophecy of the end time. Jeremiah also prophesies of this invasion calling Nebuchadnezzar, “my servant.” “Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof,...” Jer. 25:9

The kings of Israel are also regarded as “shepherds.” The prophet, Micaiah called Ahab, who was one of the most wicked kings in Israel, a shepherd when he prophesied his death in I Kings 22:17. “And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.” David likewise played the role of a true shepherd, in his intercessory prayer, after God had poured out His judgment following the King’s ill advised numbering of the people. “And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.” II Sam. 24:17 How long has it been since any world ruler has interceded for the sheep, and has been willing to sacrifice himself for the good of those committed to his care?

The sad fact is that modern day leaders have absolutely no regard for the decrees and requirements of a righteous God. Those clamoring after roles of leadership seem to completely ignore the fact that God is still in charge of this world though He did commit world government into the hands of men in 606 B.C. Men, in general do not really believe in the tenets of

Scripture. They seem to be oblivious to the fact that a nation, any nation, prospers when it manifests the righteousness of God. Nehemiah was a godly shepherd after the 70 year captivity of the Jews. He was given the political charge of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, and after that task was accomplished, he became their governor. He was appalled by the conduct he saw in Jerusalem and emphatically reminded those who were violating the Sabbath, “Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.” Neh. 13:18 His message is not just about adhering to a certain “tradition,” but rather about violating God’s Word, and the consequences thereof, which would affect the entire nation, and not just the transgressors, even as is the case today. He further reprimanded the people for intermarriage with “other religions,” with his query; “Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.” Neh. 13:26

Several years ago, Pres. Obama boastfully announced that “America is no longer just a Christian Nation!” This was touted as an accomplishment, showing to all the world that America has no longer isolated herself, and has now opened her arms of tolerance to all religions of the world, a practice that Nehemiah concluded would destroy Israel. He bemoaned the fact that the children of these “mixed,” marriages “...spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.” Neh. 13:24 The fact is, that the “Christian language,” upon which this country was founded, is no longer being spoken. Many godly ministers have long agreed that “America is no longer a Christian Nation,” but it is spoken with great grief, remorse, and tear-filled eyes, because The Principles and unbending requirements of God’s Word have been totally ignored in this country. Moreover, men in general around the entire globe, seek to completely eliminate God, and the results are quickly manifesting themselves in these last days, even as scripture has long foretold.

The wisest leader of any nation said long ago “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Prov. 14:34 Various missionaries, over the years, have confirmed this, as they

ministered in a number of godless nations, such as India, China, Russia, Argentina, Ethiopia, Africa, and Mexico to name just a few. Extreme poverty and oppression is reported in these nations and prosperity is often non-existent. Many of these same countries boast of Catholicism, but that does not mean they are godly or a “Christian Nation,” because Catholicism does not even proclaim the basic Christian tenet of the new birth. We would also ask, “how many of these national leaders are Catholic?” and if they are the shepherds leading in God’s Ways of Righteousness, “why are their countries not prospering,” as promised by Prov. 14:34?

A recent headline, on Newsmax TV, announced “10 Signs Christianity Is on the Rise,” as never before --- worldwide and in America.” We were rather shocked that anyone would make such a statement, and also intrigued by the fact that eight out of these ten signs, are directly related to Catholicism, the writer having been one “in residence at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.” This would certainly agree with the modern day, and worldwide, conception that Catholic automatically means Christian. It also agrees with the scriptural fact, that Catholicism will rule the political day of these end times. Though this False Church boasts in her role as leader of the world, the evidence is quite clear that righteousness DOES NOT prevail around the globe. Despite her purported efforts, the effects of sin and ungodliness, reflected in violence, poverty, and utter chaos, continue to prevail. It will surely be interesting to hear the Pope’s message when he visits America later this year.

Though the above article asserted that Christianity is on the rise in America, Newsmax also reported the following, at a later date, in direct contradiction to the Benedictine report, but in perfect agreement with both the current religious and political climates manifest all around us. “Christianity is in sharp decline in America, according to new research from the **Pew Research Center**, making for a significantly less Christian country than that of just seven years ago.

The number of Christians dropped by almost 8 percentage points in seven years to 71 percent, and the trend holds across race, gender, education, and geographic dimensions, though Christianity still dominates American religious identity at 70 percent, **USA Today** said.”

This same article goes on to report that “Alan Cooperman, director of religion research for the Pew Research Center, said, “It’s remarkably widespread,” according to **The Washington Post**. “The

country is becoming less religious as a whole, and it's happening across the board."

The research also found that the percentage of people not affiliated with a religion has increased from 16 percent to about 23 percent over that period.

A number of key trends have emerged from the research, the Post said.

For one, millennials (a person reaching young adulthood around the year 2000) have become less affiliated with religion as they have aged over the last decade. In 2007, 25 percent did not affiliate with a religion. In the current survey, it's 34 percent."

7 We do not need polls to tell us that these things are true, and we would note that this decline in Christianity has happened over the last seven years. We can only imagine what the next seven will bring, and wonder if perhaps the seven year tribulation will begin during that time. The fact is that these "statistics" bear out what scripture has already forewarned: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves,... proud,... unholy,... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." II Tim. 3:1-7

Furthermore, Greg Smith, associate director of research at the Pew Research Center, said: "Specifically, the numbers of Catholics and Protestants have both shrunk between 3 and 5 percentage points since 2007, while the evangelical share of the population is down by 1 point since that time. "That's a striking and important note." We can only wonder what Mr. Smith meant by this last comment. He was certainly impressed with the percentage points, but he did not say if it was in reference to the Catholics and Protestants, or the Evangelicals. Perhaps it was all of them, but Evangelicals seem to be the last bastion of hope for those who would adhere to any semblance of the depths contained in The Word Of God. This is undoubtedly what Paul meant when he said, "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 "The faith," of which he speaks is the entirety of The Word of God, and men, are doing everything in their power to eliminate That Voice from their ears and consciousness. The facts of this Pew report simply confirm that the current

generation, as a whole, wants nothing to do with the Word of God.

This report also deals with the same issue with which Nehemiah contended, for “The poll also found that intermarriage has increased with each generation, with 39 percent in a religiously mixed marriage compared to 19 percent among those who got married before 1960, USA Today reported.” The latter would have been before the sexual revolution ushered in by the “free love, hippy generation,” of the 60’s, which began a tremendous moral decline, throughout the world.

Religion today seems to have absolutely no bearing, on the choice of a mate, even among born-again Christians. It has also become “the norm,” for couples to simply live together outside the confines of marriage, this being simply another evidence of departing from the faith, where the terms “fornication,” and “adultery” seem meaningless. The great issue today is “gay marriage,” and while “the shepherds,” of the nations should be trying to curb it, national political leaders around the world have discovered that supporting it produces considerable political advantage for them. There was a time, in the not so 8 distant past, when some Christians were accused of trying to “legislate morality” when they stood up for God’s principles of righteousness. Now, these “modern day shepherds,” are, in fact, legislating immorality, as they pass laws advocating that which God’s Word specifically designates as an abomination. Jesus warning of these end days in Luke 21 could well apply here. “And great earthquakes shall be in divers places,...and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.” Luke 21:11-12 These great signs in heaven and earth will not be fully displayed until the tribulation period is well underway, but Jesus declares “...**before all these** they shall lay hands on you...,” pointing to events that will happen just prior to that destructive day. Matthew defines it as the “beginning of sorrows,” and this world is now in the throes of that time. Given the manner in which small businesses have been persecuted and penalized recently, for refusing to accommodate gay couples, it is not a great matter of conjecture or speculation to conclude that godly pastors may soon be “brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake,” because they refuse to perform gay weddings,

thereby putting them in violation of the law. Paul issued this blanket statement as he shouted, “Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus** shall suffer persecution.” This is in the same context as the “perilous times” which introduce this chapter and the apostle further adds that “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:12-13

Murder, under the guise of abortion is also being legislated. Thus laws, absolutely contrary to God’s Law, are being passed in an effort to literally force faith based believers into approving such abominations, as being right.

Make no mistake; God does hold political leaders responsible for ungodliness. It was true in Israel, and it will be most assuredly true for all the “gentile shepherds,” of these end times, “in the cloudy and dark day.” King Manasseh was a leader who “...shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another...” II Kings 21:16 This man died, and several years later a righteous king by the name of Josiah reigned over Judah, bringing about major reformations to the idolatry and ungodliness wrought by Manasseh. However, the damage had been done, and despite the righteous reign of Josiah “...the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath,... because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him...And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight...” II Kings 23:26-27 This latter decree was a reference to the Babylonish Captivity, which did indeed come to pass.

Though there are those, of our day, who continue to predict, and try to promote a “revival,” even like unto that of Josiah’s time, there is nothing in scripture, or today’s news, to support such a vision. Contrariwise, we see every evidence of the “falling away,” of which Paul foretold, declaring plainly that “... 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 The path of this man of sin, the antichrist, is well under way, for both he and the false prophet are the “counterfeit shepherds,” who will soon rule all the political affairs of this world. Jesus warned of them in John 10:12 “But he that is an hireling, (false prophet) and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf (antichrist) coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.”

This spirit of antichrist is abundantly manifest in nations

like Iran, which is absolutely intent on destroying Israel. The world is anxiously waiting to find out if any agreement will be reached which will deter, her ambitions of developing a nuclear weapon. One thing is abundantly clear from the opening text in Ezekiel. "...I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock,..." meaning that all nations will be held to account for their treatment of Israel, including those who directly seek her destruction. Ezekiel is also very clear that the True Shepherd will appear to "...seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."

These end times are becoming darker by the day, but we must still rejoice, because such signs, as we have observed in this article, are simply harbingers of Jesus' soon return. Rather than focusing our attention on all the ills of this world, and expending great amounts of energy trying to prevent the prophesied trends, transpiring right before our eyes, it is imperative that we truly believe, and practice, the fact that we are indeed a heavenly people. Our lives must proclaim, to those around us, that "...our conversation (manner of life) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" Phil. 3:20 Our own hearts must indeed be consumed with "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Tit. 2:13

FEAR NOT, LITTLE FLOCK

*Fear not, little flock."
Christ journeyed alone,
From heaven to earth ----
And cross to the throne.*

*"Fear not, little flock."
He went up above
To represent there
All the sons of His love.*

*"Fear not, little flock."
Be strong and true.
He's coming again
His reward with Him too!*

Five Charges of Paul

Paul N. Smith

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, According to the Prophecies Which Went Before On Thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: I Tim. 1:18,19

The Apostle Paul gave four distinct charges to Timothy, his son in the faith; and one to the Church at Thessalonica. These five, though they do not comprise all the commandments of the Apostle to the Church, give us an interesting study. The word, "charge," in this portion of Scripture, as well as in I Tim. 6:13,14, carries the meaning to "transmit a message or a mandate—a command." Paul had every right to transmit this mandate to his spiritual son, and not to him only, but also to those who follow Paul's teaching and carry on the Gospel that was committed to the Timothys who preach the Gospel of Grace. **The first charge** is a serious one as are also the others. It entails warfare—**holding faith and a good conscience**. Verse three of this chapter gives us the charge that Timothy was to hand down to others, "that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine." Galatians 1:6-9 gives us the solemn warning of Paul that whoever preached another Gospel (Which is not a gospel), let him be accursed. This is twice repeated and is of no little significance.

What a responsibility was placed on Timothy! What a responsibility is put on ministers today! How many are **holding faith and a good conscience**? There are few who are really holding to the faith that was committed to Paul. The ministers who once declared the truth and stood for it, have given way to more popular teachings. Who is declaring the whole counsel of God today, as Paul did in his day? The popular consensus among the "reverends" seems to be that if some phase of truth conflicts with present-day conditions, leave the truth and conform rather to the present evil age. Even some of the best have begun to depart from The Faith in preference to something that seems more expedient for this time. "Times have changed," we have heard, but the Gospel has not changed and the effects will be the same on the same old human race. If man or times have changed it is for the worse. The Truth changes us for the

better. Paul couples holding faith with a good conscience. No one who has departed from the Truth, in any way whatsoever, can have a good conscience toward God. Men seem to forget that God is still on the scene and is beholding the doings of His people. The majority of people seem to be conscious only of other people, especially the influential and popular. Personality takes precedence over spirituality.

Thus, with all the error and departure that surrounds us today, it is surely a warfare and a good one to win. We have to be constantly alert and have our spiritual senses sharpened to guard against the subtleties of Satan. He will use "any means" to distract the saint who is laying aside every weight if "by any means" they may win Christ. There are so many words that it is really difficult for the average Christian to hold fast to the "sound words." Christendom is heading for shipwreck as typified in Acts 27 and 28 because the leaders have not held fast to the form of sound doctrine. Each of the organizations, we see today, were once fundamental, and stood for the Truth as far as they went. Luther, Wesley and others began a revival of the Truth, which lasted for a while, but as soon as the leaders were gone, departure began, and it has continued to the present time. Only Paul and his company arrived safe on shore. There was a revival of Paul's Gospel in these last days, and even now in just a short time, a departure has begun. This warfare is not child's-play, but it is a strenuous battle and takes a hardy soldier to battle against Satan and his doctrines that are legion. Those who are arrayed with the whole armor of God are the only ones able to stand against the devil, and resist all opposition to the Truth. Those saints, who expertly wield the Sword of the Spirit, will in the end stand out amidst the ruins, victorious and crowned! The Apostle gave his testimony to this in II Tim. 4:7,8. He warred a good fight and he was given a crown of righteousness, a reward to be given to every one who fights the good fight of faith.

The Second Charge is found in I Tim. 5:21, "I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." In this chapter, the Apostle enumerates divers regulations to be followed in the assemblies. Timothy had the same responsibility of the Churches as Paul had, before his departure, therefore he needed these instructions. It is very difficult to deal

with other saints without showing partiality. Many times a place in an assembly is given on the basis of friendship rather than spiritual qualifications. Or a failure is overlooked because it happens to be a relative or the one who pays most of the bills. There are many, many things a pastor has to guard against. His personal feelings must be brought into obedience to the Word. He must take sides always and only with the new creation. Jesus set that example in His own life. He did not regard His own flesh and blood or friendships when it came to fulfill His Father's will. His relatives and friends were those who did the will of God even as He. How much damage can be done by one selfish act or thoughtless deed. But a word that is spoken in the Spirit will be effective.

The Third Charge is found in I Tim. 6:11-21. Fighting the good fight of, faith, meanwhile laying hold on eternal life, is the substance of this command. These charges were all given in the sight of God, who sees all things and knows the hearts of men. This charge was to be kept "without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." Timothy was to instruct them who were rich in the world that they be not highminded, nor trust in their riches. He had to despise the riches of the world himself, and instruct rich men to do likewise. That was quite a victory for a young minister. This was part of his "fight of faith." He had to trust only in God. He laid hold of his eternal possessions and shunned the earthly riches. His faith was in the "living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." Instead of material riches, he was rich in good works, laying up in heaven eternal treasures that neither rust or decay. His concern was not with how much he could get out of the people, or how popular he might be, but his concern was to be the welfare of the saints. The true minister of God receives his riches from God and they are passed on to the saints, who in turn glorify God. What a wonderful cycle! Their lives come from God. Their riches are God's riches. His reward then becomes their reward. Ministers can only perform these things by yielding completely to the power of the Holy Spirit. Men are helpless to walk as the Lord would have them to, except they are entirely and unreservedly given up to Him. Those who depend on their theological transportation, and physical attainments can never hope to reach the high place of glory that is offered to the followers of Paul and Timothy.

The Fourth Charge given to Timothy, is a most

important one. The word "charge" in this instance and in I Tim. 5:21, which we have already had, carries a stronger meaning than the other two. It means, "to testify, witness, protest earnestly, bear record, be a testimony or a martyr." No small wonder then that Paul should use this word in this particular place. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom, Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Tim. 4:1,2 This charge seems like a loud speaker shouting this command during this age, "PREACH THE WORD—PREACH THE WORD—PREACH THE WORD." It cannot be shouted too often. "Wouldn't it be better to give the people what they want to hear?" someone may ask. No, preach the Word! "But, people just won't come out for a Bible study." Preach the Word! "My congregation enjoys book reviews so much better." Preach the Word! "The people get restless and tired so soon." Nevertheless, preach the Word! Those who really preach the Word of God **become martyrs of a declining practice.**

14

Paul preached the Word and made full proof of his ministry and surely Timothy carried on as well. The Apostle was not ashamed to declare the Gospel, nor was he backward in instructing others in the right way. He endured all manner of inflictions, sufferings, to preach the Word fully. Why was this charge given? The next two verses plainly paint the picture that has materialized before our eyes. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables." No one is able to endure sound doctrine unless he believes and accepts it. As the Word is brought forth, it cuts away the flesh, and puts that flesh up before the eyes of the hearers and they are offended. No one likes to find out that he is nothing. The Word declares that all flesh is grass. Man does not like to be dependent, especially where God is concerned. He would rather do what work he could and boast in it. His messy finger is always in the pie, spoiling the whole thing. The Church has lost her place in the heavenlies because the shepherds did not heed Paul's exhortation, "Preach the Word."

The Fifth Charge is found in I Thess. 5:27, "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy

brethren." Paul always put the responsibility on the Lord. Thus, after he wrote these instructions, he was out of the picture, the rest was between the Lord as the Judge, and the reader as the doer. The word "charge" in this verse is yet another word and carries additional meaning. It has several meanings, "to put on oath; solemnly enjoin; to limit; restrain set a bound or limit." This first epistle to the Thessalonians, as well as the second one, has the preeminent message of the coming of the Lord, first for His people and then to the world. This was to be read to all the holy brethren, and from this we know that this letter was not written only for those people of that assembly, but for all those who are walking in the light. The message of the coming of the Lord is the most important for the Church at this time. It stirs the hearts of believers to press on. It will also awaken unbelievers. Paul was constrained to give forth this message. He, in turn, put Timothy on oath to preach this message, and not only Timothy, but this truth will keep the saints in bounds. Unholy men will not accept this truth, and say, "Where is the promise of His coming? Aren't things just as they were in the times of our fathers?" And unholy brethren do not like to hear this truth either, because they know they are not ready for the Lord's appearing. Both groups are unbelieving, but that does not make the Word of God untrue or ineffective. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again, in Person, and there is no doubt about it. This life would be unbearable without the hope of the coming of the Lord. The world has only heartaches, sadness and trouble in the future. A new world wouldn't change matters, there would still be the same old inhabitants.

A new administration wouldn't help—there would still be the same old heart. The only hope is in the New Man, Jesus Christ, who shall return to this earth and take over the affairs of the governments and rule in one righteous government and Kingdom. Paul's whole life was motivated by the coming of the Lord. He moved and spoke and wrote in view of the Lord's coming. No wonder he solemnly enjoined that this epistle be read to all the holy ones. The life of the believer is purified by this message. It limits the viewpoint of the believer. Their view is filled with the Lord of glory. Nothing else attracts their vision. Earthly thrones, wealth, fame, never penetrate the dazzling light of God's glory. Only the throne of glory, the riches of God's grace and the fame of Jesus Christ arrests their attention. Paul could fight on; Timothy

could carry on; and we can go on, because we know that the coming of the Lord is at hand. We can't let down—the Lord is at hand. We must preach the Word—the Lord is at hand. We must hold fast the sound doctrine—the Lord is at hand. And those who are looking for His coming and loving His appearing will some day be rewarded for their faithfulness. That will be The Glad Day. And there will be no failure to the one who is trusting the Lord to be ready when He comes. The Apostle prayed for these very folks in this manner, "**And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.**"

A SON OF GOD

Alice S. Mooneyhan

My Father! I had never spoken to you
Because you were God what could I do?
Hopeless and helpless, guilty of sin,
Kept from your presence, fear within.

But now I have seen a vision of Christ
Who died on the cross as my sacrifice.
I know that the Gospel which oft I have heard
Is the way of salvation declared in your word.

Thru Jesus I've come into favor divine,
Sins all forgiven; a new life is Mine.
Humbly bowed at the foot of the cross,
Acknowledged my need, my sin and my loss.

Forever my tongue shall speak forth His praise,
Happy and free to the end of my days;
Fear has all vanished, love in its place
Fills me with longing to look on His face.

God is my Father! I'm shouting with glee—
Never will leave nor forsake even me.
Here in a foxhole under God's wing,
Grave has no terror, death has no sting;
Out of this body thru yon open door,
Glorious prospect—life evermore.

(June, 1944)

(A Paraphrase.)

FAITH IS REST

Resting On the Faithful One

George Muller

Just in, the proportion in which we believe that God will do just what He has said, is our faith strong or weak. Faith has nothing to do with feelings, or with impressions, with improbabilities, or with outward appearances. If we desire to couple them with faith, then we are no longer resting on the Word of God, because faith needs nothing of the kind. Faith rests on the naked Word of God. When we take Him at His word the heart is at peace.

God delights to exercise our faith, first for blessing in our own souls, then for blessing in the Church at large, and also for those without. But this exercise we shrink from instead of welcoming.

When trials come we should say, "My heavenly Father puts this cup of trial into my hands, that I may have something sweet afterwards." Trial is the food of faith. Oh, let us leave ourselves in the hands of our Heavenly Father! It is the joy of His heart to do good to all His children.

But trials and difficulties are not the only means by which faith is exercised and thereby increased. There is the reading of the Scriptures, that we may by them acquaint ourselves with God as He has revealed Himself in His Word. And what shall we find? That He not only is God Almighty, and a Righteous God, but we shall find how gracious He is, how gentle, how kind, how beautiful He is—in a word; what a Lovely Being God is.

Are you able to say from the acquaintance you have made with God that He is a Lovely Being? If not, let me affectionately entreat you to ask God to bring you to this, that you may admire His gentleness and His kindness, that you may be able to say how good He is, and what a delight it is to the heart of God to do good to His children.

When Daniel was faced with a decision
It didn't take him long to declare,
He would far rather sleep with a lion
Than try to live without prayer.

REFLECTIONS

. . . From the Editor

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” John 20:17

It was Jesus Himself, Who introduced the entire world to a new doctrine which is; “Fatherhood Of God.” He taught His disciples to pray, addressing the Very God of the Universe, as “... Our Father which art in heaven,...” Matt. 6:9 Such a message is completely hidden in the Old Testament, but the glorious blessings offered by this new relationship are freely revealed, after Jesus came into this world. James calls Him “...the Father of lights,..” who gives every “...good gift and perfect gift...” Jas 1:17 Paul records this Grand Personage as being the “Father of mercies,” indeed the God of all grace. II Cor. 1:3 The apostle further describes Him as the “Father of spirits,” indicating that God is still the Father, Who has complete control, even beyond this present physical realm. Jesus used the analogy of a father in Luke 11:13 when He said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

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However, in the above text, The Risen Christ makes this relationship so gloriously personal, declaring that “I ascend unto my Father, and your Father;...” He had previously given high personal commendation to Peter, when He said, “...Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 16:17 This was in response to Peter’s answer to His question “...whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” V. 15,16 Our Father will still, impart these same precious revelations unto us today.

There are also many other advantages of this personal Father – son, relationship with God, for we are plainly told to “...pray to **thy Father** which is in secret; and **thy Father** which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” Matt. 6:6 Likewise our giving of alms is to “...be in secret: and **thy Father** which seeth

in secret himself shall reward thee openly. Matt. 6:4

John 17, which records Jesus' great intercessory prayer, indeed the real "Lord's Prayer," gives us a very intimate look into the deep and personal relationship that Jesus had with His Father. He addresses God six times as "Father," and we are surely included in that entreaty as The Son would pray that we should share in that relationship. "...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." V.11 "...That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:" V. 21 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am;..." V. 24 "O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me." V. 25 Let us accept to the fullest that "I ascend unto **my Father,** and **your Father;**..." **GH**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Book of Colossians in *Spanish* is now printed and ready for distribution. Orders may be forwarded to Bro. David Cloud, P.O. Box 181, Pharr, Texas 78577

Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp July 26-30, 2015

Youth Camp will be held at Highlands Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO, near Estes Park. Camp will begin with dinner Sunday night and will end with Thursday morning service. There will be Bible studies for all ages in the mornings, supervised recreation each afternoon, and Church services every evening.

For lodging and registration please contact Jesse & Polly:
Tel. 303-594-0933

Jesse O'Dorisio jfo2000@gmail.com

Polly O'Dorisio pollyodorisio@gmail.com

Forms and additional information will be available at www.livingwaterstabernacle.com. We invite you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ for this annual gathering to give glory and honor to God and be strengthened and renewed by His Spirit.

LOVE BECKONS *pt 6*

Ken Trujillo

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matt. 11:28-30

Ode to an Earthworm

Perceived as lowly; but actually holy,

The earthworm feeds the soil.

Humble in looks; often skewered on hooks; silently it toils!

Woven into the dirt; never rude nor curt,

It performs its work unseen.

Even its waste improves the taste of every pea and bean.

(By Joe Lamp’l Executive producer of PBS’s “Growing A Greener World”)

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THE CRIMSON WORM LOWLY IN HEART

Consider, for a moment, THE WORM; in Nature. Without the earthworm our ecosystem might cease to exist. Ironically, Charles Darwin experimented, and came up with a theory, as to their benefits, and I quote, “Without the work of this humble creature, agriculture, as we know it, would be very difficult, if not wholly impossible.”

Nature’s earthworm provides nutrients for creating and maintaining healthy soil, for sustaining plant and animal life, both of which, are essential for the survival of mankind throughout our planet. Without the irrigation of the earthworm providing open spaces known as pores, moisture from the air would not be able to properly penetrate and aerate the earth’s soil, thereby providing nitrogen and oxygen for enriching growth and germination in plant’s and landscape for the benefit of all wildlife. The earthworm’s ability to burrow and channel beneath the soil allow roots to penetrate deep down for tree growth. What a marvel that this lowly earthworm provided nutrients for, yes, even the growth of the Acacia Tree, from which Shittim wood was used, for the table of shewbread, the brazen altar, the Ark of the Covenant, and ultimately Golgotha’s tree, the Cross upon which our Lord and Savior was nailed! The Crucifixion Psalm, Psalm 22, depicts the suffering of Jesus on the cross, portraying the unspeakable agony

beyond comprehension, atop Calvary's mountain. All His bones were out of joint and His heart melted as wax down into the midst of His bowels. It was that Jesus, Who became the Lowly Worm upon Golgotha's tree. The King of Glory was made lower than the angels and brought down to the "nth" degree of abasement, humbling, and reducing, Himself for those, He and His Father loved and circled, before the foundations of the world. The great I AM of all creation, became "A WORM, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people." Psa. 22:6 What an amazing contrast! Our Precious Redeemer chose to be the weakest of all creatures, thereby lifting us to the heights of glory which He so delights to share with us! By God's marvelous grace, I picture our loving Savior, beaten and bloodied on the cross, as the most cherished and loveliest, the *Lowly Worm on Calvary's Mountain*. This word WORM, in the Hebrew, is TOWLA, meaning the Scarlet or Crimson Worm. The ecologist refers to this species as the "coccus ilicis." COCCUS is from the Latin, which is Scarlet. ILICIS signifies, "It Is Finished," reminding us of the three sweetest words uttered by our Lord and Savior at Calvary, when He cried out as the Sacrificial Lamb of God!

Lowly In Heart? Oh yes, He became that Lowly Worm on the cross, to lift us from the dunghill and set us upon the throne of a prince, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. II. Cor. 5:21 Just as the earthworm irrigates nature's soil, Jesus, the Crimson Worm on the cross irrigates the soil of our hearts, that the fruit of the Spirit might take root in our lives and blossom into love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith. Gal. 5:22 The old spiritual ballad shouts out the glorious paean: *There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus No, not one! No not one! None else could heal all our soul's diseases No, not one! No not one! Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done; There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus No, not one! No not one!*

The Crimson Worm, in ancient Israel, was also sacrificial, and attached itself to the trunk of a tree giving BIRTH, PROTECTING, and NOURISHING, its newly born! A Red Dye oozed from its body upon the bark of the tree, as it covered its offspring in scarlet red, and afterward: DIES! Its reddish body was then *scraped off the trunk of the tree*, crushed and ground into a powdered scarlet-colored dye, which was then used to beautify garments and

clothing. In contrast, the blood-stained cross of Jesus was evidence of His sacrificial love as He suffered and died.

Two Robes

First, Mark 15:20, declares that after mocking Him, “*they took off the purple from Him.*” This marvelous scene of Jesus, standing before the soldiers after Pontius Pilate consented to His death, shows how His deity was stripped away in the eyes of evil men. What about our world today? God, and His Son Jesus Christ, has once again been stripped, stripped away from our society, government, landmarks, as well as, schools and universities. Even the world’s standard system of the calendar, which was centered around the Birth and Death of our Lord, has replaced the Name of Christ with the word Common Era. Instead of *BC*, it is now *BCE* (Before Common Era), and *AD* is now *ACE* (After Common Era). What a tragedy!

Second, after being stripped, Matthew 27:28 states that Jesus was then clothed with a scarlet robe. He was to become that lowly worm, a reproach of men and despised. Even His “scarlet robe” was dyed red from the same crushed powder of the Crimson Worm, which became Him. 22

His Tunic

John testifies that “...when they had crucified Him,...” the soldiers took His garments, which included His white tunic and His scarlet robe. John 19:23 His tunic, which represents His righteousness, was divided into “...four parts, to every soldier,...” thus teaching us that His death, for all mankind, provided Divine Righteousness to all “four corners of the earth” for every man, woman and child! “He was made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” II Cor. 5:21 His coat (scarlet robe), was far too valuable to cut up, or divide amongst them, so they “cast lots” for it. We are reminded here of Nehemiah 11:1 where “...the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem the rest of the people **cast lots** to bring **one of the ten** to dwell in Jerusalem...” This number *TEN* comes from the primitive root word *ASHAR* meaning to become “enriched” so as to rule and reign! The bride, the Lamb’s Wife, “...new Jerusalem,... prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...,” descends out of Heaven from God, having the glory of God! Rev. 21,22. Our Beloved became destitute, lowly and afflicted, that we might be made RICH! II Cor. 8:9 What is our lot – our inheritance? The choice is ours. Are we willing to embrace it for our very own? Are we willing to take our place, by faith, within that “Holy City as His Bride?”

Lonely In Heart, for you and me? Oh yes! While hanging on Golgotha's tree, Jesus was completely exposed in shame, enduring a state of perfect weakness and helplessness, looking only to be armored by His Father. Our Blessed Redeemer would not wear even as much as a girdle around the loins, that is, "*a belt; a cord of support made by hands of worldly man.*" His support and dependency was exclusively from On High with arms *OPEN WIDE* in complete surrender unto His Father! After he cried, "It Is Finished," He bowed-down His head and became the Lowly Crimson Worm as He gave up the ghost. The penalty for our sins **FULLY PAID!** The judgment meant for us, to be cast into outer darkness, **HE TOOK UPON HIMSELF!** The wrath of Almighty God, which had doomed mankind, was **COMPLETELY SATISFIED!** The God of very God descended to the lowest of the lowest, lifting us to be an heir of God and joint-heirs with Christ. How can we not give all our praise, thanksgiving and glory to our Savior! "*That old rugged cross so despised by the world,*" as the songwriter penned: "*Has a wondrous attraction for me!*" What about you?

!3

Then something incredible took place: The earth quaked and the rocks split asunder as the curtain, which kept us from ever entering the Holy of Holies where the cherubim and mercy-seat dwelt, was rent in twain from top to bottom so we could be made one, One With Him! According to Ex. 39:34, that curtain (vail) was also dyed red, from the carcass of the "*coccus ilicus,*" the Crimson Worm. The Hebrew word for "vail" or "curtain," comes from "*PEREK*", which means "made from severe harshness and cruelty" signifying the cruelty and harshness inflicted upon Jesus!

The Song of Solomon, also references "the red" as the king speaks of the Shulamite having lips "...like a thread of scarlet,..." S.O.S. 4:3 She is known to "worship in warfare," with lips of praise sprinkled with the power of the blood of the Lamb when in the midst of the fiercest battle! As it is written, "*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, BUT ALSO to suffer for His sake.*" Phil 1:29 As we encounter the many trials and adversities of our earthly journey, which is often beyond our control, may we also be completely exposed and transparent before Him on bended knees not girded with the girdle of man's support but girded with the girdle of truth, i.e. **HIS WORD** which is able to build us up and give us an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Acts 20:32

The root meaning of “lips,” is “CAPHAH” meaning “to scrape (literally, to shave.)” Just as the “*coccus ilicus*,” after it died, was scraped off the bark of the tree (typifying the evidence of the blood-stained cross), so also we endure the sufferings together with Him, and become, as it were, scraped off together as the evidence of *being made conformable unto His death*, that we also might be snatched away and caught up together with Him! **This, dear saints, is the glorious Fellowship of His Sufferings, Blessed be His Name!**

After this reddish dye had oozed completely from the Crimson Worm, its carcass, three days later, became a *white resin-type wax* falling to the ground like pure-driven snow. The flakes of this white wax were gathered up, dried and processed as shellac for renewing, preserving and beautifying! Its flakes were also woven into fibers and were used as flax-linen for wedding garments in ceremonies for the anointing, cleansing and purification of the bride and groom. This is beautifully illustrated in Rev 19:8. **“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.** This *Fine Linen* is also made from flax fibers, which are literally beaten, by way of threshing, over and over, again and again, until each strand is “finely separated.” They are then weaved together as the purest and highest-grade quality *FOR THE BRIDAL RAIMENT!* Romans 8:18, assures us that “... the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!” This bridal company will be arrayed in this *fine linen* and displayed, as the Queen of the Eternities, reigning along-side her King of Glory!

Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead, after His body lay three days in the grave, - Halleluiah! His countenance was like lightning and His raiment white as snow! He first appeared to Mary Magdalene and the women with her, saying “...*ALL HAIL*...” Matt. 28:9 This phrase, in the Greek, is “*CHAIRO*,” meaning “*To Rejoice And Be Glad*,” the exact same phrase used in Rev 19:7 **“LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE**, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.” Think of it, precious saints of the High Calling. The very “first words of Jesus,” after dying on the cross and having been raised up by His Heavenly Father in power and in glory, was the salutation, announcement, and proclamation, to mankind, and to the world, of the Future Glorious Union with His Bride: *ALL HAIL!* Just like the lowly earthworm provides vegetation to the earth’s soil for nature’s growth, so this

magnificent lowly Crimson Worm - Our Beloved, Who "...is altogether lovely,..." provides for our spiritual growth that, by His Grace, we may develop unto the measure of the stature of the FULNESS OF CHRIST, ready to be caught up together with Him when the first trumpet sounds. Dear hearts, once again, His Love Truly Beckons!



THE INDIANS TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

“The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief . . . I am His, and with Him I want not . . . He throws out to me a rope, . . .and the name of the rope is love, . . . and He draws me . . . and He draws me . . . and He draws me, to where the grass is green and the water not dangerous . . . and I eat and lie down satisfied.

Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down, . . . but He lifts it up again . . . and draws me into, a good road. . . His name is wonderful . . . Sometime, . . . It may be very soon, . . . it may be longer, ... it may be a long, long time. . . He will draw me into a place between the mountains... It is dark there,. . . but I'll draw back not. . . I'll be afraid not, . . . for it is there, between these mountains, that the Shepherd Chief will meet me, . . . and the hunger I have felt in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.

“He spreads a table before me with all kinds of food. . . He puts his Hand upon my head, . . . and all the tired is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over. . . What I tell you is true. . . I lie not. . . These roads that are away ahead will stay with me all through this life, . . . and afterwards I will go to live in the big tepee and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever.” —Selected.

(Reprint 1948)

* We live charmed lives if we are living in the center of God's Will. All the attacks that Satan, through others, can hurl against us are not only powerless to harm us, but we are turned into blessings on the way.

* “Good deeds are better than creeds.”

THE CHURCH'S CALLING

Whenever the Church becomes self-conscious and self-centered, she fails to accomplish her real divine calling. Her highest glory is to be seen only in the revealing of her Lord.

Deep and true is the lesson taught by the ancient legend of the three architects who brought to the Oriental king their models for a temple of the sun. The first was of stone, finely chiseled and richly polished. As the king beheld it, he could only admire and praise the splendid work. The second was of gold, and well did the architect descant on the burnished walls as they reflected in every angle and facet the image of the sun itself. But the third presented a temple of glass so transparent that at first it was invisible, and it did not take long to show, as the sunlight poured unhindered thru the transparent walls that this was the true temple of the sun, reflecting not its own glory, but revealing and receiving in every part the glorious object to whose glory it was dedicated.

This is the supreme object of the Church of Jesus Christ, and only in so far as we are revealing and reflecting Him who is our Head, are we accomplishing the object for which the Church was founded.

A. B. Simpson

26

"For of such is the kingdom of Heaven"

"PLEASE, DADDY, LET'S GO..."

"A little girl with shining eyes, her upturned face aglow,
Said, "Daddy, it's almost time for Sunday School you know.
Let's go and hear of Jesus' love - of how He died for all,
To take them to His home above - who on His Name will call."
"Oh, no," said Daddy, "Not today. I've worked hard all week And I
must have one day to rest. I'm going to the creek.
For there I can relax and rest. And fishing's fine, they say.
So run along, don't bother me; we'll go another day."

Months and years have passed away, but Dad hears that plea no more.

"Let's go to Sunday School..." those childish days are o'er.

And now that Daddy's growing old, and life is almost through, He
finds some time to go to church, but what does Daughter do? She says,

"Oh, Daddy, not today...I was out all night;
I've got to get a little sleep; besides, I look a fright."

Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand and brushes 'way the tears;
Again he hears that pleading voice, distinctly through the years.
He sees a small girl's upturned face, upturned with eyes aglow,
Saying, 'It's time for Sunday School, PLEASE DADDY, won't you go?'"

ISAIAH 31

Gene Hawkins

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!” V. 1

This chapter of our book corresponds with Obadiah, wherein the same pattern of judgment prevails. The little one chapter book of Obadiah primarily contains a scathing rebuke against Edom, the land belonging to Jacob’s brother Esau. However, the prophet clearly includes all nations which are against God’s people with these words. “All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee,.... And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed,... For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee,...” For the day of the LORD is near **upon all the heathen**: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee:..... Obad. 1:7,9,10,15

Both Isaiah and Obadiah proclaim judgment upon the nations, but both also prophesy blessing for Israel. Obadiah gloriously shouts “But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, (fire and flame of judgment against their enemies) and the house of Esau for stubble,And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines:And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites,..... and the captivity of Jerusalem,..... shall possess the cities of the south. And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.” Obad. 1:17-21

Isaiah publishes this same theme in V. 4 “For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lionis called forth against him,so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.”

Before this glorious song of praise can be sung, Israel must endure great consequence of their rebellion, as indicated by

the woe of v. 1. This rebellious nation is severely assailed for going “down to Egypt for help.” They would “stay on horses, and trust in chariots,” or depend on the strength and armaments of the nations, rather than “...look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!” This has been Israel’s problem throughout their history. They chose the ways and strength of men rather than the power of God. Despite their choices, Isaiah insists, “Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.” V. 2 Both Israel and those to whom they have gone for help, are included in this indictment. God will not “call back,” or repent of His Words, but will execute His promises of judgment, and Isaiah further asserts that Israel must learn that “...the Egyptians (all nations of the world included) are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.” The Almighty will show forth that no man is His equal, and when He begins to pour out His judgment, those who have tried to help Israel shall fall, along with this people who have chosen to put their trust in the arm of flesh. The prophet assures us that his word is true, “For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.” V. 4 Jehovah, is this Lion, “roaring on his prey,” and He will, in no wise be denied. The “multitude of shepherds,” is not a reference to the religious leaders, as some suppose, but rather to the “shepherds,” or leaders of these political nations who have gathered themselves together against Israel, and we read plainly that He will “come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.”

His assault continues as now Jehovah is likened unto “... birds flying,..” meaning that “the LORD of hosts.....” will fight even from heaven in order to “defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.” Thus,

since all confidence and trust in the nations has failed, Israel is exhorted to “Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.” “In that day...” refers to the time when Israel will have truly repented, recognizing that they did revolt directly against God when they sought other gods of silver and gold which their own hands had made. “In that day....” they will look upon their own True Messiah, whom they have pierced, and when that happens, God will be free to punish the nations. “Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited.” V. 8 God has oft used this same pattern. He does not require a “mighty man,” to bring about his purposes. Neither does He always use a “mean,” man or one of “low degree. Medo-Persia was, in no wise the great and formidable nations exemplified by Babylon but they were strong enough and wise enough to accomplish the task when God ordained that Babylon should fall. Thus Assyria will fall regardless of the enemy who would come against her, and the same pattern will prevail in the end time. Rather mediocre powers will be used to punish very strong nations world powers. The closing verse of this chapter will become the lament of every nation when Jesus sets up His Own Kingdom. “And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear,....” V. 9 The “he” in this citation is a reference to the Assyrian of V. 8, and is representative of all the end time nations who have gathered to fight against The Son Of God. All of them will try and retreat to their own “strong hold,” but to no avail. All will eventually be consumed by absolute fear, “and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.” All nations will be gathered to the Middle East. They think they are coming forth to destroy Israel, but they are met instead with the “ensign” or victorious banner of The Lord, who has set up His Own Kingdom, and will flight gloriously as He pours out His devastating “fire....his furnace in Jerusalem.” The great prize of so many enemies of Israel today is Jerusalem, but it will quickly

turn to a blazing furnace of devastating judgment! Make no mistake. Jerusalem belongs to God, and one day, He will make that fact abundantly clear.

Chapter 32

Isaiah 32 is very much likened unto the pattern presented in the book of Jonah. Verse 20 of this text declares: “Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.” Jonah refused to “sow beside all waters” when he “rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD,” (Jon. 1:3) rather than go to Nineveh as God had commanded. His mind was changed after much difficulty and his restoration typifies the fact that Israel will be restored, and eventually “sow beside all waters,” when they become a blessing to all the world by leading them in the ways of righteousness during the Millennium. A declaration of that glorious period is found in verse one.

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.” The prophesied king is a reference to King Jesus, who will indeed reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords, after He has consumed His enemies during the great tribulation. He shall bring righteousness to this world and His “princes,” Israel as a nation, shall also “rule in judgment,” meaning that God’s Law and Righteousness will be predominate, and will indeed be demonstrated, by this nation which will become “...a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation,” unto the rest of the world. The changes that will have been made by that time are clearly recorded in V. 2-5 “And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.” These verses seem to express the very result of Israel’s ministry to the nations during the millennium. Israel will be that “man” who becomes “as an hiding place,” or place of protection from the winds of adversity as they literally introduce the surrounding nations to the “great rock,” Christ Jesus. Such a man would also

be “a covert from the tempest,” and provide life giving “rivers of water in a dry place.” In other words, the nations will discover the inestimable value of spiritual treasure found in this nation, which has been born in one day. Isa. 66:8

Furthermore, “The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl (selfish one) said to be bountiful.” All of this testifies of the fact that these millennial nations will be “born again,” due to Israel fulfilling the great commission outlined in Matt. 28:18-20

This surely does seem to be a direct parallel with the ministry of Jonah, for after his very effective preaching and warnings to Nineveh, “....the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.” Jon. 3:5 However, the glorious evangelistic success of this new nation, will be preceded by the horrendous judgment, on both Israel and the nations, to bring them to their knees.

31 “For the vile person will speak villany, (foolishness, wickedness, vile) and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error **against the LORD**, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right. But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.” V. 6-8 All of this indicates the fact that these nations will persist in their rebellious unrighteous ways until God pours out judgment against them. Their hearts will be stirred into open rebellion against Him, thus justifying all the calamities that will befall them. Such hearts must be revealed outwardly in order to bring them to repentance.

The religious element, of Israel as well as the nations, which is becoming so rampant in this present day, is next addressed with these words: 9 “Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech. Many days and years shall ye be troubled, ye careless women: for the vintage shall fail, the gathering shall not come.” V. 9-10 These words could well apply to the closing days of this Church Age, when the majority seem to be convinced that they can gather in

a real “vintage,” of spirituality. Scripture is quite clear that “the gathering shall not come.” These “women,” typical of religious leaders rather than political, are assailed because they are “at ease.” They have not been diligent in spiritual leadership. They are also “careless daughters,” who had evidently disregarded the Word of God, because He exhorts them to “give ear unto my speech.” God exhorts them to “Tremble, ye women that are at ease; be troubled, ye careless ones: strip you, and make you bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins.” V 11 They are to “tremble,” or “shudder with terror; to hasten (with anxiety).” They must come “trembling,” before Him, realizing their own weakness. They must be stripped, and made “bare” of their own strength and self reliant attitudes, in order to take the garments of repentance and gird themselves with “sackcloth upon your loins.” Furthermore, “They shall lament for the teats, (breasts)....” V. 12 These “women” should have been equipped to feed those who were dependent on them for spiritual nourishment, but they are woefully lacking, even as, Christendom as a whole, during these closing days of the Church Age. This “lament” continues “for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine,” because such fruitfulness is a thing of the past due to the “ease,” taken by these “women” who should have been spiritual leaders. Such passive, dilatory, attitudes have also produced the following results.

32

“Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briers; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city: Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; (relinquish, forsaken) the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks;” V. 13-14 These verses seem to be a direct reference to Israel and Jerusalem. The devastation described here surely bears strong resemblance to the conditions which prevailed when Nebuchadnezzar besieged “the joyous city,” of Jerusalem beginning Israel’s seventy year captivity. There is, however, an even greater end time fulfillment of this destruction, which Jesus described in Matt. 24. “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into

the mountains:” Matt. 24:15,16 This city, so sought after by a multiple of factions today, is soon to become a desolate city devoid of all their defenses, with the people in exile, as they flee to the mountains for sanctuary. Isaiah declares here that all these “forts and towers shall be for dens for ever,” undoubtedly meaning that such defenses will never be used again in this “joyous city.” The reason for this is found in V. 15.

“Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.” When this total annihilation of Jerusalem is accomplished, the spirit of the Lord will “be poured upon us from on high.” It will take such total devastation to bring Israel to her knees, but when she does accept her Messiah, He will be free to bring these glorious blessings back to the Promised Land. The “wilderness” will become “a fruitful field,” both in the spiritual and natural. This land will literally blossom as a rose, but the greater blessing is that “Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;” V. 16-18 These are glorious Millennial blessings whereby Israel shall finally accept Jesus’ “work of righteousness,” brought about by His work of redemption at Calvary. Real peace will finally belong to them and they will finally experience the real peace and safety which has been so elusive throughout the past ages. Even if there is adversity of any sort, God promises that “When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place.” V. 19 God will protect His own throughout this Millennial Reign of Christ, bringing them complete peace and rest. Not only so, but “Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.” V. 20 Just as Jonah came forth out of the fish’s belly to preach to the Gentile Ninevites, so also Israel shall emerge from the dark chasm of Jacob’s trouble to “sow beside all waters,…” This nation, which will become the head and not the tail of the nations, will spread the gospel to these Gentile “waters,” and thus fulfill Jesus’ commandment when He

“...came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt. 28:18-20 Note the exact order of events here. First Jesus assumes His place, to reign as God for 1000 years, as “All power is given unto me...” Then comes Israel’s 1000 year occupation of going to “all nations, baptizing them... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:....” Thus this “great commission,” will not be fulfilled until Israel sows this gospel seed “beside all waters.”

THINGS WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT

1. Without shedding of blood is no remission----
Heb. 9:22.
2. Without faith it is impossible to please God---
Heb. 11:6.
3. Without works, faith is dead—James 2:14-26.
4. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord---
Heb. 12:14.
5. Without love we are nothing-1 Cor. 13:1-3.
6. Without chastisement we are not sons of God---
Heb. 12:6-8.
7. Without Christ we can do nothing—John 15:5.

* You have given no gift to God if you have not given yourself.

* Wisdom is knowing what to do next; Skill is knowing how to do it; and Virtue is doing it!

* The devil uses many wiles; one of his favorites is “wait awhile.”

*The Lord takes notice, not only of what we give, but what we have left.



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Five Much Mores	Not Legislation, Revelation	Wheat and Tares
Five Consequences	Oneness of Christ	Why am I Not Healed


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**Blessed be the
name of God
for ever and ever:
for wisdom and
might are his.**

DANIEL 2:20.