

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

Without Price Since 1910

'Loving His Appearing'

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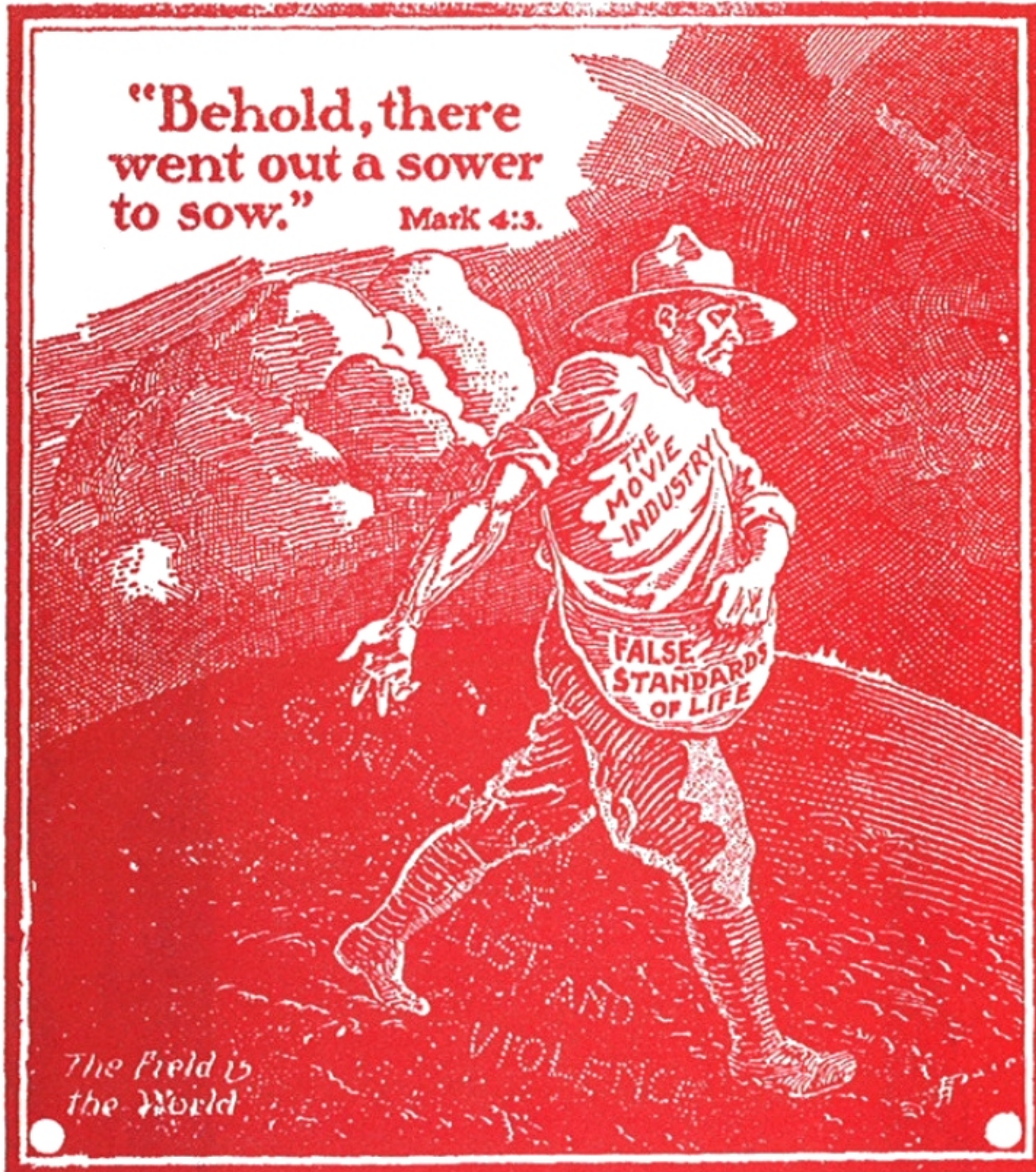
Number 7



Hope thou in  
God:  
for I shall yet  
praise him, who  
is the health of  
my countenance,  
and my God.  
PSALM 42:11

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**BUT WHAT OF THE HARVEST?**

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Editor: Gene Hawkins



***“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:37-39***

***“They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” Luke 17:27-30***

Two very prominent signs of Jesus' coming are brought forth in these verses and it is rather interesting that they are repeatedly linked together. Both Matthew and Luke set forth the atmosphere of "...eating and drinking..." along with "...marrying and giving in marriage..." Eating is portrayed in scripture as a time of fellowship. There are good fellowships such as that seen in Jesus' desire to eat the Passover feast with His disciples before He departed out of this world. There are also many other times in scripture when God presents somewhat of a banquet atmosphere wherein He would commune with His own people.

But feasting also has a negative connotation as witnessed in Daniel when Belshazzar held a feast using vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem. King Ahasuerus likewise held such a feast in the book of Esther, which has been described by many as a drunken orgy. The thought of eating and drinking also goes far beyond the literal consumption of food and drink. It speaks of man's obsession to gratify his own fleshly lusts and appetites at any cost.

Such feasting not only depicts the great "party atmosphere," which is so very prevalent in our day, but can also set forth a religious tone, as seen in Ex. 32:6. "And they rose

up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.” This is the scene following Aaron’s fashioning of the golden calf, with the subsequent announcement that “... These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” V. 4 Paul quoted this passage when he wrote to the Corinthians warning them of idolatry. “Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” I Cor. 10:7

4 Many have concluded that the end time sign of “... marrying and giving in marriage,...” is surely a reference to the rampant gay marriage which prevails world-wide today. The little word “likewise,” which Luke uses to describe the conditions in the days of Lot, indicates that the eating, and drinking, along with marrying and giving in marriage was also dominant in Sodom. Jude, who also describes conditions in the end time, calls the practice of the latter as “...giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh,...” Jude 7 America recently witnessed this same party atmosphere, as men were literally “dancing in the streets,” when laws were passed legalizing same sex marriage. She also experienced the most horrific tragedy since 911 when the gay bar in Orlando, Florida was attacked by radical Jihadist Omar Mateen who shot more than 100 people, killing 49 of them. This is simply one more example of the horrific, perilous or violent, times prophesied by scripture, and the reality is that such events have actually become the new “norm” both for this country and the entire world. Such happenings have become commonplace and are in no wise isolated events.

The aforementioned religious tenor of eating and drinking is also clearly seen in the world today. This too is one part of the perilous times which Paul described in II Tim. 3 where men are described as “... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:...” V. 5 Religious Jihad, or holy war, is clearly manifest in the Orlando massacre which surely did turn a party atmosphere of self gratification into absolute tragedy and destruction. Islam seems determined to rid the world of the infidel and his forbidden practices.

But there also seems to be another direct example of those who “...offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”

It happened in Turkey where the headline reads: "Turkey's Jews Host Ramadan Iftar at Restored Synagogue." Wikipedia defines Ramadan as "the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad." This article from Haaretz News goes on to report that "Turkey's Jewish community is using the occasion of Ramadan to highlight unity with the Muslim faith by hosting an outdoor iftar (fast-breaking meal) at a synagogue in Edirne,... The feast was held outside the Great Edirne Synagogue, recently restored by the government, which stands in remembrance of the Jewish community that was forced from the city during the Thrace pogroms of the 1930s.

Just one Jewish family now resides in Edirne, but the event drew many from outside the city, including religious and political representatives such as Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva and a Muslim mufti from Greece's Komotini."

Religion has become paramount in our world, but as Paul has described, men are guilty of having only "...a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Islamic teaching claims the power of God or Allah as they execute vengeance around the world, but they are in no wise in harmony with God Who has unequivocally declared "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Rom. 12:19 The Apostle John has also clearly declared that any religion which denies Jesus is not of God. "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I John 4:2 There is a virtual multitude of religions, throughout this entire world, that deny Christ. John emphatically declares that they are NOT OF GOD, and calls them antichrist. The feast of the Jews in Turkey means nothing to God. Those in Exodus went through the motions of offering sacrifices that had originally been ordained by God, but it had deteriorated to only an empty ritual wherein their eating and drinking simply gave way to a religious party. Men simply do not seem to understand that the only fellowship God has ordained centers around His Son Jesus Christ. It is clear that the feast in

Turkey was politically motivated, and could only be described as a profession of godliness without the power of the cross to back it up. Never did God tell men to join in fellowship, eating and drinking, with those who deny His Son, but that is exactly what those who feasted during the Muslim Ramadan were doing.

The account in Exodus 32 of the people feasting and attributing their deliverance from Egypt to the golden calf which they had made, ended in judgment as "...there fell of the people that day about three thousand men." Ex. 32:28 It is also quite clear that judgment FROM GOD was poured out in the days of Noah, and of Sodom and Gomorrah. Scripture is also extremely clear that, despite all his great morality, and assertions to his own righteous and religious acts, unrepentant men will yet be judged because of their ungodly religious fellowships and deeds. The direct sequel to the scenario of "...eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, ... in the days of Noah suddenly gives way to severe punishment for they "... knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:39 Then follows the destruction which is yet to come at Jesus' second advent. "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matt. 24:40-41 Many of our day often use these verses to describe "the rapture" when Jesus will come and take the Church away to heaven. However, the timeline of these events occurs well after the whole Church has already arrived in glory, for the middle of the week is already past when the antichrist will set up his image in the temple. Matt. 24:15 Not only so, but the taking away here **does not mean** that one is taken to glory. Verse 39 plainly tells us that those in Noah's day were "taken away," by the flood waters of judgment. They did not depart for heaven! Likewise the one "... in the field,..." which was "... taken away..." in like manner as those in Noah's day, will not be taken to heaven, but will be taken away in death and destruction. The one who is left, will be left to live another day and enjoy life here on the earth in the millennium, which will begin immediately after the tribulation of those days. The same thing is true of the two women of V. 41. The one taken away is taken in judgment.

God will judge that spirit of antichrist which is manifest in all these religions which deny His Son Jesus Christ! Paul declares

plainly that "... if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." Heb. 10:26-27 The word "we" is a reference to all of humanity, and the gross infraction attributed to those who will experience God's "fiery indignation," is that they wilfully reject Christ. When they do that, God concludes that "... there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,..." There is no other way of escape outside of believing on Him, Who has offered the only sacrifice that God will ever accept for sin. All religions of this world which refuse to accept, "...that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist,..." Those who possess that spirit will most assuredly experience the judgment described in Matt. 24.

Many may think that the massacre in Orlando is an example of God's judgment upon the ungodly homosexual practices that have been legalized in this nation, but that surely cannot be. He will pour out His wrath against all unrighteousness, but that day has not fully arrived. John 5:27 plainly declares the fact that God "... hath given him (Christ) authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." However, Jesus has not taken His throne at this time and all the judgment that He will pour out upon this world is still pending. We are so very close to the end of this grace age, but it is not over yet.

Scripture does present a precedent for tragedy like unto that in Orlando. Contrary to the thinking of many, some of those who perished or were severely wounded may indeed be Christians. Jesus uses some tragic events which happened in His own tenure upon this earth, to warn men against their rush to judgment in matters such as this. "There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:1-5

Rather than focusing on the sins of others, Jesus advises

men to turn the spot light upon themselves, in an effort to correct that which is lacking in their own lives. Luke 21 records much the same overall message of the end time as that found in Matt. 24 and verse 22 plainly asserts "... these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." The wrath of God will be poured out upon this little earth ball as prophesied in scripture but, according to the words of Jesus, it is imperative that rather than trying to ascribe retribution to others, now is the time to "... take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Lu 21:34-36

8

A careful study of this portion reveals that it covers the time of tribulation from beginning to end. Matthew defines the days in which we live as "... the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24:8 The fig tree or nation of Israel becomes the primary subject later in the tribulation when this nation is restored and the summer of God's Kingdom will appear. Luke 21:29-31 The present day instruction for us is "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass,..." V. 36 While this verse will surely apply to Israel at the end of the tribulation period, the apostle Paul relays the same message to the Church in the beginning of that time. "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night... then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, ... Ye are all the children of light, ... Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch** and be sober.... For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," I Thess. 5:1-9 The wrath from which He would save us is that of the tribulation.

We are currently in the early throes of tribulation known as the aforementioned "beginning of sorrows." Tragic incidents such as those in Orlando, San Bernadino, Ft. Hood, and the theatre debacle in Colorado, will continue to occur, despite loud



outcries for more gun control. The problem is not in weapons, but in the wicked hearts of men, and thus these tragedies will escalate unimpeded until Jesus puts a stop to it. Terrorist organizations with their downed airliners, subway and suicide bombings will not be eliminated, for they will continue their mayhem well into the tribulation period. Political rhetoric promising greatness for America or any other country around the world is but a myth. Erratic weather patterns which bring floods, drought, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and all manner of other pestilence will not improve. Man and all creation are in rebellion against God. It would be easy to become obsessed and extremely discouraged with all these horrendous happenings, reported daily by various news media, but as Christians, we must follow the counsel of both Jesus and the apostle Paul. Today is the day wherein we must **“Watch... and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass,...”** To pray is to keep our eyes and total attention focused on Him, and the glorious prize of getting out of this world before the fullness of tragedy arrives. This was, and continues to be, the promise to the Church at Philadelphia. **“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 Rather than being suffocated by all the things which are around us, or trying to make a difference and change that which has already been prophesied, let us concentrate on surrendering our lives to The Lord in order to make us ready to be caught out of this world **BEFORE** the wrath of the tribulation is poured out. Let us comfort and encourage one another with a hope such as this!

### Changed By Beholding

As we gaze on His glory we shall understand the greatness of the love of the Savior in a way we have never done before, and the greatness of the mighty stoop He made when He became man. As we look, we are transformed into the same image and become more Christ-like. We do not become like Him by effort, purpose of heart, or even by an act of faith – **only by looking.** As the Holy Spirit occupies us with Him, we become transformed from glory to glory.” **But we must be occupied with Him.** Just as the mirror never struggles to reflect; so our hearts must be in the right position --- then the reflection will be clear. II Cor. 3:18

## *The Power of Christ*

William Felicy

“And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.” Luke 13:11

Here is a dreadful picture of Satan's power to hold a human body in subjection to his cruel will. It shows that the flesh has no power in itself to overcome the devil; therefore, there is only one hope for those who are bound, and that is the power of God. The flesh, even in its healthy state and with a strong will, is not capable of withstanding Satan.

10 Notice, that the woman was bound with a spirit, that is, a spirit of infirmity. Many years that spirit held her in its grip. The same thing may be said of many today. Although they may not be bowed over as that woman was, yet they bow to the will of self, whose fleshly appetites are kept alive and stimulated by yielding to Satan and not to God. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6:16 Thus we are warned against walking after the flesh. "For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:8 Sowing to the flesh and becoming servant to its wants paves the way for Satan to bind such, which then can be loosed only by divine power. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high (heavenly) places." Eph. 6:12

This is why we are told to fight the good fight of faith; for faith is the Christian warrior's shield. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith in God and His Word. It is not said that the woman sinned, though sickness is the result of the fall of Adam and his sin. Hence, sickness and death pass upon all men. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." But as Christ heard the cry of faith and healed people in His life time on earth, so He does today; for it is written — "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." Heb. 13:8

### **He Sees Man's Need**

The beautiful part of this story is that Jesus saw the woman's dire need. That speaks to us of the fact that He sees the great distress of all

people and stands nearby to relieve everyone. But the sad part is that many do not feel the need of Christ for themselves. They turn to broken reeds for help, everything else but to Christ. Man must realize his deep need and limitations and the insufficiency of human aid before he can be helped of God. The Lord cannot help the strong and sufficient. Men should feel as David did when he cried, "Bow down thine ear; oh Lord, hear me, for I am poor and needy." Psa. 86:1 David, the mightiest king of Israel had a powerful army by his side and great resources of gold and treasures, yet felt his need of God. He had learned that God was his strength and success. It was he who also said to his own soul, speaking of God's blessings, "Forget not His benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things." Psa. 103:2-5 Thus we see why God's blessings were upon him.

God is not partial. He is no respecter of persons. He looks not upon the outward appearance of the flesh: but He is ever present to help the needy who cry unto Him. He does pay His respects to all those who call upon Him in faith. He stands with ears open to the cry of faith; for faith pleases Him and He delights in them that trust Him. Seeing the woman's critical condition, "**Jesus Called Her**, saying, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity." But the call was not confined to her need and time. It has been sounding forth from that time till the present. God is still calling people, not thru the veil of Jesus' flesh; for we know Him no more after the flesh; but He calls them by His Holy Spirit thru His own people. The Gospel is God's instrument thru which He speaks to men; and the saints are His witnesses. As it is written, "Whereunto He called you by our Gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." II Thess. 2:14. And it is also written, "It pleased God, by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:21.

Preaching, in a simple term, is putting forth the Gospel in words. Gospel means good news; so when Jesus called the afflicted woman, He had good news for her. And He has good news for all. Such was the song and message of the angel at the birth of our Lord. "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The mighty Deliverer had come, the One who should loose men from sin; that which caused sickness,

pain, tears, sorrow and broken hearts. He came, not only with power to deliver men; but He went forth among them. He did not wait till they came to Him; but He went after them to call them to Himself and to reveal to them God's love. "For the grace of God, that bringeth salvation, hath appeared unto all men, teaching them, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, they should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." Tit. 2:11. It was grace that appeared to that woman and loosed her from her infirmity. Jesus showed grace to the fettered woman and displayed it thus to others.

12 Notice that the Lord said nothing to her of her past life, or concerning herself. He simply announced to her that she was loosed. Nothing did she do to merit such great favor. No, she could do nothing but accept God's mercy. How true is this of everyone today. What can poor, frail flesh do to win the favor of Him who framed the world (the ages) and flung the stars out into space, who commands the sea and shakes the earth with His voice? "Oh, the depths of the riches, both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out." Rom. 11:33. Truly, if it were not for His grace, none would be saved, or healed; "for by grace are ye saved thru faith, and that not of yourselves ; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8, 9

We find in this narrative, that the purpose of Christ's coming was to destroy the works of Satan. This agrees with the first Scripture text from which Jesus Christ preached. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed, me to preach the Gospel to the poor (those who feel their unworthiness and need before God). He has sent me to heal the broken hearted (bind them up and fill them with joy and praise) ; to preach deliverance to the captives (the prisoners of sin), and recovering of sight to the blind (spiritual blindness as well as physical) ; to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18 Jesus did all that the text claims of Him, and that by the power of the Spirit of God. What is needed in most places is an assembly of people who have heeded the command —"Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts unto the Lord." Eph. 5:18, 19

"And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God." He not only touched the flesh with healing power; but He laid hold of the evil spirit that bound her those eighteen years, and cast it out. Thus, she was actually set free. All human help and skill had failed, until almost in despair she had given

up hope. It is only at that point where God can help some people, when they are completely shut up to faith in God; for all human help has failed. He must let folks get to the end of themselves before He steps in and shows His hand. The writer himself was brought to that place when his body was in the grip of disease. It was then that God heard his cry and healed him. When the power of God takes hold, all else must let go. Christ looks for faith and always rewards faith. We hear Him saying, "Believest thou that I can do this?" "As your faith is, so be it done unto you." "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." "Whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." God looks for faith in those that come to Him. "Commit thyself unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass." The hands of the Lord are still full of power and He is willing to heal. Sometimes some unconfessed sin delays the answer; hence, James said, "If he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven." God sometimes uses the chastening rod of sickness to soften the will and induce humility. John said, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." I John 3:21.

13

**"And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation,** because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day." When God's power is present, the devil always has someone to oppose. The sad part is that he uses religious men for the occasion, those to whom the people look as authorities on God's Word. Nevertheless, that burst of anger was soon quieted by the Lord, who exposed the real character of the ruler's heart; for He called him a hypocrite. He did not complain when his ox, or ass was led to water on the sabbath, which took much more time than to heal the afflicted woman. (They brought in the money.) But he would hinder the people from receiving lasting good, and prevent Jesus from being honored and glorified. Satan was always bitterly opposed to Jesus Christ; for he knew that someday his kingdom would topple and fall forever at Jesus' hands.

How sad it is that many religious rulers today play in Satan's hands. Many have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof and turn the thoughts of the people against the real Gospel and the supernatural. They deny that God is still doing business in the same old way. Beloved, be not influenced by them. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." He says, "I am the

same; I change not." Heed not the criticism of unbelief. Search the Scriptures, and faith will spring up in your heart. Selfish men use the Word of God deceitfully, which hinders the progress of the saints. "The preaching of the cross is to them that are perishing foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God." I Cor. 1:18. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name, they shall cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mk. 16:17, 18.

### He Did – He Can – He Will

The God that stopped the sun on high,  
And sent the manna from the sky.  
Laid flat the walls of Jericho,  
And put to flight old Israel's foe.  
Why can't He answer prayer today,  
And drive each stormy cloud away?

14

Who turned the water into wine  
And healed a helpless cripple's spine.  
Commanded tempest, "Peace be still,"  
And hungry multitudes did fill,  
His power is just the same today,  
So why not labor, watch and pray?

He conquered in the lion's den,  
Brought Lazarus back to life again.

He heard Elijah's cry for rain,  
And freed the sufferers from pain.  
If He could do those wonders then,  
Let's prove our Mighty God again.

Why can't the God Who raised the dead,  
Gave little David, Goliath's head,  
Cast out the demons with a word,  
Yet sees the fall of one wee bird,  
Do signs and miracles today,  
In that same good old-fashioned way?  
HE CAN. He's just the same today.

Martin Luther

## **“OTHERS MAY— YOU CANNOT”**

**“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” Eph. 5:10,11**

The Apostle admonishes us to pray for all the saints; but he does not tell us to endorse everything that they teach. It is not wise to have fellowship with error, nor condone it. Loyalty to God and to His Truth often compels us to be separated from other folk. If we can receive no help from them and are not permitted to help them, why try to have fellowship with them? Time is too valuable to be wasted. Why indulge in a make-believe fellowship? Over thirty years ago, the following timely heart talk by George D. Watson, fell into my hands. It was such a comfort to me that I pasted it on the fly-leaf of my Bible. May it be a comfort to other "strait-and-narrow-way" travelers.

"If God has called you to be really like Jesus He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other people do things which He will not let you do. Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent."

"Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their success, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works."

"The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and then make your reward ten

times greater when Jesus comes."

"The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love-slave, He will wrap you in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle."

"Settle it forever then, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue or chaining your hand or closing your eyes in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven."

16

### Faith's Answer

I cannot tell what shall betide  
My feeble barque, as it doth glide  
Along the shore of life so drear,  
With danger signals ever near.  
Yet, of one fact, I'm very sure,  
I shall not faint, but shall endure,  
For God, Who guided yester-year  
Shall comfort and dispel all fear.

I cannot tell if Satan's ire  
Shall rise against me as hot fire,  
Or whether men shall mock and jeer,  
And friend forsake this passing year.  
Yet, I will trust my Savior, Friend,  
Who promised His great Arm to lend,  
And hold me up on rugged way,  
To keep and bless to endless day.



## *Comfort Food*

(These verses were compiled and submitted by Martha Wainright. They are texts to which she has been “clinging,” due to her own varied experiences.)

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. Luke 4:4

The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. Nah. 1:7

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Heb. 13:8

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Rom. 12:12

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. John 15:9

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. Psa. 147:3

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Psa. 50:15

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jer. 33:3

But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. Psa. 3:3

For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Psa. 139:2

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Isa. 41:13

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. I Thess. 4:16

# REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” Luke 18:1

18 We are not always given the reason for which Jesus spoke certain parables, but He proclaimed this one to the intent “...that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” The overriding theme of these words teaches persistence as the unjust judge granted the desire of the widow “...lest by her continual coming she weary me.” V. 5 Though God does not avenge His Own for selfish reasons as did the unjust judge, He is most assuredly entreated by those “... which cry day and night unto him,...” God is honored by those who are persistent in seeking Him. Jesus then asks the question; “... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” This is surely a reference to our day and bespeaks the fact that God is not only looking for those who continually seek Him, but also those who cry out to Him in faith, even in the midst of excruciating circumstance. These are days when it would be easy to simply “faint,” or to be weak and weary in heart, but we must surely be men like unto Elijah, the man whom James had in mind when he wrote that, “... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Jas. 5:16 Elijah did pray earnestly and continually, and we know from the account in I Kings 18 that such prayer was tremendously effective because he prayed in harmony with God’s purposes, as James states in V. 17-18

Solomon likewise sets forth some glorious principles of urgent and persistent prayer, focusing attention on God’s sanctuary as he prayed earnestly, “That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. I Kings 8:29 Verse 33-34 convey that same persistent appeal for Divine Grace, even despite wrongdoing. “When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, ... and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: Then hear thou in heaven,

and forgive the sin of thy people Israel,..."

Solomon also claimed this same glorious grace for us, "... a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, ... (For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house;" V. 41-42

Praying toward this place is in reality the throne of grace, and would be effectual even during captivity. "If they sin against thee, ... and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives ... Yet if they shall bethink themselves **in the land** ... and repent, ... and pray unto thee toward their land, ... Then hear thou their prayer ... in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, ..." V. 46-49 Daniel did exactly that while he was held captive in Babylon and prayed, even contrary to the decree of the king, when "... he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber **toward Jerusalem**, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, **as he did aforetime.**" The prayer of Daniel was one of constant habit and despite the consequences of the lion's den, he too proved that "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Jas. 5:16

19

Our primary goal must be that Jesus' question "...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" be answered affirmatively in our lives.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Labor Day Fellowship Meeting  
Sept. 3-4, 2016

Services will be held at Gospel Fellowship in Grandview, Missouri. Meals and Lodging will be provided. Please contact us for reservations if you need housing accommodations.

Phone # 816-618-3306

E-mail: [gjhawk1@msn.com](mailto:gjhawk1@msn.com)

We look forward to a glorious time of fellowship with God's People as we feast around the table of God's Word, looking earnestly for the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ!

# The Good Shepherd

Norman Luckan

*“But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.... I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.” John 10:2,3,14*

These verses introduce us to the Good Shepherd, Whom God desires us to follow, from the time we are born again until we appear with Him in glory. He is our Shepherd and we never outgrow our need of Him in that regard. He has a purpose to lead us from the new birth into the very heavenlies, and then into eternity. There is one great passage of six verses in scripture which beautifully defines Jesus as The Shepherd. We would note here in John that He does know us by name, but what does He want to work in our lives? He surely does want us to know Him as The Shepherd. He wants a relationship with us. We also must desire to know Him.

20 What can we really expect in knowing the Shepherd? The word *know* means to know absolutely in a great variety of applications, in all circumstances of our lives. God would have us to know this Shepherd, and to develop a relationship with Him. The degree to which we know Him really depends on us. He is faithful to lead, but will we be faithful to follow?

Psalm 23 contains the aforementioned six verses which describe how we are to know The Shepherd. It was written by David, who did follow Him and these words are a summation of his own experience. He begins with “The Lord is *my* shepherd, I shall not want.” V. 1 Each one of us must also say that “He’s *my* shepherd.” We must claim Him as The Shepherd, and we must be willing to follow, rather than to try and lead Him. Our journey begins with the new birth, and will continue into eternity, as we follow the shepherd. We claim Him as “... *my* shepherd...” which leads to... “I shall not want,” or I shall have no lack. We become confident that He will supply everything I need; we know Him as our source and supply. He is our Protector. He takes care of every need that comes our way, and we soon discover that, “He maketh me to lie down,...” When does it happen, that we actually become the sheep of His pasture? As that newborn lamb, when we are born again.

We know Him as our Shepherd even then, but Jesus wants us to know Him to a far greater degree. When I read years ago as a new Christian, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures," I noticed that it says, "...he *maketh* me..." He doesn't lead me. He just says "Take a seat." And I think that's what He did for me as - baby Norman - a new creature in Christ. He leads me right to those green pastures, but Jesus is doing a little bit more than just leading. He's making us to lie down in green pastures, just the same as parents in the natural make decisions for their children. Some eighty years ago when I was just a little boy, I had a Mom and Daddy, but I didn't know them. They still took care of me. And that's what Jesus did when I was that little baby. He fed me and He made "...me to lie down... in green pastures." There isn't anything a sheep likes more than that tender grass. They'll just stay there and grow fat. And that's what we would do if we did things on our own. We might say, "Lord, this is paradise! I'll just stay here forever; I'll set up camp in these green pastures." We could grow spiritually fat here! Really! God, surely You're just going to put me on that little cloud, and carry me around very tenderly. "Don't let anything bad ever happen to Norm! That's what we like, isn't it? However, we would not know the Shepherd in His entirety if He were just like our parents taking care of us.

21

He leadeth me beside the still waters; He makes me to lie down in those green pastures, and then He leadeth me beside "... *still* waters." Peace and comfort, with no turmoil or storms. This is again where I want to stay forever! This is heaven on earth. I remember years ago when I was struggling along, and felt pressure, like "Norman, you've got to make this decision, right now." It was as if somebody were trying to drive me in a certain direction, and the Lord spoke to my heart at that time and said, "You don't drive sheep; you lead sheep." I thought, "Well, who's been driving me?" We know that the one who tries to drive sheep is Satan himself. The True Shepherd leads His sheep, and I found that He did give me such a peace in knowing where the source of this driving came from.

I was raised on a farm, and we never had sheep, and I'm kind of thankful for that. But we had cattle, and I knew one thing; you don't lead cattle, you drive them. You must force them, but Jesus emphasized the fact that He leads the sheep. What does that

mean to me? I must learn to follow Him. If we are led of the Holy Spirit, that means that old Norm must follow Him.

22 I can remember back when I was in the Navy, my buddy and I rode his motor scooter up almost to the top of Mt. Vesuvius in Naples, and we then walked the rest of the way. It is just a big old hole in the ground, and maybe a mile all the way around it. There was a guide who would lead us around that site for a little bit of pocket change, and I think of the Holy Spirit like that. Larry Stark and I chipped in and gave this guide a bit of money, and we walked around a pathway on this volcano. It wasn't spewing out like they are on Hawaii, but it was hot. And he led us down a path deep inside the thing. We had to deal with hot air coming out of that mountain, just like a blow torch. He put some sticks down there and pretty soon they were burning. It is somewhat like that with the truth of God's Word. Christians can stumble around, like we would have done if we had told the guide, "No, we'll do it on our own." I have done that many times, but God gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth, and yet there are many people who will not even accept that infilling. They surely will find some truth, but why not get the guide? He knows where everything is, both in the spiritual and the natural. It is imperative that we follow the Holy Spirit, and The Shepherd, for He has a purpose for His sheep, and will lead us to the next step.

"He restoreth my soul:..." When I accepted Jesus, my spirit was born again, but what about my soul? That is the old personality where love, hate and affections are. We are all unique in this area but God would have us to be Christ-like. Thus, The Shepherd "... restoreth my soul." He will eventually change the body, but changing my soul will take a lot of time and trials. We are His workmanship and according to II Cor. 3:18 "... we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." We surely do come to know our Shepherd.

He restoreth my soul, and then: "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." The Shepherd would lead us in the path He has already travelled, but is He doing it for my sake? No, for His name's sake. I used to have trouble with that term, "for his name's sake," because I thought "God, I need all the help I can get." Why is it for Your sake? It needs to be for me!" But He has a stake in our lives, too; He has redeemed us, and owns us. We are

a part of His inheritance. We are His glory - the new creation. He leads us in the same path that He has already trod.

The next part of our journey is a difficult one! "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." I read this years ago, and tried to figure out what the "shadow of death" might mean to me. When I think of a valley, I think of the mountains in the Salt Lake Valley, a pleasant valley flat and spread out with lush grass. However, Strong's Concordance defines the word *valley* as a gorge with narrow and deep walls. It is almost like you cannot get out of it, a place where you would not want to dwell. Herein we find the shadow of death. It is not a pleasant place, but these are the steps leading to the knowledge of Christ. It is here, according to verse 5, that "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Wow, what does that mean? He brings us out of the lush, green pastures, and the still waters, "... through the valley of the shadow of death..." Here we are now fed and sustained with something different. What is this table that is now spread out before us? It is the easiest question we could have, for this is Paul's gospel prepared for us even in the presence of these wolves in sheep's clothing lurking around us. There must come a time when we outgrow the green grass and the still waters, to partake of the meat of the word represented by the valley of the shadow of death. What are we going to eat out of Paul's Gospel? Will we pick and choose that which is convenient? I am reminded of a brother in my earlier experience who suggested that I go to Grace and Glory Bible School. He said "You can take what you want and leave the rest," which is what he did. That is not the way to approach God's table, though there was such a time in my life. If God said, "Norman, you're going to walk through the valley of the shadow of death," I would have said, "No, I want the green pastures; I want the still waters, I don't want any trouble." I observed Christians who seemed to have no problems, yet I was going through terrific difficulties, and thought I was doing something wrong. Then one fellow quoted from Paul's gospel, declaring that "... they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." II Cor. 10:12 What a load off of old Norm's back! No longer was I comparing myself with so-and-so. I had the Word of God. I went to Grace and Glory back in January of 1972, and

Brother Gene was my first teacher. I thought, "Where did this guy go to school?" It all just made sense to me. Wait till I get the word out; we'll fill this place up." That did not happen. I was attending a certain Church and they encouraged me to leave. We have these times, wherein God prepares us to feed on His Word in the presence of our enemies. We feast on the Gospel right here in Satan's domain. He is the prince and power of the air but we do not worry about him. Jesus is our Shepherd, and "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." That begins even now as we feast on His Word, but what will it be in eternity?

24 The whole goal of our lives is to know Christ. We look into the perfect law of liberty and see Christ, which has a wonderful effect. It metamorphoses us; it changes us. We are here today, looking into that perfect law of liberty, which brings true freedom. There is no Mosaic Law, no Ten Commandments. I heard a famous evangelist make this statement recently, "Now, Jesus took the law and He nailed it to His cross, but the Ten Commandments are not part of the law." He surely knew better than that! Does he not know that Moses came off the mountain carrying the two tables of stone? He knew that, but he wanted to please the people. How many would he have lost had he preached the grace of God?

Let us consider a bit more about walking through the valley. Jesus said to His disciples, "Except you take up your cross daily and follow Me, you cannot be my disciples." I read that text years ago and said, "I'm sure glad that was then, and not now. Surely God doesn't want me to take up my cross now." But suffering is not new. The cross we take up is ours. Though we are not forced to receive it, and it in no wise provides redemption, as did His, God will use it to bring forth His purposes in our lives, something that cannot be accomplished any other way.

Paul describes this pattern in Philippians 3:8. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss;..." Why? "... for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Knowing Him is still the object of our lives. When I was that little lamb, I knew Him as my Shepherd. But there must come a time of advanced learning when we attain to "... the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus..." Some might think that just memorizing scripture provides this path, but does that produce knowledge in the heart? There are some things that God really



has to teach us by experience, as Paul expresses here. Only the Bride of Christ will have this excellency of knowledge. I have many acquaintances who may know me in varying degrees, but none knows me better than my wife Barbara. So also the wife of The Lamb will truly know Him. The marriage relationship is the most intimate of any human experience, and the Bride of Christ will have that excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Her knowledge will far exceed that of a little lamb just beginning the journey. The thief who hung on the cross beside Jesus was such a lamb, and he was in paradise the same day that Jesus was. He will certainly never utter a complaint about being where he's at, but he's not going to have the same excellency of the knowledge of Jesus that the Apostle Paul had. Paul knew Jesus in such a way that he would later say, "Follow me as I follow the shepherd." We also must follow the Shepherd into the valley of the shadow of death to gain this same excellency of knowledge.

Paul continues: "... for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law..." (including the ten commandments) V. 8-9 The law did produce a righteousness, but Paul counted it refuse, because he wanted the righteousness "which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Paul sought after this excellency of knowledge, and with it came righteousness which is a free gift. Such knowledge continues in V. 10. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection..." I read that years ago, and said, "Lord, I want to know the power of His resurrection..." We do not have to understand it; just ask for it. There are things I have asked for, and then said, "Lord, forget I asked," when the going got tough. I've made some commitments in my life, and tried to make excuses to get out of them, but He didn't change His mind. Praise God! He held me to that commitment, and never gave me liberty to go my own way.

Such experiences lead to knowing Him "... in the power of his resurrection,..." for they bring us into "... the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." This is the "... walk through the valley of the shadow of death," when God begins to bring that excellency of the knowledge of Jesus into our being. We do not actually die, for it is only a shadow; as near as we can get to it.

Paul brought this bridal message to the Philippians, but he also presented it in Corinth. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." II Corinthians 4:6 God would have us know what it's all about; He shined in our hearts when He put "... this treasure in earthen vessels." V. 7

26 What is that treasure? The light of the knowledge of God. It is a treasure to us, and when we come to know the Shepherd in that degree, He becomes a treasure housed in this old, earthen, fragile, patched up body. Why would God put such a treasure in such a fragile vessel? I wouldn't have done that. I would have put it in something glorious, but God has chosen this vessel for a reason: "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." God brings the two together. He brings that excellency of the power to us, to bring forth the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord; our Shepherd. That is what God wants to do with every Christian. He would bring us all through the valley of the shadow of death, and verse 8 defines the experience. "We are troubled on every side,..." meaning that we are "crowded, afflicted, with much pressure." Most of us have been there, but Paul does not leave us in this state, for despite the difficulty, we are "... not distressed." We are not "cramped," and we can still get through this. We may also be "... perplexed..." or at a loss mentally, crying out to the Lord, "I don't know what to do, Lord; I don't know how to get out of this valley. It's steep, it's narrow; there might even be a storm coming." But notice, we are "... not in despair." We are not utterly at a loss, or disheartened. We may also be "... persecuted..." but we are in no wise "... forsaken..." God doesn't leave us behind somewhere. Yea, we are cast down, lying flat on our backs, can't go any farther, but not destroyed. This is our journey through the valley of the shadow of death, wherein God would bring forth "... the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus..." as is essentially stated in V. 10. "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." Such words are in perfect agreement with same truth we saw in Phil. 3:10. "Always bearing about in the body,..." this old earthen vessel "... the dying of the Lord Jesus..." We are subject to death, just a shadow, but note why; "... that the life also of Jesus might be made

manifest in our body.” This is why Jesus said, “Take up your cross daily...” Be willing to take it and go through the valley, because God wants to manifest that treasure through resurrection power, that excellency of the power that raised Christ from the dead. The Apostle further explains that “... we which live are always” (all the time) “delivered unto death,...” for our sake? No! “... for Jesus’ sake.” God would manifest the glory, the knowledge of Christ Jesus in our lives.

These benefits are wonderful, but keep in mind that we have a feast set before us, for “... thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...” I thank God that He purposes to work that excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus in us.

(This message was given at the annual fellowship meeting in Carbondale, Kansas. It has been transcribed from an audio CD and edited for print.)

### The Soul Winner’s Secret

There is no field without a seed,  
Life raised thru death, is life indeed.  
The smallest, lowliest little flower  
A secret is, of mighty power.

To die it lives --- buried to rise ---  
Abundant life thru sacrifice.  
Would’st thou know gain? It is thru loss.  
Thou cans’t not save but by the Cross.

A corn of wheat, except it die,  
Can never, never multiply.  
The glorious fields of waving gold,  
Thru death are life a hundred-fold.  
Thou who for souls, dost weep and pray,  
Let not hell’s legions thee dismay –  
This the way of ways for thee,  
The way of certain victory.

M. Warburton Booth.

# *A Stern Command*

Author Unknown

## **"... Let My People go..." Ex. 5:1-12**

This was the demand of the Lord to Pharaoh who held Israel in bondage. Seven times it was repeated, three reasons being given as to why they should be liberated. The first: "Let my people go that they may hold a feast unto Me." Chap. 5:1.

28 We cannot feast with the Lord in Egypt. It is only as redeemed and saved that we can sit down in His presence and enjoy His fellowship. We are called into such a place of privilege by the fact of redemption. God would have us to show our gratitude and appreciation of His grace and love by holding a feast unto Him. At such a feast, we should not be occupied with ourselves, our blessings, or benefits: for this lowers the standard of true worship. We are to rejoice in the blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus, that is true; but there is a higher note to a feast unto the Lord than even this --- that is, occupation with the worthiness of the Lamb and His preciousness and personal worth to the Father. Our hearts are thus constrained to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Our feast then is not with "the old leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth," and we are in the spirit of the future worship of heaven where the multitude ascribe all glory and honor to the Lamb-Rev. 4 and 5.

The second reason offered for the command to Pharaoh was, "Let My people go that they may sacrifice unto Me." Chap. 5:3. Redemption has purchased us for the Lord. We are to yield in spirit, soul and body to our Master. We do not belong to ourselves any longer, so that any sacrifice that we make is only our reasonable service. As David declares, "A broken and a contrite spirit, O God, Thou wilt not despise"- Psa. 51:17. There are sacrifices of joy, sacrifices of thanksgiving, sacrifices of praise which we are called to make- Psa. 27:6 and 107:22 and Heb. 13:10. And this is on the ground of redemption. We must be out of Egypt for such sacrifice.

The third reason given Pharaoh follows, "Let My people go that they may serve Me." Folk cannot serve God while in Egypt; that is, as identified with the old creation. Men may imagine that they are serving God because they are humanitarians, or kind-hearted and help the poor, or their church; but this is far off from the standard. When we know something of what it means to go

inside the veil and worship as priests, offering up spiritual sacrifices through Jesus Christ our Great High-Priest, we will be divinely equipped to go forth without the camp to serve even as Christ served, as sons of God.

In Old Testament times, there were three kinds of servants, or bond-slaves; those taken captive in war, those who, because of poverty, sold themselves to satisfy the demands of their creditors, and others who became slaves by choice and had their ear bored through with an awl. Thus, they signified that they would love and serve their Master forever. The latter figures the perfect Servant, Christ. He had His ear opened, or bored (Psa. 40: 6), so that morning by morning, He was awakened to hear as the Learner, that He might know what His Father wanted of Him each day, where and how He should serve. Isa. 50:4,5 It was His delight to do His Father's will and pleasure. And we, as identified with Him, are saved to serve; but we need to have our ear nailed to the door of our Master's house to get instructions daily. Also to have the tongue of the learned that we may speak words in season and out of season to them that are weary. Then our service will be even as was Christ's effectual service. We are thus free men, yet bond-slaves. I Cor. 9:19.

29

### **Do You Believe This Check Is Any Good?**

The Lord Jesus Christ our High Priest, bears our names in His heart as He sits at the right hand of God in the heavens, having "... entered in ONCE (for all) into the holy place into the presence of God, having obtained ETERNAL REDEMPTION for us." Heb 9: 11, 12

"He continueth ever...Wherefore HE IS ABLE also to save them to the uttermost (and higher most) all that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:24,25  
"... this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister... of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Heb. 8:1,2.

C.H. Smith

# Leprosy Of The Head

*Paul N. Smith*

“Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah...and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem..... and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did...But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction; for he went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.” II Chronicles 26

**30** The story of Uzziah is a familiar one in the Bible, as well as in real life in our time. He was just a teenager when he was given responsibility to rule the nation of Judah, and evidently he carried on as his father would have done. He fought against the Philistines, was held in esteem by the Ammonites and his name became famous throughout the world. He built up his armed forces, built towers and fortifications and had a high approval rating.

However, there was a wicked king reigning over the ten tribes, named Jeroboam II, who began to influence Uzziah in a wrong way. Amos, a herdsman, heard the call of God to preach to Israel in Bethel, predicting the ten tribes' invasion by Assyria and their destruction. This didn't set well with Israel and when he preached to Judah, recounting their sins, he was not popular there either.

Here's my point: When Uzziah became strong, he became proud. He ceased to listen to the Word of the Lord and disregarded His principles. He took his strength to mean that he could do anything he desired which included his intruding into the priests' office and offering incense upon the altar in the holy place. No one but the anointed priests of Aaron's line could minister therein, but Uzziah put himself above all laws, even God's laws. Azariah the priest went in after him with 80 other priests of the Lord and when they withstood the king, he became very angry and

proceeded to offer the incense anyway. However, this is when God stepped in and settled the disturbance. Leprosy, a type of sin, appeared in the king's forehead, and "Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death." As a result of becoming a leper, Uzziah was banned from his home, his throne and lived out the rest of his days in a house separated from everyone he knew and loved.

God is able to abase anyone of us who has been infected with leprosy of the head. When we get to thinking we are so powerful that we are above all laws, God can abase us in a hurry. Nebuchadnezzar, another ruler who had "head leprosy," was abased. James tells us: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." Jas.4:6 World leaders need to heed the Word of God and humble themselves under His Almighty Hand. He can easily remove any ruler who has become a hindrance to His purposes. We Christians need to examine ourselves, to see if we "think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think." Rom.12:3 When things go well, it is very easy to think that it is due to our own abilities and spirituality. It's not easy on the flesh to be humbled, but that is the only way we will ever enjoy grace and more grace.

31

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## **WHAT THE CHRISTIAN IS:**

**A dead man.....Col. 3:3**

**A buried man.....Rom. 6:3,4**

**A risen man.....Col. 3:1**

**A new man.....Col. 3:9,10**

**A justified man.....Rom. 5:1**

**A spiritual man.....Rom. 8:9**

**A sanctified man..... Heb. 10:10**

# ISAIAH 43 CONCLUDED

*(Cont'd from the June issue)*

**“Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;” V. 16**

**T**hese “mighty waters,” are a reference to these wicked nations which will, indeed, surround Israel, but God will make “a path,” even paths of destruction. Those paths will be quite manifest against that “Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow. (flax) Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.” V.17-18 It makes no difference as to how these nations may come against her, whether it be literally by the waters or the armies and powers on land, all such efforts will be thwarted against Israel. God’s counsel here is “Remember ye not the former things,...” that is, those tactics of the nations which have been so successful heretofore. Rather, the rules have now changed and, “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” V. 19 This path is most clearly shown forth by God’s preservation of the woman in the wilderness during those dark days of tribulation. “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness...And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman,... And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood....” Rev. 12:13-15 God will not allow Satan and his host to destroy His Chosen People, His Elect, and Isaiah preaches this same message, for “The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.” V. 20 The owls and dragons simply portray the wicked Satanic spirits which are behind the beastly antichrist, and the wicked nations, which are obsessed with Israel’s destruction. All those efforts will fail because “This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.” V. 21 This little and despised



nation will achieve such a coveted status, once they have bowed to their Messiah. God will preserve and sustain them even as is evidenced here in Isaiah and Rev. 12. However, the immediate problem in Israel at the time then present, as well as those days prior to the tribulation period, must be addressed first.

“But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense. Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.” V. 22-24 These are the Divine accusations against Israel. God insists “I have not caused thee to serve with an offering,...” meaning that He had not FORCED them to accept the offering of Jesus, but neither had they accepted His Work of Redemption on their own. They had not called upon Him nor “honoured me with thy sacrifices,” that is, they had not bowed to the provisions which Jesus had made at Calvary. Because of that rejection, “...thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.” When men refuse Christ, they are yet in their sins, and that produces this “weariness,” unto God. The joyous news is that God is never at a loss. He always has the answer, and it is still the cross of Christ. He loudly proclaims His redemption unto this nation, which has wearied Him beyond measure, crying out, “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” V. 25 Calvary has already accomplished this glorious victory, but it can only be enjoyed by those who receive The Christ of Redemption. Therefore, God continues to set forth His invitation to “Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.” V. 26 We know from God’s Word that an entire nation will learn what we, as individuals, have already experienced when we accepted this Christ, “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Rom. 4:25

“Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have

transgressed against me.” V. 27 This too is a lesson that all Christians have already learned. Our “first father,” Adam, was responsible for plunging the whole human race into total chaos and depravity. Israel, as a nation, must learn the same lesson and in addition realize that all “thy teachers have transgressed against me.” They must finally acknowledge that all the “orthodox” traditions and rigid requirements of the law, which denied Christ, must be put away, leaving only the knowledge that the Lowly Jesus, Whom they rejected, is The Messiah.

This chapter closes with the reason as to why Israel must yet abide the horrendous fires and waters of the tribulation. “Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.” V. 28 We know from the above texts, as well as many others, that this nation will occupy the lofty place God has chosen for them, but at this present time, they as a nation are still locked in throes of unbelief and rebellion, and this temporary “curse” and “reproaches” among the nations, will remain until they finally forsake the teachings of these profaned “princes of the sanctuary,” and fully embrace their Messiah, “...the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel,...” V. 1

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**“I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion. If they had that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich, and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world they would be poor.”**

**Patrick Henry**

**“God has not only cast our sins behind His back and removed them as far as the East is from the West, and buried them into the depths of the sea; but He remembers them against us no more forever.”**

# Our Corn Crib



A Problem, Solution & Triumph

Freedom

Pauline Sanctification

Arrangement & End of Ages  
 Attack against the Truth  
 A Burning Truth  
 A Growing Relationship  
 Caught up with Paul  
 Cherubim & Seraphim  
 Chaste Virgin  
 Comfort in Time of Sorrow  
 Death, Hell & Lake of Fire  
 Destiny of the Wicked  
 Diamonds in the Rough  
 Dying Daily  
 Earnest but Wrong  
 Eternal Life  
 Extra! Extra!  
 Fact of Tongues  
 Faith  
 Fear of the Lord  
 First Day of the Week  
 Five Much Mores  
 Five Consequences

Gifts of the Spirit  
 Glossolalia  
 God- A Triunity  
 Gospel Records  
 Gospels, Acts & Epistles  
 Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing  
 How to Receive Holy Spirit  
 It is Finished  
 Jesus Heals Today  
 Judgement Seat of Christ  
 Law or Grace  
 Life Everlasting  
 Light on the Law  
 Living Ones  
 Made Sin for Us  
 Man Child- Rev. 12  
 Mercy or Judgement  
 New Birth  
 Not Legislation, Revelation  
 Oneness of Christ

Pauls Superlatives  
 Phoebe  
 Preaching Another Jesus  
 Predestination  
 Preparation of the Bride  
 Ranks in Resurrection  
 Resume of What we Teach  
 Salvation for the Body  
 Scriptural Terms Defined  
 Words on Eternal Security  
 The Adams Case  
 The Two Adams  
 The Sin Offering  
 The Unforgiven Sin  
 This is That  
 Times of the Gentiles  
 Tithing  
 Water Baptism  
 Wheat and Tares  
 Why am I Not Healed

## Books of the Bible

|            |                                     |                 |                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Genesis    | Esther                              | Luke            | 1,2 Thessalonians     |
| Exodus     | Job                                 | John            | 1,2 Timothy           |
| Leviticus  | Ecclesiastes                        | The Acts        | Philemon              |
| Numbers    | Song of Solomon-A.S.Copley          | Romans          | Hebrews, James, Titus |
| Joshua     | Paul's Gospel in S.O.S.-A Mooneyhan | 1,2 Corinthians | 2nd John              |
| Judges     | Isaiah                              | Galatians       | Jude                  |
| Ruth       | Prophets-Joel/Nahum,/Hab /Malachi   | Ephesians       | Revelation            |
| 1,2 Samuel | Zechariah                           | Phillippians    |                       |
| Ezra       | Matthew                             | Colossians      |                       |

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The Lord  
preserveth  
all them  
that love him.  
PSALM 145:20