

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

Volume 109

April 2019

Number 4



For I know
that my redeemer
liveth, and that
he shall stand
at the latter day
upon the earth.

JOB 19:25.

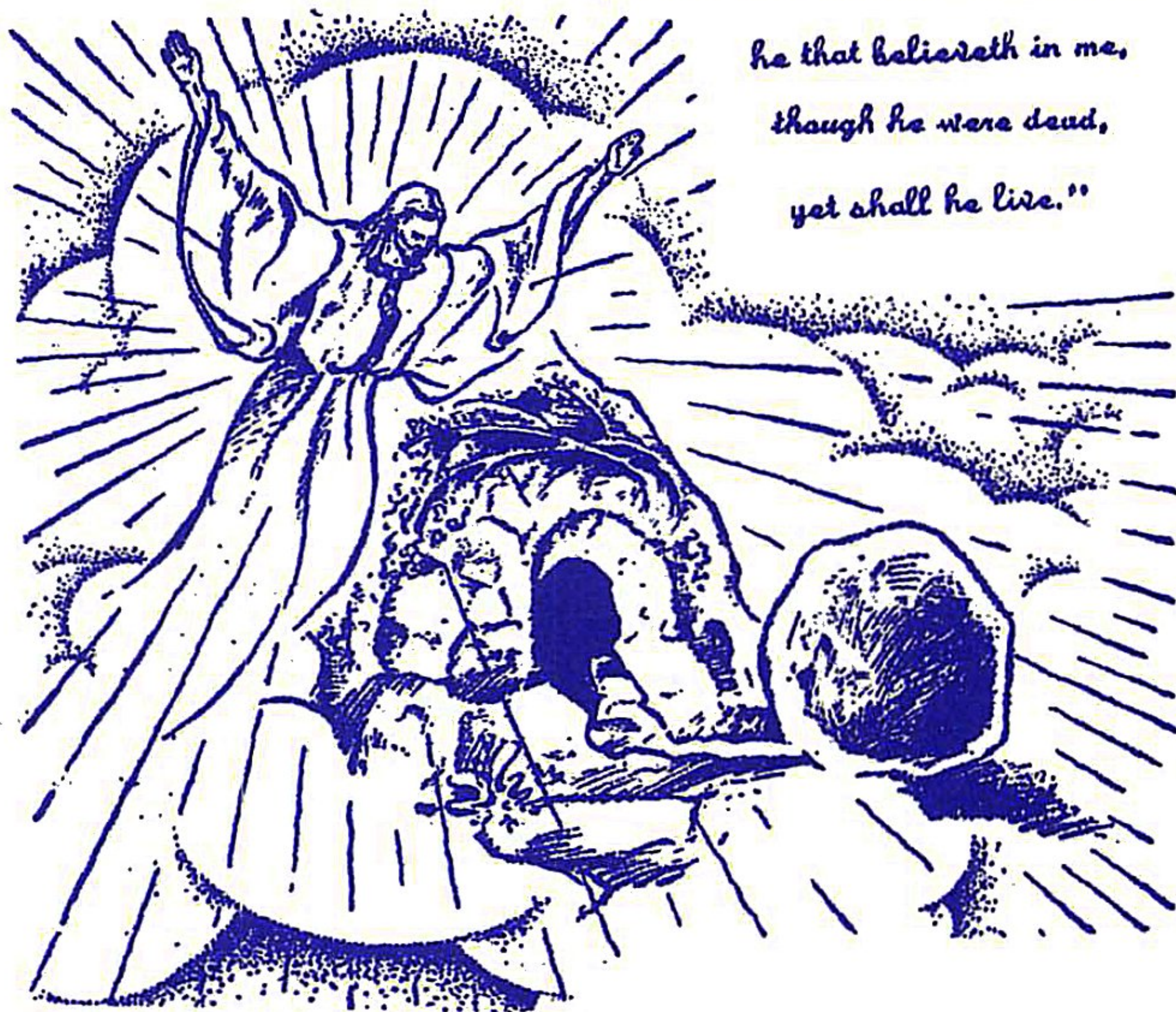


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"I am the resurrection, and the life;

*he that believeth in me,
though he were dead,
yet shall he live."*



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. E-mail

Print Shop # 816-322-2257

Web site: www.gracegod.org. 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



“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” Psa. 2:1-3

“THIS IS SEEN TODAY IN THE PLANS AND PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS. That very prophecy is seen being fulfilled today before our eyes. It is in its infancy, it is true, but it will grow, because God has told us of its coming. In its full development it will be the imitation of God's Kingdom upon the earth...‘THE KINGS OF THE EARTH SET THEMSELVES, and the Rulers take counsel together.’ This is what they are doing in Europe at the PRESENT HOUR. The leaders are counseling together AGAINST THE LORD, AND AGAINST HIS ANOINTED. Do you see the deadly offense of these nations? They are CHALLENGING GOD by their united efforts to make a peaceful world without Christ, the PEACEMAKER. Will God stand for that insult and unbelieving endeavor of nations to SET UP AN EMPIRE OF BLASPHEMY, WHOSE HEAD will eventually be anti-Christ, Satan's man of sin? II Thess. 2:3 That Empire will be a monstrosity, composed principally of the unbelieving *mass* of Christendom, the Laodicean church, which will have been *rejected by* the Lord, spued out of His Mouth—Rev. 3:16. Satan's man, the anti-Christ, will be accepted by them and he will rule the world. The nations are looking for a *man* now, strong enough to get them out of the labyrinth of distress and indecision into which they have fallen. The United States, who was said to be *going* to feed the world after the war, is having a difficult time feeding herself. Meat *lines* and *bread* lines have been a common occurrence in the past months. At present no man is equal to the situation. It baffles man's wisdom. There is a cry for a superman, but not a cry for Christ, the Supernatural Man, to bring relief and deliverance to the world. They will finally unite as seen in Psalm 2, and a seven-headed empire, called a “beast,” will emerge.—Rev. 13:1 It will be a beastly, satanic parody, an imitation of Christ's glorious Kingdom. Later the parody, or counterfeit, will grow more devilish under “one head” instead of “seven heads.” The anti-Christ will assume the leadership of the nations of the

earth and that will signal for the true Christ to arise and take over.”

The opening text and the foregoing paragraphs, penned by Mary M. Bodie, were taken from the Sign Posts published in 1946, wherein she described the United Nations as the nations of the earth being united together against The Lord. The formation of this body came at the close of WWII. We would most assuredly agree with Sis. Bodie’s assessment that the United Nations was designed to reflect the will and voice of all the nations around this entire globe, and her conclusion was that the goal of this body was to form a government independent of The Anointed Christ. Indeed the role of antichrist is to replace King Jesus, the rightful heir to the throne.

This article indicates that one major problem for these nations at the time then present was food shortages. Since then we have seen this organization more in the role of peacemaker working to resolve issues among its own member nations. Many of us well remember the tremendous efforts of Israel’s Foreign Minister Abba Eban in 1967 following the 6 day war when Egypt launched her attacks against God’s Chosen People. Though this tiny nation had no choice but to retaliate against her enemies against impossible odds, Mr. Eban was forced to intercede for his people before the United Nations. Christians worldwide rejoiced greatly when God gave Israel such a decisive victory. However, Wikipedia gives this account of how Israel had to defend her actions before the U.N. through the brilliant arguments of this exceptional statesman.

4

“From 1966 to 1974, Eban served as Israel's foreign minister. He defended the country's reputation after the Six-Day War by asserting, in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, that Israel acted in response to an imminent threat: "So on the fateful morning of 5 June, when Egyptian forces moved by air and land against Israel's western coast and southern territory, our country's choice was plain".

Sis. Bodie asserted in her opening arguments that this body of the U.N. “...is in its infancy, it is true, but it will grow, because God has told us of its coming.” Today it appears that her prediction has been realized, for current headlines seem to indicate that this world body of nations is trying to enlarge its scope of influence, having become more concerned with environmental problems along with what is known in our day as “human rights issues.” The following is a headline from Wikipedia on the “**2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference.**” It is then followed by excerpts from several speeches given at the conference. “On 3 December 2018, the noted British naturalist Sir

David Attenborough told delegates at the conference that: right now we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years: climate change. If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.... On 4 December 2018, 15 year-old climate change activist Greta Thunberg addressed the summit and explained the severity of the problem this way: What I hope we achieve at this conference is that we realise that we are facing an existential threat. This is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced..... The same day, the 14th Dalai Lama wrote to the participants of the conference: "Climate change is not a concern of just one or two nations. It is an issue that affects all humanity, and every living being on this earth..... Al Gore told delegates they faced "the single most important moral choice in history of humanity.".... António Guterres the Secretary-General of the United Nations told "We're running out of time. To waste this opportunity would compromise our last best chance to stop runaway climate change. It would not only be immoral, it would be suicidal."

This kind of rhetoric has been spewing from the mouths of politicians around the world recently and now we have a pretty good idea of where it originated, because their statements are almost verbatim to the above messages which came out of the U.N. conference, one of which was made by an activist who was only 15 years old. We can surely see how such assessments would warrant the declaration of Psa. 2:4. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." The major "scientific fact" bandied about today is that all these changes in climate are man-made. These rulers are intruding into a realm wherein they have no control, and God is most assuredly laughing at them because they are trying to assume a feat that only He can perform. Sis. Bodie declared that "There is a cry for a superman, but not a cry for Christ, the Supernatural Man, to bring relief and deliverance to the world." Though the next presidential election will not occur in America until 2020, a number of politicians are already touting the idea that they are "...that superman who will bring this deliverance..." from the impending doom coming upon this world due to global warming. This is not to say that one of these politicians will be the antichrist, but it is quite clear that the "spirit of antichrist" is most assuredly becoming more rampant by the day in this present global society. John plainly declared in I Jn. 4:3 that "...this is that spirit of antichrist,... and even now already is it in the world," and those words were written in the very early days of the Church Age. That same spirit will culminate with the unveiling of the man of sin at the end of this age.

The spirit of antichrist simply shows the mentality of men who are determined to usurp the authority of the True Christ, and the predominant characteristic of antichrist is “control.” This is the major theme behind climate change, and other socialist government policies which are designed to gain control over entire societies. Make no mistake! That time is coming, and when Satan’s man of sin is revealed, he will control every facet in the lives of those on this earth. A great many of those who refuse to comply and accept the mark of this beast will be martyred.

6 Sis. Bodie’s article also linked the Laodicean condition at the end of this Church Age to the U.N. We would emphasize the fact that Jesus’ letter to the Church at Ephesus describes the beginning era of the Church Age while the one to Laodicea portrays the present world climate found in the end of this same age. Some might think that the letters to these Churches would apply mostly to the “religious” activities of men, but politicians have most assuredly claimed a number of moral issues as a part of their own rhetoric. The secretary general of the United Nations quoted above indicated that refusing to address climate change would be “immoral.” This same organization has also put forth a number of rulings in regard to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) controversy which plagues this entire planet. It seems that some countries have the death penalty for such infractions and thus some flee to other countries, including the U.S., to escape. The U.N. has taken the stance of protecting their “human rights.” The recent Methodist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, has also proved tremendously controversial in this matter and once again reveals the Laodicean condition of our day. The very word Laodicea means “the people’s rights,” and it is this agenda which is gaining such prominence and literally driving the thoughts and actions of all nations around the world in these last days. Apparently, men simply do not care what God’s Word says about the matter, and both religious and political leaders would dictate to God that they know far better than He how to rule themselves!

Scripture plainly declares that “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.” Lev. 20:13 Verse 15 of this same chapter is also rather damning because lying down with a beast is equated with same sex relationships, due to the fact that they both merit the same punishment. “And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.”

Some have declared that we cannot apply these verses to

today's society because the instructions are so outdated. However, God's Word is God's Word and there is no time limit on it. He has strictly informed us that, "...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither,...So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isa 55:8 -11

Old Testament teaching on this matter does not change in the N.T. Paul shouted plainly, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly,..." Rom. 1:24-27

We wonder what part of God's Word, and the term "abomination," that men not understand? A recent news article at kansascity.com which covered the aforementioned Methodist Conference reported that, "...the progressive delegates at the worldwide conference of the United Methodist Church in St. Louis... were... outvoted by the conservative faction of the denomination to uphold a ban on same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBT clergy." This article declared that even though this motion passed with only 53 percent of the vote, the conservatives in the Methodist Church did uphold the scripture and rejected the practice of same sex marriage. It is also quite clear in reading this account that many were very much disappointed with the vote against "gay rights," with the possibility that some might secede from the organization. Others voiced the idea that this issue will also come to another vote in a year at which time a favorable vote for their cause might be obtained. In other words, "we will not stop until we ensure that the Church as a whole accepts this premise."

7

We have heard many justify the gay lifestyle, along with other fleshly activities, under the vast umbrella of "love," and it seems that their idea of such love is to completely ignore God's Voice. God Himself sets the example in matters such as these,

for even though God loved David, and called him "...a man after mine own heart..." He did not excuse his offenses and let him get by with both fornication and murder. There must come a time when men must choose to govern their lives by the tenets of God's Word rather than allowing society to dictate the standards of righteousness. It is also vital that men understand the glorious message of redemption in this matter. David was worthy of death, but that sentence was not carried out because he was repentant before God. "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." II Sam. 12:13 That same glorious escape is also readily available for any offender of God's righteous decrees today, and we have most assuredly heard the testimonies of some who have experienced it in this particular matter. The problem with men today is that they do not even WANT to change. They see no **need** of repentance. They had rather simply justify their feelings and actions as being right, and in our day much time and effort is spent in trying to convert dissenters to their cause, both politically and religiously.

8 Many today are confronted with this dilemma even in their own families, and even though such conduct has been prophesied for these last days wherein Jesus likened the coming of the Son of Man unto the days of Noah, God's people must still know how to manage not only their attitude toward others, but also preserve their own integrity. Jude gives us some glorious counsel in that regard. "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." Jude 1:20-23 The order here is imperative for those who would be ready for Jesus' coming. We must at all costs build up "...yourselves on your most holy faith..." This means spending much time in God's Word, adhering to His message for "...faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17 Our attitude is to be "...looking for his mercy..." for we can only prosper and succeed in this life by Divine Grace. We are further compelled: "...of some have compassion, making a

difference:” This would surely mean that we must direct our compassion toward those who are engaged in fleshly activity contrary to God’s Word, but we are never exhorted to excuse or justify such behavior. Rather, Jude declares that we must “... save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; **hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.**” The instruction is to save them, not accommodate them, and furthermore to hate the activities of which they are a part. The “...garment spotted by the flesh,” signifies the garments or habits in which a person engages, and hatred of this abomination is not too strong a word to use. Love the person, but hate the conduct is exactly the same attitude which God displayed when He “...commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom 5:8

We are certain that this current Laodicean condition will prevail throughout all nations in these closing days of time. Men of every nation will continue in their own independent self sufficient attitude, saying “... I am rich, and increased with goods, and **have need of nothing;** and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” Rev. 3:17 Rhetoric from both national and religious leaders today indicates that they **9** are quite capable of handling their own affairs, and thus as Sis. Bodie indicated, they reject Christ as the Supreme Authority, both as the King and as The Head of His Own Body, the Church.

We can do nothing to stop the fulfillment of prophecy, but we most assuredly can do something as it applies to our own personal lives. We noted earlier that men often justify their feelings toward ungodliness under the vast umbrella of Divine Love. However, Jesus stated plainly: “...If a man love **me,** he will keep my words:...” John 14:23 We have heard many justify their willingness to ignore sin on the basis of loving a certain individual, but when will the pre-eminent love for Jesus take precedent in their lives? Jesus stated that the proof of our love for Him would dictate that we abide by His Word, rather than the standards of the majority. God’s Word most assuredly commands that we love people, but not at the expense of the first or pre-eminent love which we must have for Jesus Himself. Paul set the pattern on how to win that glorious crown of righteousness for which many have longed since early in their Christian experience. He, too, followed Jude’s pattern in regard to faith and love. “I have

fought a good fight, I have finished my course, **I have kept the faith:** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” The apostle knew before he went home to glory that he had already won this coveted prize. He also informs us here that we, too, can follow in those same footsteps. This superior love for Jesus will also guarantee our own goal of gaining this crown of righteousness. So, let us in no wise spend our energies trying to improve this little earth ball as some are so wont to do, but let us rather know in the deep recesses of our own hearts that, “... when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Lk. 21:28

Hold Fast Thy Crown

10

Jesus calls from above,
From the depths of His love,
To His saints who are holy and true-
Hold fast to thy crown.
I'm soon coming down,
And will take thee where all things are new

In the days of sore trial,
Look on ending time dial,
Are the words of the Lord to His own.
Heed not Satan's frown.
Hold fast to thy crown.
Thou shalt reign with Me high on My throne.

In a moment of time
And regardless of clime,
We will rise and be taken on high,
Hold fast to thy crown,
The sign of renown,
In the city of God in the sky.

Author Unknown

Resurrection Day

Mary M. Bodie

“**B**ut now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” I Cor. 15:20.

The Resurrection of Christ was the greatest event of all ages. Without it the cross and even the birth of Christ would have no value. Christ **MUST ARISE TO PROVE HE WAS THE SON OF GOD.** Rom. 1:4 And God has not left us without witnesses. We have four reporters of the Resurrection. Each one of the Gospel writers gives us a fitting report of the resurrection according to the official character that he depicts. For instance notice:

Matthew reports the resurrection of Christ the King. He declares the event was marked with power. An earthquake signals the coming forth of Christ the King, as also "an Angel with a countenance like lightning and raiment white as snow." He came and rolled back the stone from the door of the sepulchre. He shows us that God took over from that moment. Satan's, and also man's, time to humble and abase His Son was over. Their day in that respect had passed. He has risen out of their domain. When He returns, it will be His turn to abase and humble them. Never more will He be in their hands a weak and lowly Man. He is God's King and shall reign forever, Lord of life and glory. 11

Mark is the second reporter of the resurrection. He declares the Lord came forth in the early morning and the women who had come to anoint him were thinking of the large stone that closed the door of the tomb. "Who will roll away the stone?" they inquired, but when they arrived they found it rolled away. Mark describes the resurrection of Christ as the Servant of mankind — "He who had come not to be ministered unto, but to minister." In death, the ones who loved Him came to minister unto Him. Mark's account is not so thrilling as Matthew's. No earthquake was felt and no angel with lightening-like face was visible. All is done in a sort of a matter of fact manner in becoming a Servant. He is not seen here as the King.

Luke is the third reporter, the witness of the resurrection of the Man, Christ Jesus. The women are again in evidence at the sepulchre. They, too, find the stone rolled away, but no earthquake, no

mighty angel announcing the resurrection of the Lord. They entered into the sepulchre and came out when they found not the body of the Lord. They were much perplexed we read, but then they beheld "two men" standing by them whom they had not seen previously. This account is so fitting to the character of Christ whom Luke presents to our gaze, as the man.

The women were afraid and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said, "why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen." They are upbraided for their unbelief, for the Lord had told them more than once that He would rise the third day after His crucifixion. Then they remembered His words and returned to tell the glad news to the eleven Apostles. Oh, there was joy after sorrow. It had endured through the night, but now the morning had come. **Then we have John's record of the resurrection.**

12 "WHILE IT WAS YET DARK came Mary Magdelene unto the sepulchre." She views the stone rolled away and runs to tell His Apostles. They came running! Everyone is running! It is a gala day, a day of life. Folk cannot be dead and lifeless at such an event. Christ the Son of God is risen from the dead. John so depicts Him. The emphasis is on the sepulchre. It is EMPTY. The very God-Man Himself has gone into the grave and come forth victorious. No more is He in the hold of death. He tore its bars away. He was holy and could not be held in death's grasp. It is glorious to realize the emancipation from hell and the grave. We celebrate our Independence on resurrection day, for in God's purpose and provision we were counted in that sepulchre with Christ and arose when He arose, triumphant over death and the grave. "Death hath no more dominion." It holds no terror for the saints who really see that they are delivered from its power. It is only a sleep from which none ever wake to weep. The sepulchre is now a place of rest since Christ arose. It is delivered from all terror. Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping and she stooped down and looked in, and saw two angels sitting, the one at the head and the other at the foot, where the body of Jesus had lain. Angels, holy ones from heaven, were in the sepulchre. It has become, because of the resurrection of the Son of God, the meeting place of God with Man. That is the answer

to the Mercy Seat in the Tabernacle in the wilderness. The blood was shed and placed upon the top of the ark in the holy place where God's presence remained and where the high priest could enter once a year in the power of the blood which he carried in; He represented the people who were thus safe for a year. They were under the blood. But every year this must be observed again: "... but Christ being come an High Priest..." of the better things, the eternal things has entered in once into the real Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption.

The cross is past; the death is over. His blood has eternal value and His empty sepulchre declares these facts to all the world. It has been sanctified by the presence of Jesus in it; and His victory as well as ours, are assured by His coming out of the tomb. He has despoiled Satan of his power by taking away from him his weapon—death. He has triumphed over Satan and is alive forever — and we are alive in Him in a new place before God — one with His Son in glory and honor. Let us rejoice and weep no more —Christ is risen!

13

MOMENT BY MOMENT

Moment by moment He's by my side;
Moment by moment In Him I abide;
Moment by moment He's holding my hand;
Teaching me always In Him to stand.

Moment by moment He leads me along;
Moment by moment He gives me a song;
And though the pathway May sometimes be rough,
Moment by moment His grace is enough.

To Him I am looking And longing each day,
Hoping that soon. He will call me away;
But if He chooses To leave me awhile,
Moment by moment I'll rest in His smile.

--Beula Clark

The Word Made Flesh

Dorothy Caswell

“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only 'begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.” Jn. 1:1,14

This Word that was in the beginning with God was made flesh and dwelt among us. In 1 Tim, 3:16 we read, "God was manifest in the flesh." And in Heb. 2:16, "For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham." What it must have meant! Think of God, the Creator of all things, being manifest in a human body. "All things were created by Him and for Him: and He is before all things and by Him all things consist" Col. 1:16,17. And now God sends this One "in the likeness of sinful flesh"—Rom. 8:3. Who is this One? He is "the Son of the Highest"—Luke 1:32. He is "that Holy Thing" which was born of Mary. He is the "Son of God." Lk. 1:25 He is "...the Lord from heaven." I Cor. 15:47 He "...came from God..." Jn. 8:42. He was "...before the world was." Jn. 17:5. His "...goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting..." Micah 5:2. "...And the Word was made flesh..." The One Who made all things was made something. "...All things were made by Him," but at least twelve times in the Bible we read that He was made something. He was made flesh. He was made of the seed of David. He was made sin. And He was made sin that we might be made something — "the righteousness of God in Him." He was "made a curse." Gal. 3:13 And He was made a curse that we might receive something — "the promise of the Spirit through faith." He "...was made in the likeness of men..." Phil. 2:7 He "...was made a little lower than the angels..." Heb. 2:9. He was "...made like unto His brethren..." Heb. 2:17 He was "...made perfect..." Heb. 5:9 He was "...made an high priest forever..." Heb. 6:20 He was "...made a surety of a better testament..." Heb. 7:22 He is "...made higher than the heavens..." Heb. 7:26 He "...is made the Head of the corner..." I Pet. 2:7

His enemies said, "...He made Himself the Son of God..." Jn. 19:7 Oh, no! He did not make Himself the Son of God. He was the Son of God. He IS the Son of God! If we want to know what He made Himself, we are told that, He "...made Himself of no reputation..." Phil.2:7. But this is the one Whom God "...hath highly exalted,..." and given Him "...a name which is above every name..." Phil. 2:9 "A body hast thou prepared me," Jesus said. He limited Himself so, when He took a body. He was God! He was omnipresent! And now He is confined to a body. This was a tremendous event which took place when the Word was made flesh. But all that men saw was a poor peasant girl who was unconditionally submitted to God's will, and a Baby born in difficult circumstances. If they had only known Who this Baby was. If they had only known that this body was especially prepared by God, and that this Child — this Holy Thing, was the Son of God.

Now let us look at the next few words of John 1:14. "...and dwelt among us..." Another translation says, "...and tabernacled among us..." We remember that God, long before, had dwelt in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle. Then later, He dwelt in the Holy of Holies in the temple; that is, the priests met Him there. Now Jesus comes, and God is in Him, and He "tabernacled among us." God was in Christ." II Cor. 5:19 This is Emmanuel with us. Matt. 1:23 This was God's beloved Son. Twice while He was in the world, we hear God say of Him, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17; 17:5 And God gave Him! So He came and tabernacled among us. This Lovely, Clean, Pure, Spotless, Holy One — dwelling among wicked, sinful, unlovely, unholy men. Oh, what it must have been like to Him! He was God. But, "...I come to do Thy will, O God," He said. And even more than that: "...I delight to do Thy will, O my God..." Psa. 40:8 He dwelt among us then. He dwells in us now. The remainder of John 1:14 says: "...And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John beheld His glory, as well as others. And we have seen His glory. Not with physical eyes, but with the eyes of faith. He is wonderful!

God has taken the whole Bible to tell us the story of His

Son. Through all the prophets and all the priests and through all the Scriptures — God has through them all, given us just one story: the story of His Wonderful Son. Everything that ever was created, was created for this Wonderful Son. The whole universe was made for Him. Everything that is in it, everything that is created, belongs to Him. He is the appointed Heir of all things. And this is the One Who is your life and mine. And this is the One Who lives in you and lives in me. No wonder this is called "...so great salvation..." Heb. 2:3. Someone might ask: Why did He come as He did? It was prophesied, of course, that He would come in this way, and it was God's plan. But as we look at it we might wonder why God sent Him into the world in this manner, for so few believed and accepted, so few recognized Who He was. Why didn't God send Jesus into the world in a manner in which He would be accepted by the people? That Holy Thing, God sent into a stable. Why did God let His Holy Son come down into that dirty stable? Today the unbelievers, Jews and Gentiles, stand on the outside and refuse and reject. He didn't come with bugles and banners and pomp and grandeur and glory, and all the rest that the world looks for. But John says, "...we beheld His glory..." Oh yes, when we believe, we behold His glory. So, also, with the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the unbelieving stand outside. But if they only knew! It is a wonderful thing that God has done in us and for us. Let us give God ten thousand thanks that He has given us His Son, and that He has given us the Holy Spirit. Why did He come? We are told in different places and in different ways, but we can say this: He came because He loved us. He came that He might give Himself for us. He loved us and wanted us. What a price He paid! How He loves us! You wouldn't pay a great price for something unless you really wanted it. Jesus really wanted us. He paid a tremendous price. He gave Himself for us. What more could He do?

Do you think we will ever get through praising the Lord? No. The angels voice praises to God, but they don't know what it means to be redeemed, to be brought into His presence, redeemed by His precious blood. They do not know what it means to have His nature, His righteousness. They do not know what it means to be

united with God's Holy Son. We will praise Him throughout eternal ages. "Oh come let us adore Him." He wants our love, our worship, our praise, our yieldedness. Once we taste Him, the Living Bread, the Living Water, there is nothing of this world that can ever satisfy us. We have tasted of the riches, joy and peace that come through fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are satisfied. We eat Him, drink Him, and live by Him. He is all we want, all we need and all we have.

(Ed. Note: Sis. Caswell was Bro. Smith's long time secretary at Grace and Glory. Before that, she was a missionary to Siam, known today as Thailand.)



Magdalene's Meditations

A. S. Copley

I could not sleep, My Lord was dead.
I made sweet spice t'anoint His head.
Then worn with grief, I dropped asleep
and dreamed

That men had stolen Him away, it seemed.
And running to the grave,
I met two angels brave,
Who cried, He is not here, He's yonder
Go quick, tell Peter lest he wonder,
Ah, then sweet thoughts / had to ponder.

I turned to run. Then Jesus came,
I knew Him not to be the same
As when He taught and healed the sick afore
And wrought great miracles on Canaan's
shore.

When He said, Mary dear,
My heart was filled with cheer.
He said, Go to my brethren saying,
I go to my Father, glory displaying.
So now I'm singing and ever praying.



REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“He is not here:...” Matt. 28:6

...**H**These words were spoken by the angel on that very first Easter Morn to a group of women who had come to anoint the body of Jesus after He had been laid to rest in Joseph’s tomb. Such words, spoken by themselves, would undoubtedly have given rise to disappointment, consternation, and perhaps even anger and fear. There is a great problem in our day when men do not always hear the “rest of the message” or ignore the context of it. Many wrong and hurtful doctrines have been born down through the ages due to the fact that only one pertinent word or phrase was taken out of the context in which it was written.

18 Men have rejoiced greatly over the years because the message of the above angel was actually one of triumph, for it was followed by three more majestic declarations, the first of which explained the **reason** for His absence, “...for he is risen...” His Body was not missing because it had been stolen as was the pre-conceived narrative put forth by the Pharisees, but had rather disappeared because God had fulfilled His promise of raising Him from the dead, having even produced an earthquake, as an emphatic exclamation point demonstrating His displeasure with man’s unbelief!

Next, the angel explained that this entire scenario was taking place “...as he said....” The resurrection of Jesus was in fulfillment of the Word of God. Not only had it been prophesied repeatedly in the O.T., but Jesus had foretold such a glorious and victorious event from the time He attended the first Passover after beginning His public ministry. “...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews,... wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.” John 2:19-21 He had especially warned the disciples of what awaited Him, but at the same time left them with the promise of resurrection. “Then he took unto him the twelve,... all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished....he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles,... mocked, and spitefully entreated,...they shall scourge him, and

put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things:..." Lk. 18:31 All these words came to pass "...as he said..." but neither the disciples nor many of those to whom He ministered seemed to comprehend the truth of them. However, God's Word still came to total fruition regarding resurrection.

The fourth part of the angel's message is an invitation to, "...Come, see the place where the Lord lay." The empty tomb now stands as proof, a glorious monument to the fulfillment of Jesus' words and those of all the prophets which promised His resurrection from the dead. We would also add that the women who came to the tomb must have listened intently to the entirety of the angel's message, for instead of sorrow and disappointment, "...they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear (awe) and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word." Matt. 28:8 Bless God! We, too, may also run with the fear and awe of respect and reverence, along with great and ecstatic joy in our hearts as we spread this glorious message of Jesus' triumphant resurrection! We, too, have this glorious attitude because we do understand the full message imparted by that angel, "He is not here for he is risen, as he said...!"

19

GH

ANNOUNCING!

Living Waters Tabernacle Youth Camp July 21-24, 2019

Youth Camp will be held at Highlands Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO, near Estes Park. Each day there will be Bible studies for all ages, supervised recreation, and evening Church services.

For lodging and registration please contact pastor Jesse O'Doriso by phone at 303.907.8099 or by email at jfo2000@gmail.com or contact Polly O'Doriso by phone at 303.594.0933 or by email at pollyodoriso@gmail.com.

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

The Two Walks

D. J. Williams

"And Enoch walked with God, and he was not for God took him." Gen. 5:24

This Enoch was of the righteous line of Seth. The name means "dedication, consecration." There was another man by the same name, the son of unrighteous Cain. Gen. 4:1. In this verse we read of the first city mentioned in the Scriptures, and the only recorded one before the flood. We also find that the unrighteous Enoch was identified with the first city (earthy). So as the earth claimed the unrighteous Enoch, heaven claimed the righteous Enoch. Jude 14 states that Enoch was the seventh from Adam. He is often referred to as being a type of the translated Church; that is true to a point, but it is not the full story. Some say he represents all believers; that, too, is incorrect. However, wrinkled doctrine can be ironed out with grace.

In Gen. 5, there is a contemporaneous group of nine, Adam to Lamech inclusive. This group with Adam as its head is a type or pattern of the new creation which comprises all believers, and of which Christ is the Head. Someone may ask, "Were they all saved?" Yes, according to Old Testament standard. Compare Luke 3:36-38. They were all in the righteous line, and God used them as material to form the first section of the channel through which Christ came. Furthermore, two of the group each left a testimony on record. Enoch's is well known as recorded by Jude, and further testimony is recorded of him in Heb. 11:5. He pleased God. He is a figure of those who walk in the Spirit. He does not represent all believers. The other testimony is that of Lamech.

"And all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died." V. 31 Now let us look at his testimony. When Noah was born, Lamech said, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of

the ground which the Lord hath cursed. I believe he saw in Noah (being a type of Christ) a shadow of millennial rest, when the curse will be lifted. He saw rest in the future; Enoch saw it in the present. This group of nine, from Adam to Lamech, gives a clear picture of the portion of the new creation which we know as the Church in its earthly sojourn. Within its ranks, there is the walk in the Spirit, and the walk in the flesh, which we should seriously consider. In Rom, 8:13, Paul said, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die." This is physical death, not spiritual, because the new creation life which is in every believer cannot sin. I John 3:9 If every Christian fully believed John 3:16, they would be rejoicing in the fact that they have eternal life, and one point of controversy would automatically go out like ice in springtime, and a more consistent walk would be the result. On the other hand, if we only have 50 percent faith, the other 50 percent will be flesh, religious or otherwise. In the group of nine in Gen. 5, we see these two kind of walks, Spirit and flesh. Enoch's walk was perfect because his faith was perfect. Our walk is the outward indication of our inward faith, no more, and no less. Faith contacts God and He turns His power on. We prove our faith to men by our works. Enoch is a type of those who in the final analysis are found in Rev. Ch. 4 and 5, crowned ones which reign with Christ. They will be in heaven before the seals of judgment are opened. 21

Genesis 5 gives us the genealogy of the men that lived in Enoch's time, and chapter 6 informs us of their state. They became unequally yoked with unbelievers, which is very bad business. They were all just as much saved as Enoch was but their faith was not perfect, consequently their walk was of the same nature. Of each one it is said, "And he died." Methuselah died in the year 1656, the same year of the flood. God had a purpose in taking them by the way of the grave to escape the waters of judgment. Methuselah's escape coincides very closely with that of Lot, who was taken out of Sodom the same day

that the judgment fell, not the day before.

These have absolutely nothing to do with the unrighteous which perished in the flood, but are the ones to whom Christ preached after the crucifixion! I Pet. 3:18-20. Some may ask, "Would that be a second chance?" No, by no means! There is no such thing. "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation." II Cor. 6:2 We notice that Peter, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, immediately after he records the death of Christ, and being quickened by the Spirit, brings to our attention the very first believers we have been discussing, who lived and passed off the scene before the flood. Then, continuing in perfect order, he speaks of Noah and his family which agrees perfectly with the Genesis record. The group to whom Christ preached were, and as all true believers in Him today are, just as Enoch was before he was translated. That is the one common salvation for all. The difference was in their state, not their standing.

22 Lamech's testimony may speak for the residue, or eight. It compares with that of Martha, who portrays the servant Christian. John 11&12 When Jesus had said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again," she said, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Martha was like many today who believe the same thing, and that is true. But when Jesus brought resurrection into her immediate presence, she said, "I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." And then she went her way (not His) and called her sister. Martha had gone as far as her faith allowed, then called her sister. You will meet the Marthas today, and have fellowship in the Word up to a certain point, but when you mention something which may be a little beyond their church boundary, they may agree that it is right, but seem unable to grasp it, so they bring someone else on the scene by saying, "Did you ever read so and so's book?" That is all well and good as far as it goes, but how much better

it would be to sit at Jesus' feet like Mary and learn of Him. Mary compares with Enoch with just this difference. Enoch walked with God, and Mary sat with God.

To walk with God can only be in a Spirit-filled life. Paul had to arouse the sleepers even in the Ephesian church, Ch. 5:14. "...Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, (things of the flesh) and Christ shall give thee light." A sleeping person has life, but as a rule they don't go very far. And it is the consistent Spirit-filled life, with a resultant walk, which leads to the married woman state of V. 23. People marry when they come to maturity. Babes do not marry. Those sleepers were living beneath their privilege while they should have taken their God appointed place in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. If we are satisfied to stay around the nursery on a milk diet, it is certain that we shall never meet Christ as Bridegroom (every believer has Christ as Savior,) but shall eventually find ourselves among the unnumbered, uncrowned multitude of Rev. 7.

23

As we read John 3:16, we see eternal life standing out like box-car letters. God expects us to accept it as such. It is the smoldering embers of the old creation which have not been fully reckoned dead which refuse to accept it as such. God has saved us and called us to a life of separation from the world. But it is not surprising to find that where an element of the old creation is not judged, there is still a hankering after worldly things. Of course they would not be found in the dance hall or the tavern, but they consider it wise to continue their affiliation in some worldly order or church, as they put it. They forget that God knows and cares. Then, at certain periods, there are those who get smitten with election fever. While God may permit these things at our own spiritual expense, it is definitely not in the sovereign will of God. It is a matter of sparing Agag alive, the thing which cost Saul the throne of Israel. I Sam. 15 They like to preserve their Agag, political rulership. This is the walk in the flesh and not in

the Spirit. If we as Christians walk in the Spirit, we shall find that we are but strangers and pilgrims here, having no voice in political affairs. I Pet. 2:11-17 However, we are admonished to pray for and be subject to the powers that be. The Church has much to learn in regard to separation. However, in all our mistakes, the only remedy is to appropriate more grace. There is no lack on God's part, but rather a lack in our acceptance. If we allow the things of the world to come into our lives, they will hinder the normal spiritual growth. Disregard to traffic rules on the highway leads to trouble, and when Christians disregard the plain statements of God's Word, it causes trouble and division among God's people. It is the religious leaders which are to blame. Sectarian adherence destroys fellowship, and hinders the normal movement of the body. It is man-made and not of God. There is a hunger among some of God's people for more of Him, but listen, fellow Christian, our house needs to be set in order. It is so over-run with the inventions of man that in some places the Holy Spirit is organized out of the church. "Ichabod" could well be written over its door.

Here is a great promise to the overcoming church. "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." These are kept from the hour of temptation. Rev. 7:14 records those which came out of great tribulation later. Would it not be well if we so walked even as Enoch, and thereby have the same testimony that we pleased God?

(Reprint 1959)

* Salt speaks of devotedness to God, which is born of faith in the Word.

* God's things must be taken by force, as it were because the devil hinders. Matt. 11:12

* Knowledge is powerful, but it is not powerful enough to move the arm that moves the world --- FAITH CAN!

* True faith has its foundation in God. Not in what He does or gives, but what He Is!

WAS THE TOMB EMPTY?

D.J. Williams

“So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.” John 20:4-7
Sometimes we hear it said that when the disciples of Jesus came to the tomb, they found it empty. That is incorrect. What I have in mind concerns the grave clothes. When Lazarus came out of the grave he was still bound with the grave clothes, but not so with Jesus. He not only came out of the grave, but out of the clothes. They remained as a testimony.

The disciples saw the "linen clothes lie;..." then "...the napkin that was about His head,..." not lying with the linen clothes, "...but wrapped together in a place by itself." The linen speaks of righteousness which God has provided for believers. It remained! The word "lying" is mentioned three times which may represent past, present, and future. The napkin speaks of His Headship. He is now literally "in a place by itself," at the throne of grace, making intercession for His Body which still remains on earth.

One usually wraps a valuable gift for protection and safe delivery; likewise, our new life is wrapped and "hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:1-3. God's Word gives full assurance of hope unto the end.

25

The Lord is risen indeed;
The grave hath lost its prey;
With Him shall rise the ransomed seed,
To reign in endless day.

The Lord is risen indeed;
He lives, to die no more;
He lives, His people's cause to plead,
Whose curse and shame He bore.

The Lord is risen indeed;
Attending angels, hear!
Up to the courts of Heaven, with speed,
The joyful tidings bear:
Then take your golden lyres,
And strike each cheerful chord;
Join, all ye bright celestial choirs,
To sing our risen Lord.

Thomas Kelly

THE ONLY WAY

There is a beautiful old Russian Legend which says that after the Lord had ascended to heaven, He was met at the gates by the angel Gabriel, who addressed Him, saying, "O Master, it is so good to have You back again. You have been gone more than thirty years. Lord Jesus Christ, King of heaven, we welcome you back."

Upon further looking at the Master, he said, "Why Jesus dear, what is the matter with your hands? They have blood on them and holes all the way through the palms. And, Lord, what has happened to your feet? Something seems to have gone all the way through them."

Then the breeze of heaven blew the blond hair gently from Jesus' brow, and the angel exclaimed, "Oh, what has happened to your noble brow? It looks as if thorns had been pressed upon it! Your white robe is blood stained! It looks as if it had been pierced!"

26 A sad, sweet look swept over that wonderfully lovely face as He answered, "These are the wounds which I received in the house of my friends while I was there to take the Gospel --- the news of redemption. These are the gifts they gave me to bear through eternity."

And so the Lord said, "Gabriel, these are the wounds I received in the house of my friends." "But, Lord, they must have loved you down there! We angels fall prostrate at your feet! Didn't they adore You? Surely they worshipped You!"

Again the Master smiled sadly as He told the story of the crucifixion. "Then, Lord Jesus, Your going down to earth was a failure, after all?" At that, the Master's face lighted with ineffable glory. "Ah! No --- it was a glorious, triumphant success!" "Did You leave someone to carry on the work?" asked the angels. "Yes, I left people to carry on my work." "Lord, did You leave the kings and rulers, college professors, and mighty orators to carry it on, and the great bankers to finance it?" "No, Gabriel, I did not leave the rich or mighty, nor what the world calls learned, to carry it on. I left a few fishermen and farmers, some householders and

common workers, and some gatherers of the sycamore fruit. They will preach it. They may not have riches or wisdom, they may not have earthly learning, but they have the love of Me in their hearts. I believe they would die for Me as I died for them. No, My going was a success!"

"But," replied the angel, "man failed You once before. What if he would do it again?" The Lord looked at him sadly, and with finality in His words said, "I have no other plans!"

Isn't that a beautiful legend?

Selected

(Reprint 1963)

JESUS, VICTOR OVER DEATH
Come, ye saints, look here and wonder;
See the place where Jesus lay:
He has burst His bands asunder;
He has borne our sins away;
Joyful tidings!
Yes, the Lord has risen today.

Jesus triumphs! Sing ye praises;
By His death He overcame;
Thus the Lord His glory raises,
Thus He fills His foes with shame:
Sing ye praises!
Praises to the Victor's Name.

Jesus triumphs! Countless legions
Come from Heaven to meet their King;
Soon, in yonder blessed regions,
They shall join His praise to sing:
Songs eternal
Shall through Heaven's high arches ring.

Thomas Kelly

The Blood Of His Cross

Gene Hawkins

“**A**nd, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself;...” Col. 1:20

There are a great many benefits which have been purchased by “...the blood of his cross...” some of which Paul recounts in the previous verses of this chapter. He declares in V. 17 that, “... he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Next, “...he is the head of the body, the church: ...the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.... that in him should all fulness dwell;” V. 17-19 The chief apostle to the Church then stipulates in our opening text that the blood of His cross has brought peace and reconciliation. “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:” V. 21-22 Not only did Jesus remove us from God’s “enemies list,” but we may now enjoy the glorious prospect of being presented before Him “...holy and unblameable and unproveable,...” all because the blood of His cross has been poured out at Calvary.

28

A host of other glorious blessings have also been conferred directly on us because of this blood. Rev. 7:14 declares plainly that, “These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have **washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**” Beyond that, we read of those who “...overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb.” Rev. 12:11 Peter asserts that we are redeemed “...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish or spot:” as contrasted with being redeemed “...with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;” I Pet. 1:18-19 Paul exalted “...the blood of the everlasting covenant,...” in reference to the glorious Abrahamic Covenant of Divine grace which was purchased by the blood of Jesus. Heb. 13:20 His endeavor to turn these Hebrew Christians away from the types and shadows of the law also included the fact that “... almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” Heb. 9:22 The conclusion here must be that there would be absolutely no redemption for this entire world without “...the blood of his cross...”

One great point becomes very prominent in the matter of blood; "...the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Lev. 17:11 If blood is shed, it means that life must be surrendered and that is exactly what Jesus did at Calvary.

God made an irrevocable decree in the Garden of Eden when He said, "...in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Gen. 2:17 We know assuredly that Adam and Eve did not die in the Garden of Eden, but blood was most assuredly shed, and death did prevail in the garden that day for, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, (hide, leather) and clothed them." Gen. 3:21 Thus, God Himself, Who of necessity spilled the blood of animals, preached the first vivid and vibrant message of redemption in living color, proclaiming that the life of an innocent victim must be taken and substituted for the guilty.

All the glorious blessings of redemption have been bestowed upon us because they were purchased by "...the blood of his cross,..." but from whence did Jesus obtain that blood? The answer is found in Gal. 4:4. "But when the fulness of the time was come,..." God could have introduced His Son into the world at any time during the course of history, but He specifically waited until the ungodly regime known as the Roman Empire had come to power, which adopted horrific and horrendous crucifixion as the mode of execution for those who would commit the most despicable crimes against them. This is, in fact, exactly the reason for which Jesus died. Next, we read that "...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman,...." This is in fulfillment of Gen. 3:15. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (the seed of the woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Jesus is the Seed of the woman. This is how He became an intricate part of sinful humanity. John clearly proclaims that, "...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,..." Paul conveys the same message to Jewish believers. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;" Heb. 2:14 Eve is identified in Gen. 3:20 as "...the mother of all living," and such a description must also include Jesus. Thus, the woman to which Paul refers is not Mary, who

would establish redemption only to the Jews, but rather the seed emanating from Eve, the mother of ALL humanity. It was indeed this Seed, Who indeed crushed the head of the serpent's seed at Calvary. He was "...made of a woman..." and thus inherited all the weaknesses, limitations, and frailties of humanity. He is thus qualified as a compassionate intercessor, having been "...touched with the feeling of our infirmities;..." for He "...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15

We have already considered a number of benefits provided for us through redemption, but intercession is a most glorious and specific benefit bestowed upon all men directly because Jesus became a man. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" I Tim. 2:5 Catholicism has promoted a most blasphemous and ungodly doctrine, teaching her followers that they must first appeal to Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, in order to gain an audience with Him. They would teach that The Son of Man is simply unapproachable, and therefore His mother Mary must make intercession and "persuade" Him to answer the cry of the needy. He, in turn, will make request unto the Father, Who will then bring deliverance to the needy.

30 Contrariwise, God's Word loudly proclaims that "...there is one mediator..." not two, and that mediator is The Man Christ Jesus! It must be understood that the picture of intercession painted by Catholicism was in no wise implemented when Jesus walked this earth. There is no record that anyone sought Mary's intervention in order to gain admittance into the Presence of Jesus. The closest to that would be "...when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine." John 2:3 However, she is quickly rebuffed when "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come." John 2:4 We would note here that Mary was apparently in no wise offended by this statement. It is evident that she understood exactly what He meant and simply said, "...Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." V. 5

The book of Mark enlarges on the works of Jesus rather than His words, and though He healed many and ministered to the multitudes, there is not one record showing that anyone gained access to Him by using His mother Mary as an intermediary. Today, those who would try to use such a pattern not only rob Jesus of His glory, intimating emphatically that He somehow lacks compassion and interest in their plight, but they also rob

themselves of the tremendous fellowship they could enjoy by appealing directly to Him, as He presides over the throne of grace.

Jesus did become a Man, but the next portion of our current verse also states plainly that He was "...made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:4-5 This means that He was also born a Jew, for the law was never given to the Gentile as Paul asserts in Rom. 2:14. "For when the Gentiles, **which have not the law**, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:" It was the nation of Israel which put themselves under the law as they stood before Mt. Sinai crying out, "...All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient." Ex 24:7 They violated that vow from the very first day as they bowed down in worship to the golden calf. The grim reality for the Jew is simple: the same law in which they gloried now cursed them for their unbelief and disobedience. Therefore, Jesus must be "...made under the law..." in order that He might redeem "... us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" Gal. 3:13 Being hanged on a tree means that the victim is suspended between heaven and earth, rejected by both God and man, and that is exactly the truth set forth by the crucifixion. Jesus was clearly rejected by those who delivered Him to the cross, but God also turned His back, as evidenced by Jesus' plaintive cry: "...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matt. 27:46

We Gentiles may rejoice today that Jesus died not simply as a Jew, but as a Man Who "...was made of a woman..." thus effecting redemption for all the living. He redeemed Israel from the curse of the law, but He also opened the door that we all "... might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:5 This is exactly the same message as that recorded in Col. 1:20 where Jesus "... made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself:..."

The shedding of Jesus' blood is not a figurative term. He literally poured out His life on the cross of Calvary as related by the gospel records. "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away." John 19:31 Death by crucifixion can take up to three days to accomplish because the body tries desperately to preserve itself.

The body of such a victim “sinks down” due to pain and fatigue, making it impossible for one to breathe. Thus, despite horrendous pain and difficulty, such an one will raise himself enough for his lungs to inhale just a breath of air and then sink down again. This process can last for days. Thus, the request “...that their legs might be broken...” However, Jesus’ life was not taken in such a manner for “...when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:” John 19:33 This is in fulfillment of scripture, for David writes that “He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.” Psa. 34:20 It also means that Jesus gave His life freely. It was not forced from Him or taken against His Will, but He rather “...gave up the ghost.” or “yielded up His spirit.” Luke describes it thus: “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” Lk. 23:46

32 But what of “...the blood of his cross...?” God specifically required that “...thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar... and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar.” Ex. 29:12 This same requirement is given a number of times in scripture and it is literally fulfilled at the cross for “...one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.” John 19:34 The blood of Jesus literally flowed down into the dust at “...the bottom of the altar,” which was indeed His cross. Some have taught for some time that Jesus somehow took His blood back to heaven with Him in order to anoint the mercy seat. However, the evidence is clear that in God’s reckoning, the mercy seat was anointed while Jesus was yet on the cross. “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;” Matt. 27:50-51 Matthew omits what Jesus actually said, but John records it as a glorious declaration of victory and accomplishment, for “...he said, It is finished:...” John 10:30 He meant not that His life was finished, but rather that the work God had given Him to do was complete. God then added His Own emphatic Voice of approval with an earthquake, and the veil of the temple being “...rent in twain from the top to the bottom;...” The teaching here is that the “...blood of his cross...” had already been accepted, and now the way into the holy of holies beyond the veil which had prevented men from coming to the throne of grace is now open,

having been purchased by blood. The fact is that Jesus would not arrive in heaven until three days later, but all the obstacles preventing man from entering into the most intimate place of fellowship with God, have already been removed! From that hour man is invited to "...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 poured out His life-blood freely, but that act carried with it eternal consequence and loss to Himself by virtue of the fact that He will never again have the place of equality which He had with His Father prior to becoming a Man. "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject ("under obedience, put under, subdue unto, in subjection unto") him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." I Cor. 15:28 This chapter has often been called the great resurrection chapter because it beautifully lists the many tremendous results of Jesus being raised from the dead. Not only are there multiple benefits for humanity, but Jesus also will enjoy an eternal bounty. "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." I Cor. 15:25-26 These words describe God's order AFTER the millennium. Jesus will destroy countless enemies during the tribulation period. He will display total victory over Satan, the false prophet and the antichrist at the very beginning of His thousand year reign of peace. However, the final enemy of death will not be eliminated until after that reign is complete. Not only so, but Jesus will also assume the role of being a perpetual servant unto His Father, following the millennium. According to the above text, "...then (at that time) shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him,..." This follows the same pattern as the law for a perpetual servant described in Ex. 21. "If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve:...If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself:... If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall...bring him...unto the door post; and...bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever." V. 2-6 This tells the story of Jesus, the Servant of God. He did come into this world

alone, but He will take a bride, and He has brought many sons to glory. Thus, He too has chosen to take the place of a servant and will be subject unto His Father throughout-eternity. We can hardly comprehend the magnitude of such unbounded love, which demanded not only the horrific pain and sacrifice of the cross but also this eternal loss of equality with God, in our behalf! Such love is beautifully captured in these lines from Mary M. Bodie's classic song:....."O Love."

O love, that sought me when in sin,
That went to Calv'ry love to win;
That fills and thrills and burns like fire,
Makes sense be dumb and flesh re-tire,
And meets the depths of man's desire

O love, constraining and constrained!
This all consuming, uncontained;
Which flows in billows, deep and wide,
True essence of the Crucified,
There is no other love beside.

34

O love that none can comprehend
Which even angels' grasp transcend
The Christ alone, this love possessed;
Its fullness, He made manifest
In bringing me profoundest rest.

O Love, that would not let me go,
That moved my will and bro't me low!
I find my happy home in Thee,
A captive bound, yet ever free,
I could not live apart from Thee.

O Love, that draws me to the sky,
To reign in heaven with Thee for aye,
Thy Bride I shall for ever be;
Thy glory Thou wilt share with me;
All honor shall be giv'n to Thee.

O love, O love
O love that Jesus did bestow
O love O love
O love that would not let me go.



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