

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

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**H**e will be very  
gracious unto thee  
at the voice of thy  
cry; when he shall  
hear it, he will  
answer thee.

ISAIAH 30:18.

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### ESAU'S ERROR



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Editor: Gene Hawkins



“**A**nd four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion,... And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, ...After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; ...After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth:... and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” Dan. 7:3-8

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” Rev. 13:1-3 3

Both Daniel and John saw the same great “beast” which will emerge in the end time, and while there are great similarities between them, there are also some very striking differences. These differences are in no wise a contradiction of one another. They simply emphasize the differences in both time and order of end time events. For example, Daniel saw ten horns, which are representative of a ten-nation coalition which will be formed in these last days. Both prophets saw these beasts come up out of the sea, meaning that they both arise out of Gentile National Waters. However, John saw only seven heads, while Daniel beheld these same powers as “...ten horns...” There is no contradiction here. It simply means that Daniel saw these events unfold at an earlier time than did John. Daniel declares that the end time power of the antichrist will begin as a coalition comprised of ten nations. John

saw this same group of nations at a later date AFTER the ten had been reduced to only 7. Many students of prophecy have searched for this group of ten, but so far it has not emerged. Both Nato and Seato, along with others such as G20 and the United Nations, are composed of too many members. The band of world powers today which comes nearest to this end time coalition would be the G7 nations. The history of G7 as reported by Wikipedia is interesting. “The forum originated with a 1975 summit hosted by France that brought together representatives of six governments: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, thus leading to the name Group of Six or G6. The summit came to be known as the Group of Seven, or G7, in 1976 with the addition of Canada. Russia with a huge financial and economic weight was added to the political forum from 1997, which the following year became known as the G8. In March 2014 Russia was suspended indefinitely following the annexation of Crimea, whereupon the political forum name reverted to G7” Wikipedia further explains that the original group was formed “...in 1975 so that the noncommunist powers could come together to discuss economic concerns, which at the time included inflation and recession following an OPEC oil embargo.” This same source also identifies these nations as “the seven largest IMF (International Monetary Fund)- advanced economies in the world:”

Noted above is the fact that Russia was the 8th member of this group due to her “...financial and economic weight...” before she was expelled due to her annexation of Crimea. One major reason why this group might be considered to be the fulfillment of the ten horn coalition portrayed in Daniel’s vision lies in the fact that the very existence of G7 centers around global economy, which will eventually be the controlling dominant factor of the antichrist. If Russia were to be restored, as proposed by Pres. Trump, only two more nations would be needed to complete the ten horn state which Daniel saw. The most likely candidates at this point would be China, and possibly Saudi Arabia, due to their economic strength and ability. The 7 current nations each have their own economic advantage, but it is rather interesting as to how many of these nations and prospective nations are rich in oil. The U.S. has now been hailed as number 1, while Canada occupies the 7th slot. Saudi Arabia is listed at number 2 in world

oil production, followed by Russia at number 3 while China is in 6th place. This means that 5 of the ten would control the world's oil. It is surely no accident that when Jesus opens the third seal of judgment during the tribulation, the command is given "...see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Rev. 6:6 Current madness over "global warming or climate change" is almost laughable in view of scripture, for the need for oil and fossil fuels, the supposed cause of it in this world, will never be eliminated. It is also rather ironic that multinational compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement would, in fact, destroy the world economic stability that was supposed to have been preserved by G7 when it began in France.

Both Daniel and John assure us that the antichrist will come forth from this final 7 nation coalition, and when he does, all the world's financial resources will be under his total control and dominion. God Word is very clear that the day is coming when, "...no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Rev. 13:17 Three nations will be eliminated from the 10 horn coalition that is coming, but that is not a bad thing, for we are certain that they will be "sheep nations," which are identified as being sympathetic to Israel. Make no mistake, all 7 horns, or "heads" that remain will be annihilated and will no longer be a nation in the Millennium.

But there is also another striking difference between Daniel's vision and that of John. Daniel saw a lion come forth which describes the majestic dominant kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. This regime was then followed by the ferocious bear which had great teeth and was instructed to "...Arise, devour much flesh." Dan. 7:5 This would have been the Medo-Persian Empire, and it was indeed during this era that the Jews were brought to the brink of distinction by the wicked Haman of Esther's time. The bear is then followed by the leopard, which depicts Alexander the Great of the Grecian Empire. The crowning characteristic of Alexander's regime seems to be that of speed. Our opening text describes this same leopard as having "...upon the back of it four wings of a fowl;" Daniel 8:5 also portrays this same Grecian regime as "an he goat...from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and

the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.” Once again, that notable horn is a reference to Alexander the Great who conquered with a vengeance in a very short period of time, as the goat is seen almost flying, when he “...touched not the ground:...”

6 John’s vision also brings forth all the characteristics of previous world empires, but in a different order, for the majestic lion and the speedy leopard switch places. This is because one of the most dominant features of our day is that of speed, and it is seen in almost every walk of life. Surely men have no difficulty observing the break neck speed currently manifest in our world today, and we are especially intrigued by the speedy increase in regard to the financial world. The stock market has literally soared to record highs just in the last few months. Trade deals between nations are also somewhat emblematic of the global speed in regard to economic matters. The U.S. agreement with Canada and Mexico known as USMCA is currently perceived as a boon to all three of these nations and the time in which it was done is almost mind boggling. Despite much controversy because of tariffs and other complications, trade wars with China seem to be greatly diminished due to some rather remarkable economic concessions by China, and such a state suddenly seems to happen after years of Chinese dominance and “cheating” against a great many countries around the entire world.

We can only wonder if economic hardships in both N. Korea and Iran will also prompt their appearance at the negotiating table in order to relieve their own economic woes. Both of them have been reluctant to co-operate with the rest of global society, and only time will tell if they too may be victimized by the speedy leopard characteristic which now pervades our world. Preceding comments in these Sign Posts have asserted that peace will come in some form to this present world though it will most assuredly be short lived, and at this writing these two rogue nations seem nowhere near willing to comply. However, the term “suddenly” seems to describe a great many happenings at this present time, and with the constant and sometime instant changes which prevail in our day, anything can happen. Though congress had approved the move of the American Embassy

to Jerusalem several years ago, “suddenly” it happened almost overnight, even though a number of presidents who promised it would happen simply did not get it done. Regardless of the outcry against such a move, the job has been quickly accomplished.

This world is also very cognizant of the fact that violence too is non-stop in global society. One news item of wickedness is not even “cold” until another takes its place. Such incidents seem to thrive constantly without interruption. Paul warned us emphatically that, “...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:13 These pages could easily be filled with accounts of atrocious wickedness beyond our imaginations, and as the Chief Apostle to the Church declared, they “...shall wax worse and worse...” We are also appalled at the manner in which some of these atrocities occur. We are confronted with scenes of law enforcement officers who are trying to stop violence, being literally attacked and humiliated by people throwing buckets of water on them. Others are called on the carpet for using their weapons against those who would resist arrest and openly attack them. These are not isolated incidents, 7 for they are multiplied across our nation as violent offenders are literally excused and men of righteousness are attacked. King Solomon gives us the reason as to why such offenses escalate and we surely see it in our day. “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” Eccl. 8:11 Once again, such unabated crime and violence is indicative that the day of the leopard is here!

Sin and disease also continue unabated. Officials are tremendously concerned with the current outbreak of the “Coronavirus,” and it too fits the criteria described by the leopard. Cruise ships and airplanes have been recorded as chief vehicles of its spread, for they provide the major and “speedy” conveyance of passengers around the entire world. The result is that all nations are now literally scrambling to protect themselves. While this virus originated in China, and the Dr. who apparently discovered it has succumbed to it, the entire world has been affected. We would also note that experts are hard pressed to even keep up with a host of other diseases, let alone contain them.

Such are the signs of our day, yet men seem to ignore the fact that scripture announces all these things as “signs” of Jesus’ soon return. A brief study of Israel’s history reveals that God warned then repeatedly through His prophets that judgment was coming. Jeremiah declared specifically that the 70 year captivity by Babylon, the first world empire, was coming if they did not repent. The prophet also lamented after the fact that, “Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.” Lam. 2:14 He speaks here of the false prophets of that day, who had “...seen vain and foolish things for thee:...” In other words, these prophets did not warn them of the consequence of sin. They rather spoke of “...vain (empty) and foolish things,...” indeed false promises of prosperity and goodness for them. They refused to discover, “...thine iniquity...” Such is also our world today. Sin is no longer sin. Men justify their conduct and often blame God “for the way they were made.” Not only so, but Jeremiah also described the false prophets in this text as seeing “...for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.” That statement is a reference to those who would proclaim the consequences of sin and unrighteousness. They would declare that God’s true prophets are “just trying to put a false burden of guilt on you as they try to instill fear of banishment or captivity.”

Let no man be deceived. This world is absolutely “speeding” toward judgment and none can stop it! All the efforts, visions, and sermons to the contrary are invalid. God’s Word will be fulfilled. However, let us not concentrate on impending judgment, though we are well aware of it. Our attention must be held on the Coming of Jesus! He told us plainly “...when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.” Lk. 21:31 The “...things...” of which He speaks, that we do indeed “...see,” are a reference to the many signs recorded in the previous verses of this chapter, some of which have been included in this article. The exhortation in V. 28 is especially applicable to those who would be a part of that group of saints waiting to be translated out of this world before the tribulation even begins.



“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Jesus spoke of an era known as “...the beginning of sorrows.” Matt. 24:8 We have been in this period for quite some time now, for the essence of this statement is that things are going to get exceedingly worse. However, Jesus said, “...when these things BEGIN to come to pass, then look up...” This simply means that we must be much aware of such things, and to do that it is imperative that we are watching intently for those signs. Not only so, but rather than cower in the face of judgment, we are to look up and rejoice because Jesus is coming to deliver us out of this troubled world.

Scripturally speaking, we are living in a day which can well be called, “The Laodicean Condition.” It is a reference to the closing days of the Church Age, and the characteristics of it are found in these words. “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, ... I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:... So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, 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. 3:14-17 What a description of a world in denial just as those Jews were in Jeremiah’s day. It is imperative that those who are looking daily for Jesus’ soon return, understand that though we are living in this era of Laodicea, we need not, and must not be a part of that Church. It is imperative that we claim our identity with the Church at Philadelphia which was promised: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10 While the world is speeding toward judgment, our hearts must be anxiously anticipating the arrival of Jesus Himself, Who will translate us out of this world BEFORE the tremendous and devastating judgments promised to this world ever arrive!

## A RACER'S JOY

A.S. Copley

**"**Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (stronghold) Neh. 8:10.

Running for the Prize is strenuous. There is no time for loitering, or for viewing sights. There is no time to argue with critics, or parley with the fastidious. There is no time for worldly pleasures, or gathering of worldly gain, or fame. And yet it is a joyous race. Let us consider Paul's occasions of joy in his unique letter to the Philippian saints.

**THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP.** He said, "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now." Phil. 1:4,5  
**10** They were with him like two fellows in one ship. They both went in the same direction. If the trip was stormy, both were in the storm. If the sea was calm, both enjoyed the calm and peaceful voyage. They mutually shared one another's trials and triumphs. Oh, how precious it is to have real fellowship with other believers. I feel deeply for those who are alone, in many places, on the heavenly race track. They write me that their only comfort is the Bible and the "Grace and Glory" magazine. Let us pray for them.

**THE JOY OF FAITH.** "And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and JOY of faith; that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again." Phil. 1:25,26. Since faith cometh to us by hearing the Word of God, the deepest and purest and most lasting joy springs up from believing that Word. Seeing sinners saved, and believers healed in body and sealed with the Spirit, occasions great joy; but it does not compare with that which the living Truth brings. We may safely stand on the Word of God; but men's experiences often wane and induce sadness: Faith in the counsels of God induces abundant rejoicing in Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us search them diligently, believe them wholeheartedly, and proclaim them heroically and untiringly.

**THE JOY OF UNITY.** "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship

of the Spirit, if any bowels (compassions) and mercies, fulfil ye my JOY, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (or, joined in soul, minding the one thing) Phil. 2:1,2. The Philippian saints were as one undivided person in their attitude to truth and to their spiritual father. No strife, or vainglory, or self-conceit, or selfishness was permitted among them. They were running for the Prize. They made themselves of no reputation, even as Paul admonished. Thus they filled his joy full to the brim. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

#### THE MUTUAL JOY OF RUNNING TOGETHER.

"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I JOY, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye JOY, and rejoice with me." Phil. 2:16-18. This is akin to the preceding, and the consummation thereof. Nothing, next to God's Word, gladdens the heart of a true shepherd like the faithful and steadfast going on of his flock. Their vigorous faith commands his willing sacrifice and ardent service. He gladly pours out his life in their behalf. He sees beyond - not only the Prize for racing, but the joy of the hope of meeting other racers who will win because of his example and instruction. And the racing flock also rejoices in hope. What unspeakable fellowship, shepherd and sheep will enjoy together, when they reach the goal and the rewards are meted out ---"joy unspeakable and full of glory."

11

THE JOY OF DIVINE HEALING. "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all JOY, and hold such in honor: because for the work of Christ he came nigh unto death, hazarding his life, to supply that which was lacking in your service toward me." Phil. 2:29,30 R.V. Epaphroditus, whom Paul called their "messenger" (that is, apostle - verse 25), was sent by that assembly with a contribution to him; but the journey was evidently very hurtful to Epaphroditus. It appears that he was pastor of the Philippian church at that time. Paul greatly enjoyed and deeply appreciated the gift they sent to him, as "an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God." Phil. 4: 17,18 The apostle testifies, saying, "God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow." Phil. 2:27 God healed his "brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier," so that he could send him back home. Paul was

filled with joy because of his recovery, and desired them to rejoice with him. They had heard of his illness, and were much exercised about him. A mighty healing touch does bring great triumph into the soul, because it is the touch of the Holy Spirit.

**THE SAINTS, PAUL'S JOY.** "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my JOY and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved." 4: 1 The apostle planted the Gospel in those wild heathen lands at unspeakable sacrifice and suffering. We know little of hardships, as compared with his bitter experiences. He and Silas were in prison and in the stocks, for the Gospel's sake, in Philippi. But their ministry was very fruitful. Many believed, and a loyal and devoted assembly became the result. The true character of those saints was especially manifested by their profuse liberality flowing out of deep poverty. No marvel then, that he should denominate them his joy and crown. What a great grief it is to a pastor, when his flock do not go on with the Lord; but grow careless, worldly, self-willed, officious, critical, censorious, bigoted, and almost devilish. It breaks his heart; and how the Spirit is grieved, and Jesus' heart is hurt, and much harm wrought.

12 But God be praised --- the earnest, faithful toiler will have some fruit to gladden his bleeding heart. Some saints seek the will of God continually and to the uttermost. They will be some shepherd's crown of joy; and they also will be crowned with rejoicing, together with their devoted leaders. It may be that each shepherd will be nearer and dearer to his own sheep in the glory, than to any others. The Philippian saints will not be Peter's or Apollo's crown of joy, but Paul's. Why then will they not most likely be nearer together? Ministers who feed law instead of grace, or law mixed with grace, cannot expect a reward of joy; for joy comes thru grace alone, and a joyful flock is possible only where pure grace is ministered. Hence, two of Paul's final words to that assembly were these. "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice;" and, "I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me (when he was in prison in Rome) hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful (thoughtful), but ye lacked opportunity." Therefore, he concluded by saying, "But my God shall supply all your need (spiritual and temporal) according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:4,10,19 Praise God for the hope of an incorruptible crown of exceeding great JOY!

## Romans in Galatians

Morris C. Dutton

“**F**or I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.” Gal. 2:19

This verse contains a wonderful truth. It corresponds with Romans 2:1-29. Paul here has informed us that the Law of Moses was an instrument of death, and he having died to the Law in the death of Christ was no longer living unto the instrument that had put him to death but was alive unto God without the Law. He was alive unto God thru our Lord Jesus Christ. We are thus to reckon, as Paul did, the operation of the faith of the Son of God in our hearts causes us to rest upon the Gospel of our salvation being subject only to the law of Christ, which is the law of liberty. The law of Christ has delivered us from the bondage of sin and corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

"I have been crucified with Christ..." Gal. 2:20 This corresponds with Romans 6. Our old man has been crucified with Christ; yes, we were put to death in the death of Christ. The 'I' spoken of here refers to the old creation, the old Adam, the self life that we all have. This nature identifies us as a part of the Adamic race which is fallen, because of the failure of Adam in the garden. 13

Paul continues, "Nevertheless 'I' live, yet not 'I', but Christ that liveth in me." Gal. 2:20 Compare this with Romans 8, the triumphant chapter for the believer to experience. Paul was living; he was very much alive, but not old Saul, the high and mighty fellow that he was before he was saved. The Old man 'Saul' was a religious fellow, strong in himself. Old self was on the throne in Saul, but God has dethroned the Old man: he is in the tomb where Christ left him. We find this to be very true in our own lives. We have another 'I' living in us, CHRIST! He is our life; this is the 'I' of which Paul speaks; it is Christ, the big 'I', Paul, the little one, the new creature in Christ. Christ was living in Him, and He lives in us; we too can say, "Nevertheless I live, Christ liveth in me."

"The life that I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20 We compare this with Romans 12:1. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Certainly this is the faith life that Paul is speaking of in Gal. 2:20,

living by faith, faith is the propelling force in us. This faith is the gift of God—Eph. 2:8,9, The very Christ in us is a divine deposit of faith, a faith life. Christ lived by faith. He was dependent upon His Father; he was separate from sinners; so we too are separated from sinful inhabitants of this world, in the sense that we are not partakers with them in their sins. The cross of Christ has wrought in us a faith life, imparted unto us by the agent of the new birth, the Holy Spirit.

It is wonderful to explore the truth found in Paul's Gospel. How it does enlighten the eyes of our heart! The Holy Spirit enables us to rightly divide the truth. Thus the Holy Spirit enables us to live by the power of the truth mentioned herein.

The believer who lays hold of this truth, his labors, his efforts of faith flow out from a heart of love. The love of Christ causes us to sacrifice in every phase of our life. We spend ourselves and respond over and over again. We thus present our bodies as a living sacrifice unto God. This is living by faith (we overcome daily), faith in Christ for every need in the battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

**14**

### **Jesus Saviour**

Jesus, they named the wonderful Child,  
The Babe so wise who rarely smiled,  
From heights above to land of dearth  
He came and lightened this dark earth,  
Made welkin ring with holy mirth.

Jesus, Saviour, name of wordless worth,  
The angel spoke it 'fore His birth.  
How sweet it sounds to men defiled,  
Who know they are from God exiled,  
Yet find in Him they' re reconciled.

Jesus, Saviour, Blessed holy Name.  
Thru-out eternal years the same.  
No more we wander in our plight,  
But rise with joy from darkest night,  
To live and love and laud Thy light.

Anon.

## THE EAGLE

**A**s storms approach, lesser fowl head for cover, but the mighty eagle spreads his wings and with a great cry mounts upon the powerful updrafts, soaring to the heights of glory. The eagle soars effortlessly, letting the wind carry him where other fowl beat with frantic wings to stay aloft. In spite of the winds, thunder and lightning, the eagle seems to know instinctively where there is safety in the midst of the storm.

Similarly, the eagle-type Christian sees behind the storm, the winds of the Holy Spirit, and rises on wings of faith to rest on God's carrying power far above harm and destruction. He moves, not by striving, but by restfully abiding. He trusts in the soaring current of God's love. The Lord Himself bears him up. Just as the eagle knows how to catch the rising of life through his knowledge of the currents, the overcomer in Christ knows his faithful God and experiences triumphant life by trusting and waiting.

When the eagle's mighty wing feathers become heavy with oil and dirt and his beak and talons become calcified and brittle, he retires to a hiding place in a cave of rock out of reach of predators and experiences a period of renewal. With his great beak he pulls out his mighty wing feathers one by one. He then extracts each claw. Finally, he begins to smash his beak against the rocks, until it, too, is gone. Left defenseless, this peerless, unique bird waits patiently until beak, talons and feathers have re-grown, emerging in his renewed condition stronger than before.

As a new creature in Christ, we may experience a renewal as we lay aside the things inconsistent with the life of faith. As we stand before the Lord, stripped of all that would keep us from leaning on Him alone, our strength is renewed.

The eagle is known for his ferocity, yet no member of the bird family is more gentle and attentive to its young. At just the right time, the mother eagle begins to teach her eaglets how to fly. She gathers the

eaglet onto her back and, spreading her wings, flies high. Suddenly she swoops out from under the eaglet, and as it falls, it gradually learns what its wings are for, until the mother catches it once again on her wings.

Sometimes the eaglet learns on the first try, but if, not, the process is repeated many times. If the young one is slow to learn or cowardly, she returns him to the nest, and begins to tear the nest apart until there is nothing left for the eaglet to cling to. Then she nudges him off the cliff.

16 Those in Christ, who learn to depend upon a faithful Father, know that underneath are His everlasting arms (arms of eternity), ready to bear us up, support and carry us through all of life's storms. Just as this matchless bird has been given eyes that can see from a great distance, and look directly into the sun and not be blinded, the believer, looking by faith from God's point of view, is given spiritual eyes to see from afar. These enjoy gifts of counsel and insight beyond compare. When others see only problems and turn their eyes to circumstances, the eagle-eyed Christian is enabled to look beyond to the joy set before him, and endure whatever cross must be borne. Oh, yes, they see by the Spirit the very depths of God. These see in His nature the answer to all things.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint"

Isaiah 40:31.

Adapted





## The Search Warrant

Anon

“**S**EARCH the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of Me.” Jn. 5:39

We recently came across the following item. A Roman Catholic priest reproved a peasant for reading the Bible. "But I have a search warrant," replied the man. The priest in anger said, "What do you mean?" The peasant answered, "Jesus said, Search the Scriptures, and I am doing as he told me." The argument was closed.

Yes, we have a "search-warrant" in these words of Jesus, and no man dare say us "Nay." Alas, how very few avail themselves of this authority. Some read books against these divine writings, while others simply neglect them. In both cases, their loss is tremendous. The Scriptures are Truth. They reveal God's will and purposes to us. They bring light unto us. By faith in them we have eternal life. They are the Words of God. "For length of days, years of life and peace shall they add to thee." They are "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

17

When we really search the Scriptures as though we were seeking after fine gold, we are instructed in divine things and enriched with heavenly wisdom. We become wiser than our teachers. The following story illustrates my point. A young man went to Socrates, the renowned philosopher, saying, "Sire, I come to thee in search of knowledge. Will you tell me how I can gain knowledge?" Socrates said, Follow me. The youth went after him and he was surprised to see the wise man come to a body of water and wade into it up to his waist. He followed and Socrates grasped him by the arm, thrust his head under the water and held him until it seemed the youth would drown. Then he dragged him to shore and waited until he could catch his breath, and asked him, "My boy, what did you want most when I held your head under the water?" The youth replied, "Air." Socrates said, "Well, when you want knowledge as much as you wanted air and struggled for it, you WILL GET IT." So it is with the Scriptures.

# REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

*...From the Editor*

“**T**hou art worthy,...” cried the twenty four elders in Rev. 4:11 as they combined with the four “beasts” or living ones in giving “... glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever.” Rev. 4:9 This cry is indicative of those who have firsthand knowledge of Who He is, and why He is deemed worthy. The term “... Thou art...” is not an “instant” revelation but rather a reflection of multiple lessons learned while they were yet on the earth.

18 We, too, must establish our own list of “thou art...” in an endeavor, both to discover and then proclaim firsthand knowledge of Christ’s supreme worth to us. Sadly, many of our day manifest the same attitude as Pharaoh when he declared, “...I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.” God has left men without excuse in regard to knowing Who He Is, because creation stands as the eternal witness of Himself. Paul declared plainly: “Because that which may be known of God is manifest... for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,... so that they are without excuse:” Rom. 1:19-20

However, there are many who have charted a beautiful path for us to follow. Peter’s answer to Jesus’ question “... Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” was “... Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus then outlined the path which Peter traveled to obtain this knowledge, and it will also work for us. “... Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 16:13-17

Nehemiah discovered a tremendous characteristic of God as he pondered the sinful and rebellious conduct of Israel, knowing that they “...refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks,...” However, he was a firsthand witness to the majesty of Divine Grace, emphatically declaring, “...but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of

great kindness, and forsookest them not.” Neh 9:17 We, too, can shout “...thou art a God ready to pardon...” because we needed the same unmerited favor as that required by Israel.

David’s prophetic words of Jesus as He hung on the cross show us the path we should take even in very dire circumstance due to God’s decisions for our own lives. “But thou art holy,...” Psa. 22:3 Note also that these same types of experiences lead us to the place where we, too, learn by experience that, “...thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.” Psa. 22:9 David further learned that “... thou art the God of my salvation;...( Ps 25:5 ) and “... thou art my rock and my fortress;...” Psa. 31:3 He also embarked on a special path of faith, asserting that “...I trusted in thee, O LORD:...” then concluding that, “...Thou art my God.” Psa. 31:14

We really do not know how many experiences David may have had in applying the fact that, “Thou art my hiding place;...” Psa. 32:7 We do know that we have ample opportunity to “...flee unto thee to hide me,” in our own experience.

The Psalmist has already revealed that “trust” is the key to discovering our own list of “thou art...” and Psa. 71 sets forth a number of those advantages. “In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust:...” Then follows this beautiful list for us to experience: “...thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress...For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.... thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee...thou art my strong refuge.” V.1-7

We would note the message of “thou art” means experience at this present time rather than some experience of “thou shalt one day be...” in reference to some distant future. Let us understand today that, “...**thou art** \_\_\_\_\_” then fill in the blank!

GH

## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **Ladies High Calling Retreat**

**Friday, April 17 - Sunday, April 19, 2020**

**Registration information will be out soon.**

**Call or email Linda Siecgrist with questions.**

**785-862-6330 or [lsiecgrist@gmail.com](mailto:lsiecgrist@gmail.com)**

## Testimony To The Blood

John H. Reed

“**F**or 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.

There is much controversy over this subject these days. There are many sects and cults that deny the efficacy of the blood of Jesus Christ. Let us consider the subject by taking a few instances from the Bible, which witness to this truth. Friend, if you read carefully these testimonies with an open heart, forgetting all you have heard against the blood of Jesus, you will see readily that it was necessary for Him to shed His blood to make atonement and obtain eternal redemption for us that we might obtain forgiveness (remission) of sins.

20

**The first instance is in Gen. 3.** This chapter records the sad fall of man. After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God's commandment, we read, "And the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. And they heard the Voice of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. And Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." Their fig leaves may have covered them fairly well from each other; but when God came on the scene, they knew that they were naked and unable to come into His presence by the garments which they had made. Sin makes men afraid and ashamed before God. But notice the tenth verse. "Unto Adam also and his wife, did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothed them." Those coats were vastly different from the fig leaf aprons, because the animals had to shed their blood in order to provide durable garments for Adam and Eve. No blood was shed to make the aprons of fig leaves. We do not read that they ever put off those coats, or that any other animals were killed to make other coats. The animals slain typify Christ, who shed His blood for us. The coats typify the righteousness of God obtained by faith in Jesus.

**The next incident** is found in Gen. 4. After Adam and Eve

were driven from the Garden of Eden ; they raised two sons, Cain and Abel. "And Abel was a keeper of the sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. And Abel also brought of the firstlings of the flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering, but unto Cain and to his offering. He had not respect." God could not respect Cain's offering because it was of the fruits of the ground, which God had cursed because of Adam's transgression. Cain's offering was the product, the Word says, of his own hands. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission." Heb. 9:22. But God had respect unto Abel's offering because blood was shed. "For it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul." That showed faith on Abel's part, faith in the death of another who thus made atonement for him. Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary to make atonement for us. Amen.

**The third incident** is in Ex. 12. At this point, Moses was getting ready to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, where they had been in bondage for a number of years. On that night, God told them to prepare for this last plague which He should visit upon the land — the death of the first born in every house, both man and beast. In order to escape the plague, Israel had to take a lamb, of the first year, without blemish and without spot and kill it in the evening and strike the blood on the two side-posts and on the upper door post of the houses. They were to eat the lamb—not raw—with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and leave nothing till the morning. "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the house where you are." And God said, "**When I see the blood I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt." He didn't say, "When I see you killing the lamb," or "When I see you eating the passover," or "When you see the blood," but "When I see the blood I will pass over you." The sprinkling of the blood indicates faith. They were protected because a lamb had died for them, proven by the blood sprinkled on the door post. Jesus, the Lamb of God, redeemed us by His blood shed on the cross. All the preceding incidents are shadows, teaching the shedding of the

blood of Jesus Christ. The people who offered those sacrifices had faith in the command of God.

We will now examine carefully the real sacrifice, the blood which Jesus actually shed for the remission of our sins. First, we have the testimony of Jesus Christ Himself—Matt. 26. Here is Jesus with His disciples eating the last passover. He broke the bread and blessed it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat, this my body." And He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Here Jesus plainly states that His blood must be shed and He must give His life for us.

Now what has Paul to say about the blood ? Let us take two testimonies from the ninth chapter of Hebrews. First, "But Christ being come a High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building, neither by the blood of bulls and calves, **but by His own Blood He entered in once into the holy** 22 **place**, having obtained eternal redemption for us"—Vs. 11,12. Here Paul definitely states that Jesus entered into the most holy place, the presence of God, by virtue of the pouring out of His own blood. Then the 22nd verse, the most repeated verse I have heard from Christian people everywhere. "And almost all things by the law are purged with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins." Yes, there must be a substitutionary death of another for us and the shedding of blood for remission of sins. That other one was Christ Jesus. Amen!

Let us see what Peter has to say on this subject. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold from your vain conversation, received by tradition from your fathers, **but with the precious blood of Christ**, as a Lamb without blemish and without spot." I Peter 1: 17 No, friend, you cannot buy your way into heaven, no matter how much money you have. You were redeemed once by the blood of Jesus Christ. Accept that redemption, or be lost forever.

For our last witness, let us call the Apostle John to the stand. He says, "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,

we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sins." I John 1:7 Also two references from Revelation. "Unto Him Who loved us and **hath washed us from our sins in His own blood.**" Rev. 1:5 This is a witness from the Apostle John that he was washed from his sins by the blood of Jesus Christ. Hear the song of overcomers, a high type of Christians. "Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every tongue, kindred, and nation." All Christians of every type state plainly that they were redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ which He shed for all for the remission of sin. Amen!

Paul gives one word of warning---"For if we sin willfully, 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. He that despised Moses' law, died without mercy under two, or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing (or a common thing), and hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace?"—Heb. 10, 26-30. This is a warning to one that hears the Gospel and rejects it. Paul compares his faith with those who despised Moses' law. His faith is greater than the former. Christ rejecters tread underfoot the Son of God. Count the blood of Christ a common thing, and insult the Spirit of Grace. If you turn down the blood of Christ and make light of His sacrifice, you are guilty of this very four-fold sin! Therefore, there waits for you judgment of fiery indignation and hell fire and the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15), unless you repent and acknowledge the efficacy and saving power of the blood as these faithful foregoing witnesses have done. Please read these scriptures with an open mind and heart and find out for yourself and decide for Jesus today. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day salvation." II Cor. 6:2.

(Reprint 1943)

## Pilgrim's Progress

Margaret Keener

“**A**nd Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Lk. 4:4

Every proper name has some spiritual meaning in Scripture. We find lessons in all of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” II Tim. 3: 16 At the close of Moses' life, God showed him a view of the promised land, but he was denied the privilege of entering into it. Neither do we appreciate the blessings of Canaan until we see our death with Christ at Calvary. Moses was later seen on the mount of Transfiguration (in the promised land). He, being a type of Christ leading us into death, while Joshua figures the Holy Spirit leading us in resurrection and into our possessions in the heavenlies in Christ.

24 Moses went up from the plain of "Moab," whose meaning is "progeny of a father." We, "having been begotten again unto a living hope by the Father" (I Peter 1:3), our journey is ever upward, as we are led by the Lord. Little energy is needed to travel on the plain, for our strength is indeed very small. How active we become and how we seem to fly, though the elevation spiritually is scarcely perceptible. Nor do we develop strength until we leave the plain and "climb Mount Nebo," meaning "His prophecy." Our activities may be curtailed and progress seem very slow, but all who would gain a knowledge of God's prophecies must spend hours in prayerful study and meditation that He may quicken His Word to their hearts. "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. Psa. 1:2 How different is the walk of faith from that of the flesh. Instead of gaining momentum (or self-reliance), we feel more and more our weakness and dependence upon God for strength for the journey. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa. 40:31 To gain the summit of Mount Pisgah, "survey," requires arduous climbing but one glimpse of our possessions in Christ more than recompenses for the long climb. Nor need we



ever slip, however treacherous the footing, while we cling to "His prophecies." "He maketh my feet like hinds feet and setteth me upon my high places." Psa. 18:33 The deer is very sure footed. His feet track perfectly. No animal is used in a pack-train whose feet do not track. The hind foot steps in the identical spot the forefoot has left. Our walk must correspond with our testimony if we are to be used to guide others up the trail and carry our share of the burden. From Pisgah's lofty height, one can view the whole landscape from the dawn of creation until our vision is lost in the never-ending ages of eternity. Through faith we understand that the worlds (or ages) were framed by the Word of God." "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Our views, or outlooks are based upon our knowledge of God's Word. "Being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses,..." our courage to press onward and upward is never diminished because of these evidences of His faithfulness.

Jericho is clearly seen from the altitude of Mount Pisgah—for it speaks of the alluring "fragrance" of the things of the world. Unnatural sweetness hides a stench. The basic ingredient of perfume is skunk oil, so we are told. But this, nor vapor of smoke (delusive ideas), nor people, nothing can obscure our vision when we look from Pisgah's lofty heights. Gilead with its double meaning, "a heap of witnesses" and "rolling forever," calls to mind the battles that have been won against great odds and the steady progress of all who have put their trust in God. Insurmountable difficulties have been overcome by His help, for by His strength we can "leap over a wall." Nothing is a barrier to FAITH by which these witnesses overcome. Then we see clearly that Dan, meaning "Judge," has a great place in the journey of life. He speaks of self-judgment by the Word, for by that Word we judge all things of the world, the flesh and the devil. All the allure of the world vanishes, the flesh is seen in its true value and then Satan has no power over us. Then Naphtali is within our range of vision — meaning "struggled for," the strength for the battle being supplied by God Himself. "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, ... And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power," Eph. 1:18-19 Though we are seated together with Christ in the heavenlies" provisionally (Eph. 2), our members are still on the earth. Col.

3:5. We are still subject to hunger, thirst and every other desire of the flesh which we when glorified beings shall not experience. Rev. 7:16. But now, we can lay hold on the power of God to bring every thought into subjection to Christ. II Cor. 10:4,5

A view of Ephraim, meaning "double ash-heap," brings us to its other meaning, "doubly fruitful," the thought of which is that as we discard all worldly ambitions and desires that war against the soul, we become fruit-bearing Christians-1 Pet. 2:14. And after we have journeyed thus far, we come to Manassah, or "causing to forget." We forget past, failures and defeats. God would have us put our trust in Him and occupy our minds with that which builds us up. Thus we arrive at Zoar, or "bringing low." We see that "all flesh is grass" (I Peter 1:24) and Christ is our all in all. "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." I Cor. 3:21-23.

### **What Is Victory?**

26

To feel the tempter's mighty power—  
Without appeal,  
To know the pull that money has—  
And never kneel,  
To be entranced by honor's glare—  
And have no urge,  
To hear the voice of passing pomp—  
And not submerge,  
To be uplifted, lauded high—  
And sense no pride,  
To gain an orator's great fame—  
And never stride,  
To be exalted to the sky—  
And self disdain,  
To be condemned and set aside—  
And not complain ;

That is VICTORY

R. E. Neighbor

## I Am the Lord Your God

### Vertran Bond

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the Lord. And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace-offerings unto the Lord, ye shall offer it at your own will. It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire. And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted. Therefore everyone that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hollowed thing of the Lord: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the Lord your God.” Lev. 19:1-10. 27

Let us think on this portion: "and that soul shall be cut off." Who are they that will be cut off? Those who did not obey, those who have gone past the third day which is abominable to God. Think how God has fed us, led us, and comforted our hearts and then some willfully turn aside. They stand on dangerous ground. God's people who love his Word and seek out his riches, and the deeper things of God, are His pets. God is preparing for His Son, a bride.

The Lord said they could offer a sacrifice of peace-offering at their own will. This sacrifice was not instituted in the law. No! It was to be given if they willed to. But, it must be eaten the first and second day. The third day it becomes abominable to God. He wants us to take of His Word fresh each day. As God spake to the children of Israel, so let Him speak to us. You remember the Shulamite talked often to the king she loved. Although he was sometimes behind the lattice and could not be seen, she heard

Him because He always answered. God, too, is never far away.

We are eating of the sacrifice that our soul thrives upon, His Word. And He says to us, Be ye holy for I am holy.

At some time or another all who have worked for the Lord, have been discouraged, and listened to the whispering of the devil and about decided to quit and give up. But God wants us to draw a little closer to Him and be more like Him for He has said, "Ye shall be holy."

I think of the Children of Israel and their times of murmuring and complaining because they felt God was not with them. You remember when Moses was on the mountain writing the law? The children of Israel decided he was not coming back, so right away they made a golden idol to worship. Yes it is so easy to turn to something else, build a molten image, but it will not please God. He had said, "that soul will be cut off." Remember His words, "I am the Lord your God.

28 Now let us return to the thought. This is not a compulsory law wherein we have no choice in the matter, but rather a path whereunto we must whole-heartedly submit our own will unto Him. Many Christians know far more truth than they are walking in. The spirit will compel. The yieldedness and God's choice will be ours.

(Reprint: Bonds of Peace 1951)

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### **Think It Over**

**LEARN:** Learn to laugh; it is better than medicine. Learn to attend to your own business; few men can handle their own. Learn to say a kind word; nobody ever resents them. Learn to avoid nasty remarks; they give neither the hearer nor the speaker any satisfaction. Learn to stop grumbling if you can't see any good in the world; keep the bad to yourself. Learn to keep your troubles to yourself; nobody wants them.

Billy Smith

# The Judgement Seat Of Christ

Gene Hawkins

“**F**or we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in His body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” II Cor. 5:10

This Scripture often strikes fear in the hearts of dear Christian people, because the time and purpose of this ministry of Christ is misunderstood. There are those who teach that God diligently keeps records of every misstep and evil deed and then on "judgment day," all the secrets He has kept over the years will be made manifest for everyone to see. It is with this thought in mind that we endeavor to dispel some of the myth and mystery surrounding this subject and expound on the personal advantages of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

When do we appear before this judgment seat? Some suppose that Paul's use of the word "shall" in the text indicates that it is at a future time. As the verse states, the reward will be received at a future time, for it is an eternal one. However, judgment must occur now. Paul declares in I Corinthians 11:32, "when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord." Peter corroborates his statement by saying, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?" I Pet. 4:17 29

Chastening, which is a direct result of judgment, is taking place in our lives now. Likewise, Peter is referring to God's people as being the house of God, and this is where judgment begins - TODAY. The Apostle John agrees with these Scriptures, as he describes the Judge and the time of judgment in Revelation 1:13-16. We must understand the entire text from which these verses are taken. In verse 10, we read concerning John, "I was in spirit on the Lord's day, and heard BEHIND me a great voice, as of a trumpet." The "Lord's day" refers to the end of this present Church Age. John was caught away in spirit to that day, when

he heard the voice behind him. He turned and saw seven golden candlesticks, which represent the seven churches listed. V. 20

Those seven churches represent all the conditions which prevail throughout the Church Age. John also saw the Judge, the Lord Jesus Christ, walking in the midst of the candlesticks. He beholds what has already transpired, not that which is yet to be. There is a message from the Judge to each church in chapters two and three. To each church, except Smyrna and Philadelphia, He commands, "Repent." **THERE WILL BE NO REPENTANCE** after this life, so these Words must refer to the present time. The whole of Christendom is found in the conditions pictured by these seven churches. When the Judge scrutinizes and evaluates our lives and points out those things which are wrong, there must be repentance and correction now, not after we are in heaven. The desired purpose is to come to the state expressed by the Smyrna and Philadelphia churches, which record no need for change, but express their rewards.

**30** This thought of being judged and given space to repent is by no means a new doctrine presented for the first time in Scripture in Revelation. We find it in I Samuel three, where God informed the child Samuel that He was going to "reward" the house of Eli for their evil deeds. "For I have told him (Eli) that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity **WHICH HE KNOWETH**; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (I Samuel 3:13). Eli accepted that decree, and there is apparently no ignorance on his part as to why it was going to happen.

Nebuchadnezzar exemplifies another case with the same pattern, except that a specific time period is allowed for his repentance. Daniel admonished him, "Wherefore O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility." Dan. 4:27 The next events of this chapter take place twelve months later. Pride is still present in the heart of Nebuchadnezzar, for we read, the king spoke, and said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty?" Dan. 4:30

Immediately after this, he is driven out of his house and kingdom and made like unto the wild beasts. This was the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy to him one year earlier.

A third example is found in Daniel five, where Belshazzar sees the handwriting on the wall. Daniel is called in to interpret the writing and declares: "And thou his son (Nebuchadnezzar's grandson), O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, **THOUGH THOU KNEWEST ALL THIS**; but has lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven . . . Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (5:22-27). In all of these cases, we must conclude that these people were judged and given a chance to repent **BEFORE** the consequences for evil were exacted. Likewise, the message to the churches is "repent," or else.

Let us notice some of the characteristics of the Judge, which correspond with other Scriptures and reinforce the fact that He is judging us today. First. His eyes were as a flame of fire. These piercing eyes are able to look deeply into the heart of man. His scrutiny is going on today. Men look on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. I Sam. 16:7

31

Second. His feet were like unto fine, or burning brass. In Scripture, brass is symbolic of judgment, as the altar whereon the sacrifices were burned with fire, was made of brass (Exodus 27). The brazen feet of Christ are seen as He walks amidst the churches, judging the flesh where He walks.

Third. Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. This sword is the Word of God, described in Hebrews 4:12 as being "living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Our thoughts and intents are being judged, or evaluated right now as God's Word goes forth.

This operation of God's unique sword is seen in John 15, as the Heavenly Husbandman judges and purges the fruitful branch that it may bring forth more fruit.

We want to emphasize as strongly as we can that such cutting is taking place today, not after we arrive in heaven. The judgment seat of Christ, as it is presented here, is actually an

advantage to us. Our Apostle, Paul, brings judgment and chastening together in I Cor. 11:31-32: "For if we would judge ourselves we should not be judged. But when we are judged, (now), we are chastened of the Lord, **THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED WITH THE WORLD.**" God is dealing with us as sons and those whom He loves He chastens. Such chastening is far different from punishment for wrong doing; rather, it is valuable training and instruction in spiritual things. He wants to present us faultless before the presence of His glory. Jude 24

Paul projects this same purpose in Philippians 3:15--"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and **IF IN ANYTHING YE BE OTHERWISE MINDED, GOD SHALL REVEAL EVEN THIS UNTO YOU.**" This is for the present time.

### Dispelling a Myth

32 There are some who hold up the judgment seat of Christ as an object of fear to make us watch our every step, so that at the "judgment bar" all our sins and iniquities will not be held up as an embarrassment to us. **PRAY TELL. WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?** How would a display of such works of iniquity glorify God, or magnify redemption? It is vitally important to realize that God's incentive for overcoming is not **FEAR**, but **DIVINE LOVE**. Fear is a very strong human emotion, but only Divine Love never fails and will overcome every obstacle.

Those who promote such thoughts violate some of the most beautiful Scriptures of God's Word. What shall we do with the following statements of God? "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalms 103:12). "For Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back" (Isaiah 38:17). "I even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Isaiah 43:25). "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:18-19). "But now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to **PUT AWAY** sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26).



"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin," Heb.10:17-18

All these beautiful verses attest to the fact that our sins were laid upon Christ, and when we accept Him, we will never be judged for them again. Christ has borne that judgment and they have been put out of God's sight forever, by the blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God.

### Rewards

"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may RECEIVE the things done in his body." The Ultimate result of judgment is that we may RECEIVE A REWARD. Concerning his own ministry, Paul said, "I judge not mine own self . . . but He that judgeth (present tense) is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until The Lord come who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsel of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise of God." I Cor.4:3-5

Paul is not only talking about the works that men have done, but also the "counsels of the hearts," or the attitude in doing them. Only God can evaluate the attitudes of men, and in that regard, Paul says, "but with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you or of man's judgment." V. 3 If wrong attitudes or works are found in us today, we have the option of ignoring them or correcting them. God is faithful to bring to light those hidden things right now; the reward will come only after this life is over. First Corinthians three describes what happens when one's works are fleshly, or as "wood, hay, or stubble." The fire of God's judgment will prove them either to be good or bad, and though his works may be burned and he has no reward, yet he himself, shall be saved. I Cor. 3:12-15

Paul's own reward, as well as ours, is defined in II Timothy four, and it is quite evident that he knew he had already been judged. He did not leave this life fearing some unknown calamity was waiting for him beyond this mortal veil. He emphatically declares: "For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. 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." II Tim. 4: 6-8

He was confident that the Righteous Judge had finished His work

in him and was assured that the crown of righteousness already belonged to him. The subject of rewards is also found in each of the Judge's messages to the seven churches in Revelation. We read in each one, "to him that overcometh will I give." Each reward is different, depending upon the DEGREE of overcoming involved.

Every Christian is an overcomer in some measure, by the virtue of the fact that he has accepted Christ as Savior. However, every Christian DOES NOT OVERCOME ALL THINGS as is evidenced by the accounts of these seven churches, along with what we see in Christendom today. There are many things that are brought to light today, but all men will not yield to God's correction, and rectify the situation. Their eternal reward will be limited. Our desire should be that of Paul's: "Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him." I Corinthians 5:9

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#### MY PSALM

34

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want—  
What a wonderful promise to me.  
When the day has been hard, and the night long—  
Then I repeat Psalm twenty-three.

He leads me in pastures that I should go—  
He does this all for my good.  
But sometimes my faltering feet are slow  
To go in the path that I should.

He bathes my tired head with oil,  
His love He will not sever.  
And, when my days on earth are o'er,  
I'll dwell with Him forever.

--Eula Young

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# Our Corn Crib

*"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"*

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