

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole Counsel of GOD

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He shall feed his flock
like a shepherd:
he shall gather the
lambs with his arm,
and carry them
in his bosom.

ISAIAH 40:11

YOUR EDUCATION IS LACKING IN:

BIOLOGY--if you cannot go back to the very origin of life itself: *"in the beginning God"* (Genesis 1:1).

MATHEMATICS--if your study of geometry hinders you from meditating upon the *"breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ"* (Ephesians 3:18).

HISTORY--if you are not well acquainted with the history of the Jews as it is contained in the bible (Genesis 12:1-3).

GEOLOGY--if you do not know the *"Rock of Ages"* (Deuteronomy 32:4).

SOCIOLOGY--if you seek a remedy for sin other than the one furnished by God: *"the blood of Jesus Christ His Son"* (I John 1:7).

BOTANY--if you have not discovered the *"True Vine"* (John 15:1).

ASTRONOMY--if you are not looking for the *"Bright and Morning Star"* (Revelation 22:16).

CHEMISTRY--if you have not made use of the process by which *"your sins, though they be as scarlet can be made white as snow"* (Isaiah 1:18).

GRAMMAR--if you have not learned that the *"Word was made flesh"* (John 1:14).

ANATOMY--if you deny that *"the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked"* (Jeremiah 17:9).

ARCHITECTURE--if you believe that you can build your life on any other foundation than the *"Chief Cornerstone, Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 2:20).

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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)

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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“**A**nd there came one of the seven angels... saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication,... and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,... And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour,... And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS...and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me,...I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” Rev. 17:1-7

The July 2021 issue of Grace and Glory boldly announced that America is NOT this mystery woman, contrary to a number of unscriptural opinions to the contrary. John is emphatically informed by the angel in the above text that “...I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” It is indeed a great mystery, but like John, Paul also asserts God’s Promise that, though “... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,... God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” I Cor. 2:9-10 It is also written that, “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever,...” Deut.29:29

Simply stated, God has made every provision that men should understand the glorious mysteries of His Word. The one presented here has puzzled many down through the ages, but The Revealer of Secrets is consistent in regard to the symbolic language used throughout scripture. Political powers are portrayed as “horns, kings, & beasts” as seen especially in Daniel and in the above text. Cities or women, and at times both, are employed to illustrate religion, both good and bad. John saw the true Bride of Christ, as “...the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned

for her husband.” Rev. 21:2 After the 12 tribes of Israel were divided, whereby 10 were designated as Israel and the remaining 2 were called Judah, Ezekiel likewise identifies them as both women and cities in portraying their “religious” unfaithfulness to Himself. “Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother: And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity. And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, ...Thus were their names; Samaria (capital of Israel) is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.” Ezek. 23:2-4

4 Paul also uses both women and cities to define Israel and The Church as being associated with the religiousness of the law. “For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.... Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai,...which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” Gal. 4:22-26

Mystery Babylon follows this exact same pattern, first being defined as “great” (“big.. exceedingly, great... high, large, loud,... strong,”) at least 6 times in this book of Revelation, and must of necessity portray the largest religious body known to man. This woman is also designated as “...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:...” again emphasizing the spectacular size of a religious entity whereby even John “...wondered with great admiration....” after her. V. 6

It must also be recognized that “religion” in scripture is defined as being both good and evil. “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.” Jas. 1:26 Jesus further uncovers this mystery, declaring to the Pharisees, “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.” Matt.

12:34-35 The word “religion” as seen in James simply means “ceremonious in worship,” and as this apostle notes, it is directly associated with that which is spoken. Jesus further reveals that the “...abundance of the heart...” will be clearly manifest through the mouth, meaning that if wrong doctrine prevails in the heart, it will be revealed in an “unbridled tongue.” Contrariwise a heart filled with truth will give evidence of “religion” that is in no wise “vain,” that is, “empty or an idol.” Thus the words out of her own mouth will both identify and condemn this mystery woman.

She is here called a “whore,” which is God’s description of her. The term is defined as “harlot, idolater, fornicator, whoremonger” but, scripturally speaking, what do these words mean? All of them are, in fact, demonstrated by Israel’s trespasses against God. He chose Hosea to graphically “act out” those transgressions as the prophet is commanded to, “...Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.” Hos. 1:2 These terms are further defined when the faithful remnant in Israel is instructed to “Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;...For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.” Hos. 2:2-5 Note here the “words out of her own mouth,” wherewith she attributed the blessings, which came directly from God, to other lovers, that is, the nations round about, for God explains, that “... she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.” Hos.2:8 Israel not only credited these “lovers” with supplying what only God gave them, but they used those same God-given riches to worship an idol --- Baal! Their “religion” is most assuredly “...vain...” or idol worship but God further declares the fact that “... she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD.” Hos. 2:13

same atrocities. It is imperative to understand that the woman referenced as Jezebel in Jesus' letter to the Church at Thyatira is exactly the same woman identified as "...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:..." for both are declared guilty of the same offenses.

Jezebel meaning "unchaste," is accused of calling "...herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Rev. 2:20 Not only does she teach such things to others, she also is guilty "...of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation,..." Rev. 2:21-22 She is also indicted for her "...doctrine, and...the depths of Satan,..." Rev 2:24

6 These same things are also said of Mystery Babylon for she too has committed fornication with "...the kings of the earth..." Rev 17:2 She is also associated with Satan for "...Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2 Finally "...BABYLON THE GREAT..." is also termed a great seducer, "...for by thy sorceries (witchcraft) were all nations deceived." Rev. 18:23

The word "Babylon" is derived from "Babel" whose history begins in Genesis. "And it came to pass,...that they found a plain in the land of Shinar;... And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name,..." Gen. 11:2-4 Shinar means "a plain in Babylonia." The object of this tower is religious, as they are determined to "...reach unto heaven;..." God confused their languages and thus the name of this "religious city" is "...called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth:..." Gen. 11:9 Babel, or Babylon, does mean "confusion," but it comes from a word signifying "to overflow, to mix; mingle, give provender." Strong's Concordance also confirms that the Greek Word Babylon stems from the Hebrew Babel. It is also no accident that the word Catholic meaning "universal, involving all, of interest to all," indeed overflowing, mixing and mingling all, carries relatively the same meaning as Babel, and Catholicism surely boasts in this description of her.

However, the scriptural characteristics which identify Mystery Babylon as being Catholicism go far deeper than just the meaning of her name. First, this woman is designated as being “great” and by her own admission Catholicism boasts that there is no “greater or exceeding large religious enterprise anywhere on planet earth than Catholicism.” Not only so but this mystery woman “...sitteth upon many waters:...” the angel interprets that fact with the assertion that, “...The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Rev. 17:15 Once again it is absolute fact rather than some speculation that no other religious entity on the face of this entire earth has the influence over all “...peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues....,” as does Catholicism. Not only so, but this same woman is said to “...sit upon a scarlet coloured beast,...” The interpretation then follows as the angel states that, “...I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” Rev 17:7 Though such a beast is then described as one man who “... shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition,;...” 7 (Rev. 17:8) both Daniel and John inform us that this coalition of the antichrist will begin with 7 nations which are then reduced to five and finally only one man will rule. The woman riding this beast again reveals the indisputable fact that only Catholicism commands world-wide influence over this political beast. It has been known for years that a great many political leaders have conferred with the reigning Pope at any given time in regard to world affairs. Many heads of state today are, in fact, Catholic. America was undoubtedly among the last of these nations to elect a Catholic leader. Reports are that the “handlers” of John Kennedy debated long and hard before running such a man due to the stark fear at that time that the predominantly Protestant majority in America would never elect him. The rest is history, for from that time to this, identification as a Catholic has proven to be a tremendous boon to anyone seeking public office not only in this country but around the world.

Currently, “...the prophetess...” is most assuredly exerting both her religious and political influence upon every

nation world-wide. Politicians have injected moral and religious issues, such as abortion, gay marriage, and global warming into the arena, and Catholicism has in no wise failed to “weigh in” on them. However, the apparent path which she often chooses is compromise, which is expressed in this opinion from USA Today as to whether or not one who advocates abortion is entitled to receive communion. “The backlash (from an article by some Catholic Bishops supporting the Catholic stance of refusal) is a product of the belief that church teachings must adapt to avoid being controversial in modern times.” The key words here are “adapt” and “modern times,” thus reinforcing the fact that this woman riding the political beast in this chapter will do anything in order to maintain her influence upon all the aforementioned “... many waters...” She has a long history of compromise throughout the ages, and that path is very evident in regard to the aforementioned issues, because she loudly condemns these ungodly practices from an “official religious standpoint,” but quietly acquiesces to them on the other hand for the benefit of those who engage in such behavior.

Pope Francis has also added his support to the man-made global warming myth as reported in “EarthBeat.” “In twin Earth Day messages, Pope Francis warned a gathering of world leaders and the global community at large that “we are at the edge” with climate change, and the time to take action is now.” This reflects the very popular political refrain in this matter from around the world and once again the rider of the beast must be in harmony with it, even though she contradicts God’s prophetic declarations concerning the real “global warming” which no man can prevent. “But the day of the Lord will come... in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” II Pet. 3:10

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” Rev. 17:6 These words can once again be claimed only by the Catholic regime, for by her own admission she was the only one there, at the time when

these "...martyrs of Jesus..." took place during the dark ages. Catholicism boasts that no other religion can boast of tracing their roots back to Pentecost, and she is absolutely right. Her boast is intended to promote herself, but by the same token she loudly asserts that she was the ONLY religious woman present when atrocities, such as those of the Spanish inquisitions, occurred.

This infamous woman, pictured both by Jezebel and Mystery Babylon, is most emphatically a deceiver. She not only enjoyed great influence over the aforementioned nations, she also deceived them with sorceries as indicated previously. That deception is recorded in great detail in the charges against Jezebel where she is accused of calling "...herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Rev. 2:20 She, rather than God, calls herself a prophetess and both her teachings and practices reveal a religious woman like unto Israel, the unfaithful wife of Jehovah described earlier. It is an absolute fact that many Catholic teachings are directly contradictory to God's Word and thus, exactly like unto Israel, she has bowed to idolatry for it is clear that she too conveys the message that, "I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, etc....." and "... she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil,..." Hos. 2:2&8 9

Catholicism is likewise very fond of attributing to others that which belongs ONLY to God, thus literally robbing Christ of His glory. She claims to be a prophetess, but her teachings are not of God for she ignores the new birth, teaching instead that salvation comes only through Mary and The Church. Jesus is very clear that "...Ye must be born again." Jn. 3:7 Peter likewise asserted on the Day of Pentecost that "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 Mary herself also proclaimed her own need of salvation crying out, "... my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." She certainly did not offer herself as a way of escape from ungodliness.

Daily teaching for some Catholics is: "Hail Mary, mother of God....Hail Mary full of grace,..." while scripture cries out

that "...the Word (Christ Jesus) was made flesh, and dwelt among us,... full of grace and truth.... And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace." Jo. 1:14-16 None will ever receive grace from Mary for the only source of that is Jesus. She was chosen as the earthen vessel to bring "The Man Christ Jesus" into this world, but she is NOT the mother of God, Who is eternal, and has neither father nor mother.

Catholic doctrine also instructs her followers to pray to Mary. The idea behind this is that "she can persuade her son better than you can." What an insult to the compassion and understanding of Jesus. It also a direct contradiction of God's Word! Paul loudly informs us that, "...there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" I Tim. 2:5 JESUS IS THE MEDIATOR, NOT MARY!

10 Another stark fallacy of this "...prophetess,..." which again robs Christ of His glory because it attributes unto men what only God can do, is the assertion that a priest can forgive sin. Many Catholics are absolutely convinced that confession is made to the priest who will then absolve it. Even the self-righteous and unspiritual Pharisees knew better than that. Though their premise of trying to trap Jesus was wrong, they still asked the most proper question: "...who can forgive sins but God only?" Mk. 2:7 The "...prophetess,..." also demands that followers call her priests "father." However, Jesus specifically forbade such an official title, declaring that His hearers should "...call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

Catholicism has also profited greatly from the "sins of humanity," for she not only blatantly teaches that her priests can forgive sins, she also demands penance, oftentimes stipulating that a monetary value be exacted and given to the Church. Purgatory is another myth found nowhere in God's Word, but it too, is a doctrine which has produced great wealth to the Vatican, for Catholic believers must pay to have "their loved ones prayed out of it." What a tremendous insult that is to the Precious Blood of Jesus shed on Calvary and how dare anyone put a monetary price on it. It is that blood which paid the eternal debt of sin

for all men and provided the glorious path to glory immediately following departure from this earth. Paul gloriously proclaimed that immediacy, shouting triumphantly “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” II Cor. 5:8

Practices such as these which have ultimately generated great wealth to this mystery woman should leave no doubt as to why she deserves the following indictment which Jesus levels against her, for “...she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously,... she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow,...” Rev. 18:7 Her riches, purchased by merchants who “....were made rich by her,...” are listed in Rev. 18:12-15 and any search on the internet reveals that no one has been able to determine the true wealth of The Catholic Church. Most agree, however, that there is no richer place on earth than the Vatican in Rome.

Finally, Jesus declares plainly that there are genuine believers in this system despite the ungodliness of her teachings for He strongly urges them to “...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins,...” Judgment is on the horizon for this ungodly woman, and her final demise will come at the battle of Armageddon when she receives her due along with the nations which have also committed fornication. 11

Jesus plainly said, “...when ye see these things (end time signs) come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.” Lk. 21:31 God’s people can surely look for even more signs of Catholic involvement in world affairs, which in themselves are a sure sign of His soon return. Therefore, we need not be dismayed nor discouraged, but rather let us:

“...look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”
Lk. 21:28

Fruit Bearing (Cont'd)

Dr. Vicky Moots

We have seen, in Gal. 5:22-23 that the apostle Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit, as starting with “love,” followed by 8 more items: joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. If you examine these more closely, you will see that these last 8 items would not even be possible without the first one, and that they are all a part of the Divine Nature of Christ Himself.

So how is it possible that we, as mere humans, can ever hope to bear such fruit as this? It is absolutely impossible for us to do that! That is why Paul is careful to clarify that it is the fruit of the Spirit, and not the flesh. Verses 19-21 lists some sordid examples of the works of the flesh which all have their root in the old creation life. These all display the exact opposite of love.

12 Only as a new creation can the Holy Spirit flow through our spiritual veins to produce spiritual fruit, just like the sap of the vine flows through its branches. First of all, we must experience and accept the love of God into our own hearts when we are convicted and convinced by the Holy Spirit that we are sinners and in need of a Savior, as we read in Rom. 3:23. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:8

So, the first step in fruit bearing is to accept and lay hold of God’s love personally. The Scripture doesn’t just say that God shows love, it says, “...God is love.” I John 4:8 Apart from God, there is no true, unselfish love. Only as we experience God’s love can we share it with others as our spiritual fruit. John makes that very clear in I John 4:7 when he says, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God [born again], and knoweth God.”

God’s divine love, agape, reaches out to the unlovely. He sent His Son to die for us when we were yet sinners, when we were still His enemies. Jesus died for the ones who mocked Him and spit in His face, the ones who laid the stripes upon His back and drove the nails into His hands. He did that because of love. Jesus was our earthly example of God’s love in action and in words as demonstrated when He prayed on the cross, “Father, forgive them...” Lk. 23:34

We are to follow His example in our fruit bearing by letting His love flow through us to love those who have hurt us. Jesus told the Pharisees that love was the greatest commandment, and Paul reiterated that in Rom. 13:10 saying, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." This is, of course, only true of God's love, agape, and can only be displayed in our lives as a fruit of the Spirit, not by our own works. Natural man does not possess this kind of love.

Jesus said in John 15:9, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." Can you truly grasp the immensity of that statement? Jesus told His disciples that He loved them with the same kind and depth of love with which God, His Father, loved Him! It is hard to imagine how much God loved His Son. That is love in its purest form; that is the "fruit of the Spirit" kind of love. He goes on further to tell them to continue loving others in that same manner, to continue in His love. He again tells them in V. 12 to "...love one another as I have loved you." The beginning of this verse states that, "This is my commandment..." Jesus gave them only one commandment, not ten. They were commanded to love with God's kind of love. This was the fruit that they were told to bear as a result of abiding in the vine. He is, of course, also speaking those words to us today as His disciples.

13

One of the most important Scriptures regarding God's love, besides John 3:16, which tells us that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,..." is found in Rom. 8:38-39. In these verses, Paul declares that nothing can separate us from the love of God: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord." That eliminates everything in God's creation, including ourselves. Paul's words assure us that God will not cut us off from the Vine no matter what happens. The only cutting that He will do is to prune us, through His Word and through circumstances which He allows, in order to bring us closer to Him, so that we may bear the fruit of His love, the fruit of the Spirit.

It was stated previously that according to the Apostle Paul in Gal. 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit is God's love itself. Simply

stated, "The fruit of the Spirit is love." It is manifested in our lives as fruit through the Holy Spirit by 8 different characteristics: joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. The number 8 in Scripture is the number of the new creation. Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week, the 8th day, the day after the sabbath, to become the Head of the new creation. Only the new creation life of Christ in us is able to produce the fruit of the Spirit. These 8 characteristics of God's love will not be fully manifested to others around us until they are put to the test, to bring out the sweetness of the fruit. The first one listed is "joy." Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness depends on what happens. If everything is going well, then we are happy. But what if nothing goes right? What if tragedy strikes? That's where joy comes into play. Joy is a feeling of well being even if everything is going wrong. Joy is manifested in spite of the circumstances, not because of them.

14 God's joy was sent into this world in the Person of His Son. That joy was announced by an angel at His birth to the shepherds in the field who were told, "...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Lk. 2:10-11

Only the Lord can bring joy into our lives, because joy comes from Him. He is the embodiment of joy. Apart from Him, there is no joy. Jesus promised to give His joy to the disciples, and to us, as He spoke to them on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Jn. 15:11 How could He be speaking to them about joy when He knew what He was about to face? He was soon to be betrayed by Judas, to be denied by Peter, to be forsaken by His disciples and to be mocked and scorned and crucified. He was able to speak of joy because He looked beyond the circumstances to the victory that would be won through the cross and to the eternal, future joy of having a bride who would reign with Him in heaven.

Paul explains this in Heb. 12:2. "Looking unto Jesus... who for the joy that was set before him [Jesus] endured the cross..." It was this same kind of joy that the early Hebrew Christians were able to experience when they had everything they owned taken away from them because of their belief in Jesus. Paul said to them,

in Heb. 10:34, “For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and enduring substance.” They were able to endure this trial with joy because they looked beyond their earthly possessions to their heavenly riches.

This is a joy which the world cannot understand or explain, and goes far beyond the realm of mere happiness. Peter calls this kind of joy “unspeakable” because there are no words to describe it. He declares in I Pet. 1:8, “Whom [Jesus] having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”

The apostle here refers to a joy that can be experienced even in the midst of our trials, because of the glory that will be received by us at the appearing of Jesus Christ. It is that same joy of which James speaks when he says, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [various and multiple] temptations [testings].” Jas. 1:2

The Holy Spirit enables us also to count it all joy in our trials as we look beyond the current circumstances to the goal that is set before us, so that we may suffer joyfully, even as Jesus did. Paul prayed for the Colossian saints that they would be “Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power [the power of the Holy Spirit], unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” Col. 1:11 This prayer was meant for us today, also, and is answered as we yield to the pruning of God’s Word.

15

The joy that Jesus gives us becomes evident to the world as the fruit of the Spirit when they can see a smile on our faces, a cheerful countenance, in the midst of our hardships or trials, instead of a long face. That doesn’t mean that we don’t shed tears. Even Jesus wept, but He did not remain in a state of sorrowfulness.

The Lord can turn our mourning into joy just as God promised to the nation of Israel in Jer. 31:13. “...I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.”

As we begin to praise the Lord and thank Him for Who He is, and that He is in control of our situation, then He will flood our hearts with His joy. David said in Psa. 30:4, “Sing unto the Lord ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.” He then reminds us in v. 5 that “...weeping may endure

for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” As a result of singing and praise, David was able to exclaim in vs. 11: “Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness”.

We may not physically dance, but our hearts will dance with an unspeakable joy that is produced and manifested as the fruit of the Spirit. Then we will be able to say with David, no matter what trial we are in the midst of, “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psa. 118:24

(To Be Continued)

SUFFERING WITH JESUS

16 “So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea and they went out into the wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.” Ex. 15:22 Israel in the wilderness does not necessarily speak of failure. It is the result of redemption. The place of Calvary, the place of the rejection of Jesus, is a barren wilderness to those who love Him. They who learn to glory in the cross of Christ find that they are crucified to it and it yields bitter waters. Reproach is their portion; but they are suffering with Christ. His cross makes the bitter waters sweet. They learn to rejoice that they are counted worthy to suffer with Christ, for such shall also reign with Him.

But the wilderness has also further lessons. It is the place of the most wondrous display of God’s love and power. It is the very necessities of the people which occasioned the manifestation of God’s wonderful provision. Had the wilderness yielded bread, there would have been no need of the manna from heaven. Had there been plenty of water, there would have been no occasion for the water from the smitten rock. God’s supplies are proportioned to man’s necessities, yea, they are over-abundant for the one who has an over-abundant need.

It is when we have a wilderness experience that our faith is tested. We really prove the power of God’s Word and He proves us. The discipline is needful, not to furnish us a title to Canaan, but to make us acquainted with God and our own hearts. It is only thus that we really enter into the reality of our relationship to God as His sons and enjoy the things which He has laid up for them that trust in Him before the children of men.

Reprint. Anon

Adam's Choice

Anon

If one wishes a concrete example of how Rome tampers with the Word of God, he has it in the following fantastic story of how God originally created for Adam a wife who was too frail to suit his fancy. We quote from the Romanist book, "Queen of Heaven" (By Maryan Gawalewicz) which is a volume highly prized by Catholics who can procure it:

"After the fall of the angels, God created the first man, Adam. A giant he was, so strong and mighty it meant nothing to him to grasp with his hands a large tree and tear it out with its roots, as if it were but a blade of grass.

"The Lord God decided to give him a companion. He breathed on the Paradise flowers, and from them, like a lily white and pure, like a scent light and charming, floated the wonderful form of the first woman, created of what Paradise possessed, most charming, most pure, most beautiful. The Lord God gave Adam a maiden of flowers,

17

"It grew lighter in Paradise when she passed by, because in the day time, all the stars came out to gaze at her: the air was sweeter because the earth shed fragrance."

But the book tells us that Adam was indifferent to this beautiful woman because she seemed too frail. He was a robust man and wanted a strong wife. God was disappointed and took the flower maiden to heaven, then created a more sturdy wife for Adam.

Are you wondering what became of the original beauty? We are told that God then set her apart for another purpose. He kept her to act the part as mother of His Son. In the fullness of time she would descend to earth and bear her child, Jesus. So the Romanist version is that Eve was made of clay and bone, but the Virgin Mary was created from Paradise flowers and it is from her that "the spirit of regeneration flows over the world."

(Reprint 1950)

REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“**A**nd out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” Rev. 19:15

The above sword “...out of his mouth...” is easily identified as The Word of God, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,...” Heb. 4:12 This chapter in Rev. presents a concise portrait of the Judge, Who will judge the “...the great whore...” along with the nations. The winepress bears reference to the battle of Armageddon, but attention here is drawn to His dynamic sword.

18 Moses likewise enlarged on this same battle declaring the benefits of that judgment for Israel shouting, “Happy art thou, O Israel:...O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the **sword of thy excellency...**” Deut. 33:29

All of these benefits shall come to pass for Israel, and the nations will most assuredly bow to this most devastating sword, but the results of that mighty power are available to us in a most personal way at this present time. Gideon faced the battle before him as he exhorted his followers to “...blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.” Jud. 7:18 He became a living example of claiming this sword, personally calling it “...**the sword of the LORD...**” and of **himself**. God’s people today must claim His Word as their own, but Gideon’s experience surely teaches that this is a process. It takes a certain “type” of individual to truly appropriate this sword.

Gideon’s experience began when “...there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash... and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress,...And the angel of the LORD... said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him,...if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? ...but now the LORD hath forsaken us,... And the

LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?" Jud. 6:11-14 Though God called him a "...mighty man of valour..." Gideon surely did not have that estimation of himself, crying out "...wherewith shall I save Israel?... I am the least in my father's house." Jud. 6:15 This illustrates the fact that men must first acknowledge their own weakness, but rather than wallow in self pity and self absorption, they must also learn to claim Gideon's advantage when "...the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might,..." God reiterated that promise with these words: "...Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man." V. 16

Thus it is clear that Gideon ultimately claimed the "...sword of the LORD..." as his own and the glorious results speak for themselves. "So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came...in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets,... And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers,... and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place....and all the host ran, and cried, and fled." Jud. 7:19-21

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What an example for our day when there is such chaos because "...they had but newly set the watch..." This nation and the world are in a state of transition and now is the time for all God's people to claim this same "...sword of the LORD..." Young people are certainly urged to appropriate the tremendous power of God's Word for themselves as they stand against the ungodliness being forced upon them in public schools. However, though none can turn the tide of this entire world, God's people can most assuredly experience the fact that the enemy cannot gain dominion over them, for "...all the host ran, and cried, and fled," in response to "...The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon."

GH

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Labor Day Fellowship Meeting, Sept. 4-5 at Gospel Fellowship in Grandview, Missouri, 13011 Grandview Rd. Food and Meals provided. Please reserve rooms by 8-27-21. Call 816-618-3306. Services begin at 10 A.M. Sat. with P.M. service starting at 2. Evening service 7 P.M. Sunday School 10 A.M. followed by worship at 11.

Hope to see you soon!

A VISION OF THE CHURCH

Geoff Haase (Australia)

“**A**ll these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.” Matt. 13:34-35

Jesus declared the mysteries of the kingdom along with the Church in mystery form through the 7 parables of this chapter. Paul likewise quotes from the O.T., presenting patterns, portraits, pictures and parables, sometimes called types and shadows “...as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.” Heb: 8:5, The Chief Apostle to the Church also declared that the law was simply “... a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things,...” Heb: 10:1

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Jesus also explained that He spoke in parables “...Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.” Matt 13:11 This simply means that those who have ears to hear can understand these mysteries, and those whose hearts are hardened cannot!

Jesus has from the birthday of the Church in Acts 2 been building His Church, which is also called the body of Christ, proclaiming plainly that, “...upon this rock I will build my church...” Matt. 16:18 Here we see the “...I will...” of the “I Am,” prophesying His will as the very foundation for the building of the Church.

Examples and Patterns.

Noah’s Ark: The only righteous man of his day, Noah, along with his sons, and typical of Christ, is called to build the ark. Many aspects of salvation can be seen in this story. It is worthy to note three whole chapters are devoted to this great redemptive message, which portray the journey of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church from beginning to end. Gen: 6-9 That journey is complete when the ark comes to rest in the seventh

month. This redemptive picture is confirmed by Peter, stating that "...Christ also hath once suffered for sins,... being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah,... The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" I Pet. 3:18-21 The ark portrays Christ and His sufferings, whereby all those in it were shielded from the waters of judgment. Water baptism symbolizes resurrection and the abundance of blessing which follows.

Abraham also presents a glorious pattern or precedent as he is designated "our father" or "...the father of us all..." Rom. 4:16 His life illustrates the example for us as he is instructed to "...Lift up now thine eyes,... For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it,... Arise, walk through the land..." Gen. 13:14-17..." This is how we (the Church) must possess our inheritance; the land of promise being a type or picture of all God's Promises into which the Holy Spirit brings us as New Testament believers in Christ. We most assuredly have "...obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:" Eph: 1:11. Abraham walked the length and breadth of the land. He walked north, south, east and west, after the pattern of the Cross and signifying to us that the land of our inheritance in the heavenlies is on the basis of all the cross has purchased for us. When Abraham walked through the land the Church was yet in his loins, for we are the seed of Abraham. 21

Moses: This is seen in the journey from Egypt to Caanan as ... "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;...all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." I Cor. 10:1-4 Hereto is a vision of the church from the beginning at Passover till the New Creation is seen in the land of promise under the leadership

of Joshua with each tribe given its inheritance and place. Not all who came out of Egypt entered the land, teaching us that not all believers will receive a full inheritance or full reward. Not that we should confuse our rewards with the free gift of eternal life. Not all believers lay hold of the inheritance although they are still saved and in the kingdom by virtue of a new birth.

The Tabernacle of Moses specifically portrays God's desire for fellowship. "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments..." Ex. 25:8,9 The Tabernacle structure and instruments speak of the Church and its ministries, a point we would desire to make plain. Viewed from above, the likeness of the Cross appears in the Tabernacle furniture. The brazen altar leads to the laver, which then gives way to the ark in the holy of holies. The holy place housed the altar of incense, the golden candlestick and table of showbread. It's important to see each piece of furniture as God instructed Moses. Together and only together does the tabernacle furniture give a clear picture of the cross and all that God in Christ has provided for us.

The complete journey of the Church begins with the blood of the brazen altar and ends with entrance into the glory of the most holy place. The other pieces of furniture feature all aspects of intervening experience until we have grown up fully into the Head in all things. That is from the altar to the ark of the covenant we see in symbol and type the complete journey of the Church.

This can also be seen in the individual believer as he embraces and understands Christ as seen in all the furniture and receives the truth each piece represents. Note also that the furniture portrays the five-fold ministry under the headship of Christ the Ark. We observe the fact of seven pieces of furniture, which Moses calls instruments of the Tabernacle. Five of the seven pieces of furniture answer to the five-fold ascension gifts of Ephesians 4. "Wherefore he saith, When... he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men....And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" V. 8-11

The altar represents the ministry of the evangelist as the

one we first meet who points us to the cross of Christ and the beginning of the believer's journey of faith. The brazen laver would picture the ministry of the Shepherd who applies the water of the Word in regard to their daily walk of the believer into the Holy Place. We are then met with the lamp stand which portrays the prophet. The table of showbread opposite the lamp stand is clearly seen as the teacher. The golden altar of incense would portray the apostle.

Beyond the veil was the ark of the covenant with the mercy seat and cherubim of glory. The ark speaks of Christ as head over all things to the Church. He is head over all things to the ministry and governs all the ministry under His headship. The mercy seat is seen as the throne with the angelic messengers of witness. All these things speak volumes.

Here we have in this pattern of the tabernacle, the all-important divine order of ministry and function for the church. This has not changed but is confirmed by Paul to be in place ... "until we all come to the unity of the faith and have the full knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man unto the full measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:11.

23

THE WEAVER

The shuttles of His purpose move
To carry out His own design;
Seek not too soon to disapprove
His work, not yet assign
Dark motives, when with silent tread,
You view some sombre fold;
For lo, within each darker thread
There twines a thread of gold.
Spin cheerfully, Not tearfully,
He knows the way you plod;
Spin carefully, Spin prayerfully,
But leave the thread with God.

-Selected.

DOUBLE RECKONERS

L. Barrowcliff

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:11

The Christian leads a double life, but not in a worldly sense. We have to do two things, if we would be a fruitful Christian. First, we must reckon ourselves dead unto sin and all its subsidiaries; and, secondly, we must reckon ourselves alive unto God. This double reckoning is the only means whereby we may prevail over our enemies, whilst still in a body of humiliation. For we, no less than any other man, are subject to like passions of all men with this difference - we need not obey the passions which are contrary to the life of Christ within. Our old Adam, or old man, is still corrupt, unclean, and unregenerated. The lusts of the flesh, of the world, and of the devil are working in us for our undoing; but we must not on any occasion obey those impulses which rise up within the fleshly members, or we will fall prey to evil practices.

These desires do not spring from an external source but an internal one; that is, from the flesh. True, the incitement comes from without; but the desire itself springs from the fleshly members, even the old man. The believers, now possessing a new life within, find those desires to be most repugnant. The flesh life would serve them. Maybe he served them exceedingly before his conversion; but now, being born again by the Spirit of God, he finds another power working within him - even a resistance against those wicked lusts and a fervent desire to do that which is lawful, good, and right. The better motives also spring from within; but they are from the Christ indwelling. In consequence, a warfare ensues which will result in a victory for the wicked one, if he yields to his carnal desires; or, in a victory for Christ and God, if he yields and hearkens to the voice of resistance. The battle will not be waged by him; but, it is the new man and the old man, both seeking supremacy - and to whom the person hearkens will the victory go. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap

life everlasting" - Galatians 6:8.

How, then, shall a man be sure of victory for Christ? He has no actual part in the tussle; but his attitude decides the issue. By repentance and faith, the sinner passes from death unto life. He is accounted crucified with Christ, as one who died upon the Cross of Calvary. Christ's death is reckoned as his death. Likewise, Christ's resurrection is accounted the believer's resurrection. Jesus died FOR sin upon the Tree; but He also died TO sin. That is, although He died because He bore our sin in His own body on the Tree, sin was no longer able to affect Him. He was dead, dead to the world and dead to sin. Sin can work in a live man, but not in a dead man. Corruption is not sin, but a FRUIT of sin. So, when a dead body decomposes, it is not sin working in that body but the fruit of sin. Wherefore, as Christ died to sin and the believer is accounted dead with Christ, even so must he also be dead to sin; and sin cannot, as a result, affect him. This actually works out in a believer, too. So long as he continually reckons himself dead, that is CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, he will find sin unable to operate. It cannot operate in a dead man. When a Christian 25 fails to reckon thus, he finds sin triumphant in him; but, all the time he reckons himself dead, the power of sin is most definitely annulled. A dead man is inoperative, and thus the vicious circle is snapped and the man is free. He may have the joyful experience of perfect freedom from sin, as Paul declares - "Sin shall NOT have dominion over you" - Romans 6:14.

That takes us one step, but only one; for the Christian is very much alive! Previously, as a sinner, he was dead IN sin. Now, thanks be unto God, he is dead TO sin - dead to sin, but alive to God. Yes, and even as Christ rose from the dead to the glory of the Father, even so we are alive unto God also. "Alive unto God!" We live unto Him. That is, we live so that in all things God is glorified. The victory Christ won for us at Calvary is manifest in us. The resurrection life bears fruit unto God, and He is satisfied. He makes manifest to the hosts about us, human and angelic, that He has performed a wondrous work of love by His glorious plan of redemption; and through the Church makes known His glory. We read of certain Benjamites who attached themselves to David

before he obtained the kingdom. I Chron. 12:1,2 Of them it is written that they "...could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows." They could reckon twice. They were double reckoners. In war, they were of inestimable value. We, too, as Christians should be ambidextrous; that is, be able to use both hands at the same time - reckon ourselves "dead indeed unto sin," and reckon ourselves "alive unto God." Reader, how is it with you? Have you found the enemy prevailing, and bringing you into sore bondage? Have you fought and resisted in your own strength again and again, only to fail? Then hand over the battle to the Lord Jesus. Let HIM fight for you and in you. He will, if you ask Him. To do so, you must reckon that your old self, the old Adam in you, the "I" that crops up so often, is dead. As you count him dead, and refuse to walk according to his promptings, you will also reckon your new self alive unto God. Thus, by faith in God's Word, you will obtain that which you never experienced by your own efforts or works. You will have victory over sin and over sin's power; and finally, you will reap a
26 glorious harvest in Heaven, the reaping of your sowing on earth.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:7-9

(Reprint 1971)



*** Prayer must mean something to us, if it is to mean anything to God.**

***The Lord is more interested in people than in things.**

*** Some people talk so fast that they say things that they have not even thought.**

*** God provides resting places as well as working places.**

*** The Holy Spirit chooses the "nobodies" of the earth and makes them "somebodies."**

Christ, Our Hope

Carson Richards

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” Rom. 8:22

Christ, our Hope, the greatest of all spiritual values, speaks more and more to me. The things of this world, the things that we see, will be outlasted by the spiritual things. If you are among the flesh all the time and then get with spiritual people, you cannot help but see that there are two kingdoms, the spiritual and the natural. Thank God there is a spiritual realm, a realm of God's, the new creation. God still deals with us in this natural realm in the senses: sight, feeling and hearing. While we are here on earth, He tests us with certain spiritual values, the prominent ones, faith, hope and love. We need to see spiritual values and God's dealings with man. The only hope we have is in God. God's Word states plainly that there isn't much to be expected in this life. The whole creation is groaning and travailing. It is worse now than several years ago. It is God's description of the effects of sin. "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in HOPE." Rom. 8:20 Notice that the first creation was made subject to vanity, but God had hope in making this race of men. He had hope there would be something better. God has told us in His Word that there is something better to be expected--subjected in hope. The world fell in corruption of sin, but there is hope of something better. God knew all the time the natural man would fail, but He had hope in His Son. He chose the new creation before the foundation of the world. He knew through all that expanse of time just what man would do, but He subjected the creation in hope. He allowed the world to come into this time of vanity and vexation of spirit for a purpose. The fact that you have been sick shows you have need of something better. If you have ever been disappointed, heartsick, or had a shattered ambition, it is easy to see there is a need of something better, a need of power that is favorable to man. He must have something better in view. The philosophers might write of a future for man, but we know there is something real, a living hope.

God is not judging people to get them down under the

weight of sin forever, but He has given them a way out. The answer is that man is under the weight and burden of sin, but there is one answer to man's need; that is Christ. Christ is our hope. Everything that God has is bound up in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One that will fulfill everything. Christ is the Hope of the Church. Everyone has the privilege of being in the Church by accepting Christ as his Savior and being a partaker of this hope. This love and hope is over all. We have this hope in Christ; it is all in Him, all bound up in Him. We know these things, but we cannot get out of a trial until the time comes to get us out. There is a certain compensation while we are here, if we go God's way, but if we rebel and want things in the self life, we won't get along so well with God. If we seek God for spiritual things, He will answer. It is best to go God's way and we will be mighty glad that we did so.

28

"Now the God of Hope fill You with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in HOPE through the power of the Holy Ghost." Rom. 15:13 Isn't that compensation? The God of hope fill you with all joy. Christ is our Hope. That is not limited to time, relationship, or station in this life. It is for the heart and the spirit. The God of Hope can fill you with joy. Would you rather God would give you a million dollars, or joy? It is better to take the joy and peace. We have also something that makes us wise toward God. Hope is one of the chains that enables us to take hold of God. It is a privilege to abound in hope, in spite of all the sorrow and heartache there is now. Even if there is peace in the natural, we know mankind is going to be at each other's throats sooner or later, but we rejoice in hope. The God of Hope can help us and give us encouragement and strength.

Then we read, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching,..." Titus 1:2-3 This was the reason Paul labored as he did, preaching the Word of God because of its hope of eternal life. He gave up his life to God in hope of eternal life. He suffered as no man suffered for the cause; suffered in hope of eternal life, so also we have this same hope. Even in Paul's day his hope was in that eternal life and that eternal

life was Christ, the Son of God. We cannot be lost. If we receive Christ, we have eternal life. We have Him and He becomes no less eternal as the days go on. He won a victory forever by His death on the cross, so we live in hope of eternal life. Even if the body decays, the spirit of life is eternal. It is good to know that we are eternal as Christ Himself. Works have nothing to do with it. Christ is the one we expect to meet. Our hope is not in our works. That would be in vain. We are bound up in Christ. Whatever happens to us in this life, we have this hope. It illumines our days, the hope of eternal life. The natural life goes on until its end, but the spiritual will never die, nor change after we leave this body. Paul said that it is better to depart and be with Christ. Not many people look at eternal things. How little we actually get of the eternal complex. We do not look at things from the eternal standpoint. It was better for Paul to be with the Lord because he was living in hope of eternal life. In this age, the time approaches for God's wrath to be poured out. We have reason also to believe we are approaching the time of Christ's kingdom and at that time there is a consolation for the believer. He has the hope of joy and peace instead of the sorrow and pain of the old creation. **29**

"But let us, who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for an helmet, the HOPE of salvation"-1 Thess. 5:8. There are conflicting thoughts about God's judgments and the meeting with the Lord, but why not rejoice? Christ is going to take us away from the worst time this world has seen. The hope of this consummation is real. What happened today never happened before, so one day Christ will come. It will be something different, only typified before. Praise the Lord for the hope; it is a great encouragement. No matter what happens, we can say, Christ is coming. People would rather go on with things as they are today than to have a hope of the kingdom of God. The world is making a mistake. The final realization will be that the whole creation will be changed from a state of corruption and sin into a state of righteousness and spiritual perfection. If we are going to be with God we will have to be righteous. There will be a wonderful condition of righteousness and divine perfection. God sent down His only righteousness. God has brought down

righteousness to man. Man could not keep His law, but was just a miserable failure. Righteousness is the only story that God cares to hear about. He has nothing else to bring to us, except that which is finished. Christ finished the work of redemption and was raised again for our justification, that we might have God's own righteousness. We cannot get God's righteousness by efforts of our own, but through Christ. People need the Grace of God. When a child is first born, he is not very capable of helping himself. Everything in the natural is typical of the spiritual. God cannot help anyone except through Grace and grace is unmerited favor with God.

"For we through the spirit wait for the HOPE of righteousness by faith." Gal. 5:5 The Holy Spirit is here given us to hope. The same Spirit that knows the purpose and mind of God, gives us a hope. The hope of righteousness is Christ. It won't be any better until Christ comes. Everything that God has done, has been done in Christ. Thus, we live in this Hope which is eternal and divine.

30

(Reprint 1945)

A Little Hour

"Twill not be long, our journey here;
A little hour the falling tear;
They'll soon be o'er the sighs and groans,
The night of sorrow and of moans;
And then a day of cloudless sky,
Eternal years with Christ on high.

A little while, twill soon be past,
The time to watch to pray and fast.
Oh priv'lege rare to us is given,
To wait for Christ our Lord from heaven.
He's coming soon with wordless pow'r
Oh, let us watch the little hour.

A little hour, 'twill pass away
And Christ will come at dawn of day.
Oh blest indeed the ones who hear
The trumpet calling loud and clear:
Come up above, the watch is past;
The gath'ring home has come at last.

Mary M. Bodie

Brotherly Love Church

Anon

“**A**nd to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;” Rev. 3:7

That church was one of the seven churches in Asia to which the Lord of Life and Glory wrote. It expressed the best at that time, and it has the same significance today. It was unique in the beginning in every respect. It is unique today. The name, Philadelphia reveals the secret of its outstanding place. It means "Brotherly love," and was and is a very scarce commodity; but how precious and heavenly when found. The Psalmist exclaims, "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments."

Here we have the full description of unity. Typically it refers to the anointing of the Lord Jesus Christ, in which was included the provision for the anointing of His whole body. Those of this company, who really lay hold and apprehend their oneness with Christ and His people, enter into the meaning of "brotherly love," and become a part of the Philadelphia church.

Let us notice the following promises. They are unique and wonderful.

One. They will share with Christ in world sovereignty.

Two. They will enjoy absolute authority.

Three. They will have the worship of others.

Four. They will escape the tribulation.

Five. They will be established eternally in Him, as pillars in the Temple of God abiding forever, even as He abides.

We believe the Lord gave this church such glorious promises because they were of this overcoming character and were having troubles of their own. They stood out in respect to the love of the saints from the other six churches to whom John wrote in that far-off day; for there were seven assemblies in Asia. They were a pattern of all Christendom and representative of

different ranks in the church; hence, Philadelphia saints may be found among us today, and it is concerning such that we are interested.

32 The Lord knew that perilous times would be present, and hence He gave them such a glorious outlook, on-look and up-look. He realized how difficult it would become to love the brethren, in the torn and rent condition of the church of the present, divided up into sects and schisms, the visible unity all gone. And instead of loving one another, the different organizations are biting and devouring one another. Therefore, to maintain "brotherly love" necessitates some marvelous overcoming. It is unusual and extraordinary, and He gave these encouraging words to such extraordinary saints. They are outstanding promises, for such Christians are outstanding. They refuse to see division in the one church. They hold the unity of the body of Christ in the bond of peace and receive and love all that love their Lord. If others hurt them, they pray for them and continue to do good to them if they have the opportunity. They refuse to allow Satan any part or lot in their lives by causing them to accuse the brethren, or make division in any sense of the word. They refuse to tolerate anything that tears up the body of Christ any worse than it has been torn. They WILL LOVE THE BRETHREN. It is the NEW COMMANDMENT of the new covenant of the new dispensation of the new creation without limitation.

Observe the name carefully, "Brotherly Love." It is a beautiful name, and instructs us as to the only requirement, necessary to become a member of this superlative church. LOVE among brethren is a scarce commodity in these days; but it is absolutely essential to being a partaker of the honors promised to the Philadelphia assembly. From the beginning, the Lord has been looking for such saints and engraving their names on the membership roll of this church. "Love," this precious divine element, is characteristic of all that obtain a place on this honor roll. You cannot join this church. You cannot buy a membership. The Lord Himself introduces those saints who are eligible into its inner circle.

We say that they are scarce today. It is so much easier to bite

and criticize than it is to love and sympathize. We are dependent upon the Lord to develop this characteristic in us. He will cause us to increase and abound in love as we yield to His Word and let the Holy Spirit work in us and bring forth this fruit which He has commanded us to evidence. He gave more instructions regarding this most necessary feature than any other phase of Christian character. And He defines these as "commands" in several instances. Let us observe these carefully and we may come to know whether we are a part of this unique Philadelphia company, or not. John, the beloved, appears as the prominent Apostle of love. He leaned his head on the bosom of Love and learned its secrets; therefore the Lord uses him to instruct us in the divine art of loving one another. His words are most emphatic as he reports what Jesus said regarding the love of the brethren in his Gospel. These are his words. "A new commandment I give unto you; that ye love one another; as I have loved you; that you also love one another." Jn. 13:34 Then He further admonitions two more commands on the same subject; "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." Jn. 15:12 & 17 33 "These things I command you, that ye love one another." His love is the standard. He sets before us as the pattern, a life laid down in sacrifice for others. If we do not hew close to that line, that example, we will miss the mark regardless of the many excuses we make for ourselves and our friends. The pattern is before us. What are we saying and doing? How near are we to the standard? That is the question which should occupy our consideration.

Observe also in John's first epistle, how He rings out the challenge of "love to the brethren," as the most vital asset to a Christian life, He declares that it marks him out as an overcomer. We read, "He, that loveth his brother, abideth, in the light." I Jn. 2:10 It is a proof that such a one is walking with God. He has fellowship with the Father and the Son, and the blood covers. He is clean in a practical manner. I Jn. 1:7 Furthermore, He declares that this is "the message ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" I Jn. 3:11 Observe also Verse 14 of the same chapter. "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren." It is the real test of being a new

creation, the essence of the life of Christ. Hate is the essence of the old creation. It is a proof that the old man is alive if we are "biting and devouring" the brethren. It is by the fact of Christ laying down His life, and God giving His Son over unto death, that we perceive Their love; likewise this is the way that men perceive our love, when we lay down our lives for the brethren.

Furthermore, this love must not be in word only but in deed also, as is written in Verse 18. It is this working church that has the assurance of being in the truth. V. 19 God hears the prayers of this choice company who keep the new commandment of love and do the things which are pleasing in His sight. A lip profession is not enough proof of eligibility for membership in the "Brotherly Love" church. The love that counts is love in shoes, doing good and healing all that are oppressed of the devil. It gets down low to wash our brother's feet, as Jesus did (John 13), and thus lift him up. So many saints want the sinning one to get down instead of getting down themselves.

34 It is the more excellent way, this way of love. Better than all the gifts, is this preeminent fruit of the Spirit. "It suffers long and is kind; envieth not; vaunteth not itself; is not puffed-up; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil,..." etc. I Cor. 13. Such love is scarce, so scarce that even Diogenes with his lantern would have as much difficulty finding it among the brethren today as he had finding an honest man among the mortals of his era. And yet it is the ONE and only requisite for getting into the Philadelphia church, the assembly par-excellent, superlative and glorious.

(Reprint 1950)

TRUST IN GOD

Courage brother: do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night,
There's a star to guide the humble,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Though the road be long and dreary,
And its ending out of sight,
Foot if bravely --- strong or weary,
Trust in God, and do the right.

Norman Macleod



Our Corn Crib

"Buy The Truth, and Sell It Not"

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WISDOM

is the principal thing;
therefore get wisdom:
and with all thy getting
get understanding.

PROVERBS 4:7.

