

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the whole counsel of GOD

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And now abideth
FAITH,
HOPE,
CHARITY,
these three; but the
greatest of these is
CHARITY
2 CORINTHIANS 13:13.

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*"Dost thou fear to launch away?
 Faith lets go to swim!
 Never will He let thee go,
 Tis by trusing thou shalt know
 Fellowship with Him"*

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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“**N**ow we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,...That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled,... as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.... And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed,...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” II Thess. 2:1-12 3

Paul wrote these words because some in Thessalonica had been deluded into thinking that Jesus had already come and they had been left behind. The apostle not only refuted that destructive idea, he also records a beautiful outline of that which will specifically come to pass in these last days wherein the “...mystery of iniquity...” is now appearing in full bloom. There are many characteristics embodied in that mystery which “...doth already work...” but deception runs like a thread throughout this entire portion. It was on full display at the time then present, but both Jesus and Paul specifically warned of it during these last days when such fraud would seemingly come to full fruition. This was the very first subject which Jesus addressed after the disciples had asked Him, “...what shall be the sign of thy coming,...And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name,...and shall deceive many.” Matt. 24:3-5 Verse 24 of this same chapter further asserts that this trend will become more intense as the tribulation progresses. “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch

that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Paul likewise includes deception in describing the perilous times of these last days. “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” II Tim. 3:13 Once again, the apostle was very emphatic in declaring that fraud and deception was already rampant in that day, but both Jesus and the Chief Apostle to the Church conclude that it will wax worse and worse as these end times continue. The question for God’s People today is, “What do we do about it? How do we arm ourselves against it?”

4 That answer is found in the message to the Thessalonians. “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed,…” II Thess. 2:7 The word “... letteth...” is better translated “hindereth,” meaning that there are some believers in this world who are even now “hindering” the powers of darkness, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Eph. 6:12 These “hinderers” will continue such resistance “...until he be taken out of the way,” meaning that this elite believer will march on in his ministry of defense until God takes him home, as has happened to quite a number of stalwarts in the faith over these past few years. The result has been that the forces of evil and darkness are most assuredly increasing and the pressures of darkness re mounting on those who continue to stand in their place and hold back these evil powers.

Paul then continues to define the mystery of iniquity, singling out the “...working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;...” II Thess. 2:9-10 Deception most assuredly includes outright lying, but much of the subtlety surrounding deception is simply the failure to proclaim truth. Paul here specifically declares, “...for this cause...” meaning that because men “...received not the love of the truth...” God would instead “...send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” II Thess. 2:10-11

The Church has practiced this kind of deception for years as she has literally failed to declare genuine truth in regard to a great many doctrines. Catholicism, along with a number of

Protestant groups, has consistently failed to shout from the house tops that Jesus is the only Way into heaven. Catholic doctrine literally hides this truth and the lie which comes forth is that salvation comes through the Church or through Mary. Other organizations have also failed to stand up and simply declare scripture: "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn. 14:6 And again, "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 John connects this same lying and deception with these verses. "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." I Jn. 2:22 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I Jn. 4:3 "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." II Jn. 1:7

There are also a great number of other glorious truths of scripture wherewith the Church has both deceived and robbed 5 their hearers of truth because they simply failed to declare it. Some have openly denied the infilling of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in new tongues. That is deception simply by failure to set forth the truth of God's Word. Other doctrines whereby men have followed the same pattern, include the glorious truth of eternal life, seated "...together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" (Eph 2:6) along with the glorious message for this end time of Jesus' eminent return, along with the truth of ranks in the resurrection. The list of "deception by omission" is endless, but this same pattern is also found in the secular and political atmosphere of our day.

Deception is on the rampage as men absolutely refuse to declare truth and the message to the Thessalonians prevails here: "...because they received not the love of the truth,... God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:" The world as a whole has openly denied or hidden the truth of creation. Their idea has been that if they can get rid of creation, they can also rid themselves of God. This has never worked and will not, for God specifically left creation as a direct proof of Himself. "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them;

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, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" Rom. 1:19-20

This same principle of deception by hiding truth has surely come to the fore in what has become known as social media, wherewith some seem to be rather addicted. It has literally become a channel, a major source of deception, for these hi-tech companies have begun to censor information which they wish to hide. One example is a recent story by the New York Post which had come to light proclaiming how now Pres. Joe Biden's son was involved in "...wrong doings in Ukraine." Other stories have surfaced alleging that the new President may be severely compromised because China has channeled millions of dollars to him through his son. Remarkably, mainstream media has refused to publish any of these allegations, while, at the same time the peace deal brokered by former Pres. Trump between Israel and the UAE along with other participating countries was published as barely a whisper. All of this "hidden information" can only be described as stark deception.

6

China has also emerged as a major contributor to deception for unleashing the Corona virus on the entire world. They are still silent, refusing to issue any information regarding it. It is still not known whether they released it on purpose, accidentally, or for calculated results to advance their own global agenda.

The "...mystery of iniquity..." implies that which is hidden and unknown. One major reason for the chaos and uncertainty in our day can be directly attributed to men who constantly hide the truth. We can do nothing about that which is not known, and therefore, we must concentrate on that which God has made perfectly clear. Christians must measure the "news of our day" against what God's Word declares is coming to pass. They must ask the question, "How do events actually happening before our very eyes coincide with what scripture has specifically prophesied?" How are God's people to determine whether or not the reports heard on "conservative" news channels are true, the reason being many of these same articles have been vehemently denied by mainstream and social media? The answers can only be found by understanding what God's Word has prophesied, which will, without fail, come to pass.

Thus, believers must know of a surety that Jesus has not yet been crowned King of kings, but He soon will be. The antichrist has not yet been revealed, but the aforementioned deception is surely one harbinger of it. A time of peace and safety is coming, and though we see signs of progress in this matter, it has not at this hour come to pass by declaration of the man of sin.

God's people likewise must know that both Daniel and John describe "the beast" that is soon to arrive. "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible,... and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; 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. 7:7-8 John saw this same "beast" but at a later date AFTER "...there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:..." as recorded by Daniel. "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." Rev. 13:1 The 7 remaining "horns" of Daniel's vision are described here as "...seven heads..." Together they portray a ten-nation coalition of the end time which will be reduced to seven. Daniel does not name those nations and though many scholars of prophecy have searched earnestly for ten nations to fulfill this prophecy, such a coalition has yet to be named.

It is absolutely certain that this union of nations will be assembled, for Scripture declares it. Could it be, however, that the reason it is still unnamed, even to this present hour, is because such a "formidable and pin-point sign" might well violate the premise that Jesus is coming as a thief, whereby no man knows the day nor the hour? Since Jesus promised the Philadelphia Church that they would be kept "...from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth," and scripture is very clear that the daily sacrifice will be taken away 30 days before that hour begins, it is also highly apparent that this daily sacrifice will also be taken away AFTER the bride of Christ has been transported to glory, meaning that if Jesus will come as a thief, He would not give a 30-day notice announcing it.

The question here is, "Are we witnessing the emergence of

Daniel's ten horns with present day changes in world government? The current status in America bears all the credentials of being one of those ten horns. They must be designated as a "horn," or power, indeed a "super power." Daniel clearly defines this group of ten as a beast, and both he and John inform us that this "beast" will eventually be reduced to one man, as seen above: "...behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." That man is the antichrist who will emerge as the supreme leader of a one world government.

The policies of incoming Pres. Joe Biden are absolutely in line with those which will be implemented by the antichrist. Former President Trump's agenda of "Make America Great Again" or "America First" was detested by the current administration and is just opposite of the goals of socialism, globalism, and progressivism now being touted. The latter terms are simply "code words" for one world government wherein all the nations involved are joined together by common cause. The commonality of these end time nations is illustrated by the fact that they are all called "the beast," and are therefore united in his agenda which ultimately centers around money, as eventually, "...no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast,..."

8

Rev. 13:17

The promised new open border policy simply states that there should be no nation placed above another, and there is already a caravan moving toward the southern border of the U.S. with the intent of taking advantage of policies put forth by a new administration.

Pres. Biden has also vowed to re-join the Paris Climate Accord and the nuclear agreements with Iran in an endeavor to achieve major commonality with multiple nations. America's new policy of "progressivism" is simply code for "progressing away" from the Christian Values upon which this country was founded and which are considered far too narrow in their consideration of human rights. Man is determined to pursue his own standard of righteousness rather than that put forth by the Word of God as described in Matt. 7:14. "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Conservative author David Horowitz, a prominent Jewish conservative appearing on Newsmax TV, "...is warning that Democrats are trying to 'criminalize' the First Amendment rights of Americans as the nation is in 'the initial stages to becoming a

fascist state.” This would agree with the aforementioned practice of censorship seen above on social media. Mr. Horovitz also “warned that Christians are set to see increasing persecution as the Democrats take control of Washington.” The reality of such an opinion seems to be corroborated by an earlier report by the BBC out of the U.K. dated May, 2019. “Christian persecution 'at near genocide levels'... The persecution of Christians in parts of the world is at near "genocide" levels, according to a report ordered by Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt. The review, led by the Bishop of Truro the Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen, estimated that one in three people suffer from religious persecution. Christians were the most persecuted religious group, it found. Mr. Hunt said he felt that "political correctness" had played a part in the issue not being confronted.”

Perhaps some prefer to disagree with Mr. Horovitz or this report from 2019, but Jesus surely prophesied that such things would prevail in the end time and that includes coming to the shores of America. The Master described that persecution in Matt. 24:9-10, and surely these words do not apply only to the nation of Israel, for it is no secret that America has been called the “Great Satan” by various groups due to her association with Israel and Judeo Christian Doctrine. “Then (at that time of the end) shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” Once again, many may totally disagree with David Horovitz’ assessment of America, but it is in harmony with God’s Word. These persecutions have already been observed and there is no doubt they will increase because Scripture has declared it.

The good news for America is that if indeed she is one of the aforementioned 10 nations which Daniel beheld, she will be removed from this ungodly coalition. Those remaining 7 nations joined completely to the antichrist will be annihilated and will no longer remain as nations. Most Christians are of the opinion that their beloved country will be classified as a “sheep nation” and will therefore continue as a nation into the Millennium. Thus, her removal from this ungodly “beast” is one more glorious expression of Divine Grace. It is also imperative to understand that the removal of the three horns will ultimately be directly at the hand of the antichrist. However, the evidence seen even at

this hour suggests that this process may have already started. But what are godly believers who are looking intently into the heavens for Jesus early appearance to do in order that they do not become victimized and paralyzed by the ungodly conditions of these end times? One prominent principle of Scripture is "... that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Tim. 2:1-2 This should be an easy request in behalf of the current administration. The earnest and conscientious prayer on the lips of God's People must be that He will enable Pres. Biden to fulfill the purpose for which He chose him, and that purpose is undoubtedly that his new policies will surely hasten the coming of Jesus and usher in the prophesied one world government.

10 Secondly, Paul clearly declared in the above message to Thessalonica that when men refuse truth, they open wide the path to be deceived. Only truth can preserve the lives of men on any level, so it is imperative that those who aspire to be in that company which will witness Jesus' coronation heed Paul's admonitions to Timothy in response to this era of perilous times. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived...continue thou in the things which thou hast learned... And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation (deliverance even from deception) through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God,... That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:12-17

So let us look up and rejoice! Jesus is coming and we have surely been "...throughly furnished..." with everything necessary to be ready for translation out of this world! Be encouraged beloved for "...shall be signs.... Men's hearts failing them for fear, ... And when these things **begin to come to pass**, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Lk. 21:25-28

Three Beginnings for Israel

Paul N. Smith

“**A**nd the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month (Abib) of the year to you.” Ex 12:1-2

The world is celebrating the beginning of a new year, and January 1, 1949, is the starting point for a whole year of new events—some tragic, some joyful, and others even glorious. Resolutions are decided upon and broken almost immediately in most cases. New leaves are turned over, only to find the side turned over is just as messy as the other side. To some, this year will mean more than new resolutions and ambitions realized — it will mean a year filled with wonderful happenings — first of all for the Christian and for Israel.

In this twelfth chapter of Exodus we find a wonderful and meaningful beginning for the Jews in captivity. After being in bondage for over four hundred years, God spoke to Moses and called to him from out of the burning bush, and told him that he was going to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt into the land of Canaan. This was astonishing news to Moses, that he would be the one to lead them out, after spending 40 years in apparent uselessness. It was a great beginning for Moses, as well as for his people. As recorded in the first chapters of Exodus, Moses and Aaron (his brother) went before Pharaoh and told him that the Lord had spoken to them that his people should leave the land of Egypt to go to the land promised them. Pharaoh, his heart hardened, refused to let them go as was told Moses beforehand by the Lord that he would. There followed a series of miracles performed by the Lord as judgments upon Egypt, beginning with the river being turned to blood and ending with the death of the firstborn of every creature of the land, prior to the visit of the death angel to the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh still refused to let the children of Israel leave to serve their Lord. He delighted in keeping them as slaves and also his heart was hardened that he might see the wonderful miracles which the Lord performed, and that he might know that the God of Israel was the God of the universe. When all looked hopeless

to Israel, and their chance of being loosed from bondage seemed far away, God delivered them. A new beginning was going to be theirs, all because of the Passover Lamb.

"In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb,... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; ye shall take it out from the sheep or from the goats; and ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.... And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and 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." Ex. 12:2-7,13

12 The Lord was bringing this final judgment upon Egypt for the hardness of Pharaoh's heart. Every firstborn of man and beast was to be slain on that night, the fourteenth day of the month. But, for Israel, there was deliverance, because there was a sacrifice for them. A Lamb was to be slain. The sacrifice of this lamb, without blemish, and the putting of the blood on the door posts pointed to the cross of Calvary, where the Lamb of God, Jesus, was slain and His blood shed for the deliverance of all who would put their trust in Him. Israel began to live from that night on. They were a people independent of other nations, but dependent upon God, free from bondage, and free to worship their God.

This speaks volumes to the Christian. He, too, has been set free by the death of the Lamb. Jesus' death on the cross availed much for all mankind — Jew and Gentile alike. When the blood of Jesus is applied to the heart's door of a sinner, he is set free from the bondage with which the devil had long enslaved him. Like Pharaoh, the devil will not let the people go. He has a strong, iron-like grip on men, and only the blood of The Lamb will loose that hold. When a sinner is freed from the bondage of sin and death, what a glorious beginning he has! All things become new because he becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. II Cor. 5:17

There is another beginning for Israel, which is a contrast to their first beginning. Although the children of Israel were delivered from bondage and taken to the land of Canaan after

forty years of wanderings, they are again in bondage of the nations through their disobedience and waywardness. The Lord will have to deliver them again and give them another new beginning. But for this to happen, judgment must come again upon Egypt, or the world, and this judgment will also fall upon Israel. Jesus had told His disciples that the temple would be destroyed, and they in turn asked Him when these things should be. He began to enumerate the terrible judgments that were coming to the world and to them, wars, rumors of wars and nation would rise against nation; kingdom against kingdom; famines and pestilences, earthquakes in divers places. Jesus' next words are sad words — "All these are **THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS.**" There follows even worse things than what has gone before — "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake, etc." This beginning of sorrows for them will not last long, however, in view of their last beginning; or the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham, that they should be a nation and thru them all families of the earth would be blessed. Their observance of the first Passover and their acceptance of the prototype of this "pass-over" will bring them into their land and give them a wonderful beginning — not of sorrows, but of joy, peace and everlasting righteousness.

13

The third beginning for Israel would have begun on the day of Pentecost, if the nation as a whole had accepted the "times of refreshing." Then they would not have to face the terrible judgments that will come. Peter, in his second post-Pentecost sermon, told them, "Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you ; Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19-21 The day of Pentecost with all its wonderful events was a picture of Israel's restoration to their land. After the terrible time of judgment upon Israel and the nations, they will turn to the Lord and repent as Peter exhorted them, then shall come their times of refreshings which began upon the day of Pentecost. Notice the wording of the fourth verse of the second

chapter of Acts: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and BEGAN to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." This word "began" infers that this would not be the only time that they speak in tongues as an evidence of being filled with the Spirit and having an outpouring of the Holy Ghost. There are other recorded instances in the Book of the Acts, of them speaking in other tongues. Not only were the Jews filled with the Spirit but also the Gentiles. "When Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word, and they of the circumcision which believed were astonished as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost; for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God"—Acts 10:44-46.

14 One-hundred and twenty of Israel were filled with the Spirit after He was poured out upon them and they began to speak in tongues in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy and the other prophets; and they continued to speak in tongues after that day. The Gentiles also were immersed and filled with the Holy Spirit. This has continued during this Church Age and those who believe the Word of God and yield themselves are in like manner filled with the Spirit. That wonderful beginning for Israel will begin again for them after the terrible judgments of seven years that is right on the threshold. Then will come the wonderful times of refreshings that was promised to them. Then will they be entirely free from the yoke of bondage that they have been entangled with since 606 B. C. They will enjoy liberty and all the joy, peace and happiness that righteousness brings. The Lord gives us a pen-picture of this time in the forty-fourth chapter of Isaiah, "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed and my blessing upon thine offspring; and they shall spring up among the grass, as willows by the water course. One shall say, I am the Lord's ; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord and surname himself by the name of Israel."

(Reprint 1949)

The Love of Christ

Harriet Dring

“**T**hat Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Eph 3:17-19

How little the world knows of Christ's love! Paul says that it passeth knowledge. There is so much knowledge in the world today, but very little love. God is Love, but people are not God-conscious. To begin to understand the love of Christ, one has got to be born again from above by the Spirit of God. Only as Christ dwells in our hearts by faith can we become rooted and grounded in love. In the above citation, we see the Apostle Paul on bended knee, praying to God that the saints at Ephesus and the faithful in Christ Jesus should be so rooted and grounded in love that they would be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length, and depth and height . . . and to know the love of God which passeth knowledge, that they might be filled with all the fullness of God. 15

FIRST, let us consider the **BREADTH** of Christ's love. Oh yes, it is wide. It reaches to every individual. Rom. 10:13 tells us that "whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved," Wondrous love! Wondrous grace! No one need be outside God's wonderful, "whosoever" salvation. The sad part of it is that many remain outside because of unbelief, or because they are too self-righteous to call upon Him for salvation.

SECOND, the **LENGTH** of Christ's love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. The only begotten Son of God is the **LENGTH** of God's love to a sinful world. He couldn't go beyond that. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin; but the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanseth us from all unrighteousness when we believe on Him for salvation. God's Son was 'the only One' who could redeem mankind from sin, and "God spared not His only Son, but delivered Him up for us all." Rom. 8:32. Hallelujah!

THIRD: The **DEPTH** of Christ's love, we find in Phil. 2:6. "Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Christ, who was equal with God in holiness and glory and power left the highest heights and descended to the lowest depths. Although He was a King, He came to earth as a Servant, taking upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. In this guise, He allowed Himself to suffer death at the hands of wicked men, even the death of the accursed cross. He was made a curse for us. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"—Gal. 3:13. He could not get any lower than being a curse. What a depth! By becoming a curse, He took my sin upon Himself, thus making it possible to put His righteousness upon me. Glory to God.

16 **FOURTH:** What about the **HEIGHT** of Christ's love? The breadth and length and depth and height . . . Redemption begins in heaven, the highest place, and it ends in heaven. Glory to God! Though Christ died, He rose again and became the Head of a New Creation. He ascended into heaven and God hath highly exalted Him, giving Him a Name which is above every name. The height of Christ's love is found in the Prize that He offers to those of His redeemed ones who will reciprocate his love in every way, by letting Him form His own Image in them. During this dispensation, the Holy Spirit is calling out, preparing, and choosing a Bride for the Son of God from amongst believers. Jesus, as Bridegroom, is the Prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14 Paul's ministry was to present the Church as a chaste virgin to Christ-2 Cor. 11:2. Is it any wonder that he prayed so earnestly that saints should comprehend the love of Christ, that they be filled with all the fulness of God? Praise God, the Bride is making herself ready for the first Trumpet blast that will announce to her, "Rise up, my love, my fair one and come away." S.O.S. 2:10

(Reprint 1955)

Not law but life, is the Christian's portion.

"I Don't Know Who Said It But..."

Hazel Fern Astle

It is amazing how many newsmen, politicians, and other public speakers use terms and phrases that are taken from the Bible. These people give no credit to their sources, and in many cases, it is doubtful if these speakers know that they are quoting God.

Unbelievers unwittingly acknowledge God and His Word even when they have no intention of doing so. The list below contains some of the quotations one hears today:

- "They hung their harps on a willow"Psalm 137:2
"A little bird told me"Eccl. 10:20
"They fell into their own trap"Psalm 9:15
"Eat, drink and be merry"Eccl. 8:15
"Their cup was full"Revelation 17:4
"To butter someone up"Psalm 55:21
"Their teeth are set on edge"Ezekiel 18:2
"Through hell and high water"Psalm 66:12
"They made them lick the dust"Psalm 72:9
"Man doesn't live by bread alone"Deuteronomy 8:3
"Their heart's desire"Psalm 73:7
"He is the apple of his eye"Deuteronomy 32:10
"They that go down to the sea in ships"Psalm 107:23
"To turn To turn the world upside down.....Isaiah 24:1
"There is no complaining in our streets"Psalm 144:14
"Pride goes before a fall".....Proverbs 16:18
"To reel to and fro"Psalm 107:27
"You can't take it with you"Ecclesiastes 5:15
"It's only a drop in the bucket"Isaiah 40:15
"By the skin of my teeth"Job 19:20
"At their wit's end"Psalm 107:27
"There's a fly in the ointment"Ecclesiastes 10:1
"They saw the handwriting on the wall"Daniel 5:5
"Where there is no vision the people perish".....Proverbs 29:18

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“**F**or the love of Christ constraineth us;...” II Cor. 5:14

This is a glorious declaration of scriptural fact, and may be applied to many areas of our lives, but it is so very important that God’s people understand the context of these verses, for this is how Paul introduces the majestic truth of the two creations.

18 First, the basis for such love is found in the remainder of this verse and the one following: “... because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” V. 14-15 Jesus’ death on Calvary reduced all men to exactly the same level. All men died at the Cross because “...our old man (Adam and all his progeny) is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed,...” Rom. 6:6 All men died in trespasses and sins with Christ but only those who accept that death for themselves are raised up in newness of life with Him, the result being “... that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him...” Since none can boast anything of himself, the apostle further admonishes “...Wherefore...” because the truth of Christ’s death applies to all men, “...henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.” V. 16 Paul now begins to distinguish between the flesh and the spirit even as Jesus asserted, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Joh. 3:6 The moment one accepts Christ as his own personal Savior, he is identified in the spiritual realm, even the same as Jesus Himself.

All these statements are joined together by such connecting words as “...because,...henceforth,...wherefore.” Verse 17 likewise becomes a part of this chain explaining why the “...love of Christ constraineth us,” as Paul now declares, “Therefore..”

or because of all the preceding statements, "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: (creation) old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The reasoning here is that because Christ died for all men, and therefore none can be considered as being superior to another. All believers must look on one another as being "...in Christ..." All are now considered to be in the spiritual realm wherein every believer is "...a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." Divine Love compels us to look past "the flesh" in our own lives as well as that of others. This does not mean the conduct of the Old Man is to be excused, but it does mean that we must claim our own new identity as a new creation in Christ Jesus and recognize that other believers also are to be accepted in Christ, thus following Paul's admonition, "...henceforth know we no man after the flesh:..." Only Divine Love can motivate such action.

Paul did not excuse sin, but he did attribute it to the flesh rather than himself, as a new creation in Christ Jesus. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:... For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Rom. 7:18-19 The key here is for believers to rid themselves of sin. That can only be done by claiming this new identity in Christ and agreeing with God's assessment of what happened when we died with Christ as described in Rom. 6. "Likewise reckon (as God does in V.1-10) ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:11 When a man truly believes what God declares true, his behavior will change, "For the love of Christ constraineth us;..." Jesus also proclaimed, "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Joh 14:23

19

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Psalm 23

Dr. Vicky Moots

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” Psa. 23:1-6

“The Lord is my shepherd...” implies that we are sheep and in need of a shepherd. Sheep are not able to take care of themselves. They are defenseless and not very smart. They need a shepherd to guide them and keep them from going astray and getting in danger. They must be led to food and water.

Isa. 53:6 confirms this when it says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way...”
20 David admits in another Psalm, “I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant...” Psa. 119:176 David realized, through his own mistakes, his weakness and inability to be in control of his life, just like one of his sheep, and asked the Lord to Shepherd him. We all need to come to that realization.

This Psalm reveals to us, through David’s own experience as a shepherd boy, the important relationship between a shepherd and his sheep, and the need of the sheep for a shepherd. The sheep must learn to trust the shepherd and to know his voice. We will see as we study this how to apply it to our own lives spiritually. Psalm 23:1a: “The LORD is my shepherd...” “The LORD...” David did not say “a” lord, but “the” LORD, the One and only Lord. “Lord” means “the Eternal One”, “Jehovah God”. LORD is all capitalized for it shows that He is the One who is over all and has complete authority.

A “lord” is “a person having great power and authority over a group of people; a master.” But “...the LORD...” is the One who is Supreme Ruler over all others.

The origin of the word “lord” literally means “bread ward or keeper”, the one who is responsible for giving out the daily portion of bread to all those under his authority. The Lord is also

our “bread ward or keeper” and gives us our daily bread.

David then says “...is,...” not “was” or “will be,” but “...is,...” right now, my Shepherd. He is the “I Am,” present tense! Heb. 13:20 tells us that He is the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Jesus declares in Jo. 10:11 that He is the Good Shepherd that gives His life for the sheep. But David makes that relationship very personal when he says, “...My Shepherd...” He was saying that the same Lord that is high and lifted up cares about me.

David understood the love of a true shepherd for the sheep, for he was a shepherd himself. He knew also the responsibility of a shepherd: to lead, provide and protect his flock. He knew his sheep by name and loved and protected each one, and even risked his life for them when he had to fight off a lion and a bear.

He also realized he needed someone to lead, provide and protect him also, and he claimed the Great Shepherd as his own. He knew the Shepherd’s voice and followed Him.

We can claim the Lord as our Shepherd, too, when we become His sheep by saying “yes” to His voice. He has spoken to us by His Word and called us to Himself, saying, “Come unto me...and I will give you rest.”

Have you heard Him calling your name? He wants to be your Shepherd, too. He is not only a Shepherd, but He is the Door to the sheepfold, as He said in John 10:9, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...” Say “yes” to the Shepherd’s voice today if you have not done that and enter in through the Door into the safety of the sheep fold.

Psalm 23:1b: “...I shall not want.” This means that we will not lack anything or be in want, as He will provide all our needs. The Apostle Paul tells us in Phil. 4:19, “But my God shall supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” That is the responsibility of the shepherd to supply all the needs of the sheep. A shepherd knows exactly what each individual sheep needs. Our needs are also met through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd. In fact, Jesus, Himself, is all that we really need. Claim Jesus as your Shepherd today, and let Him meet your needs.

Psa. 23:2a: “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...” Sheep do not lie down until they are full and satisfied, and then they lie down to chew the cud. So how does the shepherd cause them to lie down? Ezek. 34:15 states, “I will feed my flock, and

I will cause them to lie down..." That means He brings them into a rich, green pasture so that they eat their fill and have to lie down. Have you ever eaten so much at a good dinner that you just wanted to go lie back in a recliner and rest and let the food digest while you savored the meal? Our Shepherd satisfies our hunger with even more than we need, not just the bare necessities. The more we hunger, the more He provides. Jesus said in Matt. 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." He leads us to green pastures where we can eat our fill. Green speaks of resurrection, such as we see every spring when the brown grass and the barren trees turn green. Spiritually, it represents the resurrection life of Christ Who is the Living Word. We feed upon the Word and then lie down and rest in Him and meditate on His goodness as we slowly chew and digest what we have read. We rest in the resurrected life of Christ Who gave His life for us. His life satisfies the hunger in our soul and it is the only thing that can. Many people today are trying to satisfy their hunger with the things of the world, but they are only temporary. The more they get, the more they want, and they are never satisfied enough to lie down and rest. Only by knowing the Lord as Saviour will they experience that kind of satisfaction.

Another thing that is important to sheep before they will lie down to rest is that they must feel safe from predators. If they are afraid or feel insecure, they will not lie down. The shepherd's voice is calming to them if they are restless. Our Shepherd's voice, His Word, also assures us, as His sheep, that we are safe and secure in Him. He speaks calm words of assurance to us in Jo. 10:27-28: "My sheep hear my voice [the Word], and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." How much more secure can we get than that?

If you are feeling insecure and unable to rest, then you need to open your Bible and read God's Word. Read it out loud so you can hear the Shepherd's voice speaking to you to let it calm your fears. The preceding verse should give you blessed assurance that you are safe in the Shepherd's Hand, no matter what or who may come against you. Are you listening to His voice? Or are you listening to your own feelings? Or what others tell you? Take time to stop and hear the Shepherd's Voice and then

enter into His rest and lie down. His calming voice also speaks to us in Lk. 12:32: "Fear not little flock'..." and also, in Matt. 14:27. "...Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid".

Heb. 4:9-10 speaks to us further about resting in the Lord: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." What does that mean? God created the world in 6 days and on the 7th day He rested, because the work was finished. When Jesus died on the cross, He cried out, "It is finished." The work of salvation was completed. There was no work left for us to do to earn salvation. Nothing that we do could ever add to a work that was already perfect and complete. He makes us to lie down to rest in the finished work of Calvary, to cease from our own works. Paul declared in Gal. 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." If this is true, then it means that I can rest from my own works, because it is no longer I, but Christ my Resurrected, Living Shepherd, who lives in me and has done the work for me. Therefore, I choose to believe it and to lie down in His green pastures, both content and secure. 23

Psalm 23:2b: "...he leadeth me beside the still waters." He led us into green pastures to satisfy our hunger and to cause us to lie down. Now He leads us by still waters to quench our thirst. "Still waters" means "waters of quietness," cool and refreshing. Sheep will not drink out of rushing, turbulent water that splashes up on their faces. Likewise, we need our quiet times to drink in the Word of God to be refreshed. Today it seems like we are always in a rush to get things done. Sometimes God allows circumstances in our lives that cause us to have to slow down in order that we have time for His Word. We may even find ourselves experiencing some things that are like what Job went through, such as loss of health, loss of a loved one, loss of possessions or of a good paying job before we are willing to slow down and take the time to rehydrate ourselves with Living Water and to listen to His still, small voice.

The still waters of quietness are not stagnant but quietly flowing. He does not lead us by a waterfall to show us His Majesty, but by quiet waters to provide us His peace. These waters are not

muddy or murky because they are not troubled waters. They are pure, clean and refreshing, and we are invited to drink of them in Isa. 55:1. "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters..." Our Shepherd leads us to the waters, but we must be willing to drink. Jesus offered a drink of the Living Water to the Samaritan woman at the well to quench the thirst in her life that she had been unable to satisfy. When He revealed to her that He, Himself, was that Water of Life, she accepted His offer and left her water pot and went to tell others that she had found the Christ, the Messiah. Jesus offers Living Water to us today, to all who are thirsty: "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." Jo. 7:37 These are the waters of salvation and of the Holy Spirit, as well as the water of the Word, through which He provides us His peace that passes understanding. It is during these times, as we drink in the waters of quietness, that He is able to restore our soul.

(To Be Continued)

SPEAK NO WOUNDING WORD

24

Speak no wounding word.
Life holds so many grievous things;
So many dearest joys take wings;
They leave earth's shore who loved us best.
Ah, speak no wounding word.

Speak no wounding word,
Life holds many petty ills
And there are pebbles in the rills,
Oft, fain to sigh, when we should smile;
Weary, go yet another mile:
Ah, speak no wounding word.

Speak no wounding word,
Haunting, hurt eyes in death may close
Before thine own. O woe of woes,
The speech unkind to call to mind,
With unavailing weeping, blind:
Ah, speak no wounding word.

Lettice King

THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Mary M. Bodie

"For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory in our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance and not in heart. For whether we be beside ourselves it is to God, or whether we are sober, it is for your cause; for the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge that if one died for all, then were all dead, and that He died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again." II Cor. 5:12-15

The Great Dynamic

The phrase, "The love of Christ," is my text. It is found three times in the epistles of Paul.

First. "The love of Christ constraineth us." This word "constrain" has several meanings which are very elucidating in this connection. It signifies taken, in the sense of seized, as in Lk. 6:37, "Then the whole multitude were taken with great fear;" and "press" in the sense of moved, as in Lk.. 6:45. "Master the multitude throng thee and press thee and how sayest thou, Who touched Me?" And in Acts 18:5 "Paul was pressed in the spirit and testified." It also has the thought of "holding" as in Lk. 22:63 "And the men that held Jesus mocked Him and smote Him." Sometimes it is translated "catch" and "moved" also "force," as in Matt. 14:22. "Jesus constrained His disciples" and in Lk. 24:29, "They constrained Him, saying, Abide with us." Acts 16:15, "She besought us... and constrained;..." Thus, we might say, "The love of Christ took hold of Paul." It moved, pressed and forced him onward in the path of victory which he trod. It was the dynamic power of his life, even as this love was the power of Christ's own life of renunciation and sacrifice. It moved Him to stoop from glory's throne to the depths of man's sin and ruin. It constrained Him to set His face as a flint to go up to Jerusalem with its Gethsemane; to Pilate's judgment hall with its mockery and ridicule, its unutterable degradation, and woe. It forced Him on, to Calvary's hill, to do the will of God.

And this constraining love will move us, too, if we yield to its dynamic force. It will push us on. It will hold us loyal to God and the truth. It will press us as with the power of a multitude and cause us to do what we would never do otherwise. It is a flame, an

urge which stirs our innermost being to love the unthankful and the evil. We can lay hold of it in every case; and we find much need for it every day. We were thinking lately that if we had to depend upon our own human love (Christ's is human, but it is also Divine) how miserably we would fail. Oh, yes, it was not sufficient to meet all the demands upon it, though we thought we had an immense supply. We were naturally of a loving, sympathetic disposition and we thought our arms could encircle all the saints of God regardless of their attitude toward us. We felt so full of love toward them and so desirous of doing them good for Jesus' sake. We were so loyal to them and refused to listen to one word of criticism against them. We set no limit to the circle of God's people. Our fellowship included all believers on the Lord Jesus Christ. We loved all those who loved Him and we really thought this love would never fail, but we found we were mistaken. That love has long been exhausted. It had a limit. It was weak and effervescent and we thank God we learned its insufficiency: for now we are able to lay hold of Christ's love.

26 We would have turned our back upon many of the people of God if it had not been for Christ's love. That is the truth. We thank God it is never exhausted. We can draw upon it, morning, noon and night and it never fails us. It is the power of our life. It is boundless, topless, unlimited, moving, pulsing, powerful, as the mighty ocean waves. We can launch out in it and feel the dynamite of its resistless power. We can take hold or let it take hold of us, yield to its mighty impetus when our love is all spent. It will not fail in all the annoying perplexing circumstances of our life. When we are so disgusted with everyone and everything, when we feel like turning away from it all, saying "goodbye," to all, we need not. There is still the dynamic of Christ love. We can let it flow down into our soul, this never failing boundless ocean divine, for each trying hour and every cantankerous one. We may not feel a bit loving or kind. In fact, rather otherwise, but there is Christ's love. It is not exhausted. There is always plenty more.

This is the manner of our living these days. We are dependent upon Christ's love and we thank God that we know somewhat of its dynamic force. It is like a charged battery of electricity. Let us not be discouraged, but trust God to move us more and more by this divine love in these trying times that we may love regardless of the recompense from man. It may be that

like Paul, the more we love them the less we will be loved; for all the saints are going to be sorely tested. We are all going to be tried even as gold is tried in the crucible, and if the love of Christ does not sway us we will be of all men most miserable. It is so. Folks are going to fail us. Natural love is going to wane in greater measure than ever, but there is Christ's love. We may yield to its "constrainment" and let it move in us and out from us. Let it move us to lay hold of an inheritance in the lives of others. We may reach out our arms of faith and embrace the souls in Africa, China, India and all the regions beyond and pray for them. We are not limited to any little part of the world. Because of the love of Christ, we are interested in all mankind. His love brought Him to Calvary for all men, hence His love in us brings us to sacrifice and service for them for whom He died. Folks think that we are narrow because we do not go everywhere and fellowship every thing that is religious; but that is not so. We cannot endorse all that religions do, nor can we join up with organizations and sects of men which shut out other members of the body of Christ, but by our arms of faith we embrace them all. The love of Christ constrains. We see no barriers, no organization, no fences at all. God's people are one and we are one with all. They cannot shut us out of Christ or shut out His love from our bosoms. They cannot stop us from loving and praying for them, because we possess the life that loves. You cannot shut that life out of loving. They shut Paul up in prison, but his love was not pent up. They chained him to a guard, but they could not chain his spirit. They could not hinder his heart from beating, nor his life from loving. The love of Christ constrained him in that prison cell. He went by his prayers where Christ was not even named and we today are the fruit of his love. The love of Christ reaches out in His people to the uttermost bounds of the earth and by faith lays hold of others of Adam's race. There is no boundary line which can stop us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It was God's love in Christ which caused Him to lay down His life for the Church, and it will cause us to lay down our lives for others. We may be pressed in Spirit by the dynamic power of this love for the worst of failures and have the joy to see them come right on in the way of victory. This is possible in our lives even as it was in Christ's very own life and as it was in Paul's life as he witnesses to us.

An Inseparable Bond

Second. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness, or peril or sword? As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long. We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors thru Him that loved us." Rom. 8:35. Herein is declared the bond which exists between the love of Christ and His saints. It is unchanging and indissoluble — NO SEPARATION — the inspired writer states, from this love. He calls upon the scene all the hard, unlovely, undesirable things of this world — all the cares and sorrows of life, the tribulation, persecution, etc, and questions the possibility of any of these difficult situations separating us from the love of Christ. Yea, he continues and brings forth the worst experiences that may come into a person's life — he visions the most dreadful things—such as famine, nakedness, peril and sword, and asks, Shall these providences separate us from the love of Christ? Nay, nay, he answers. It is written that this is the way which we are to go in this world — the way of reproach, suffering, sorrow, sacrifice and death. We are appointed thereto.

28

There are many who do not understand this Pauline route, but it is the Christ way. "For Thy sake we are killed all the day long. We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." The love of Christ led Him this death road and it led Paul and it will lead all who yield to its power. There are some of the Lord's people who know about this way of renunciation, but they refuse it. They do not choose this life of daily dying; but want to go to heaven in a beautiful, popular manner with everyone saying nice things about them. They refuse the dependent way wherein the love of Christ would cause them to walk, the suffering, painful, burden-bearing route, which necessitates a constant drawing upon the life of Christ. It is herein that we prove this love of Christ to the uttermost. We find it stands the strain put upon it. It has already been tested and found pure without alloy. It is 100 per cent gold, and we say, "We may prove it." We have opportunities and it does not fail us, neither are we separated from it by these difficult, heart-breaking conditions in which we find ourselves for Jesus' sake. Continually dying yet ever living is our experience. Killed all the day long, yet never dead. It is a constant miracle, a supernatural life is being manifested in this world by the folks who go this

Pauline way. They are not limited to the natural. No, indeed, when they are all in, as folks say, or all out, as we would say, they can draw on the everlasting Christ for more of His life. They are never defeated nor daunted, for they have the never-ceasing reservoir of the Love upon which to lay hold. They may be all that they ought to be.

Someone says, "Oh I see many things about you folks that is not thus. Oh, do you?" Well, Jesus did not please everyone. It is only in heaven that we will please everybody. As long as we are in this scene we are going to get some blows. Folks will have their hammers out; but glory to God, it is good for us. It is thus that we are made conformable to the death of Christ. We come forth after the hammering with a little more of the love of Christ in manifestation. Go on knocking. It will not hurt us, only temporarily. It is thus we prove that there is no separation between Christ and us. We find that we are able to live this beautiful love-life in this world of sin and ingratitude. It is no different in us than it was in Him. Here we are killed all the day long, but we do not want to kill anybody. These hard things, blows, criticism of all kinds, famine of kindness, depression caused by harsh words, or misunderstanding of friend and foe, are working good all the time. O, naturally we do not like these things. We hate trouble. We all like prosperity. We like to be sheltered and loved: and feel the Lord should come in immediately and remove us out of the trial or remove the trial from us. We do not want to suffer: but like to see God's infinite love and kindness, in His immediate deliverance from sickness, peril and hammer, etc. Yet on the other hand, He does not always do this. He keeps us waiting for the answer, but He knows what is best for us. Glory to God! We are sure His way with us is better than if He allowed us to choose our own way. The love of Christ is unchanging. These things from which we shrink make overcomers of us. We go on, on, on, regardless of trouble. We get over all things, which appear insurmountable, and we are not separated from the love of Christ.

Then Paul turns to other things in the great realities of life. He says; "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 in Christ Jesus." Death may separate us from this world, and thus from

our family, the dearest and best, and from friends, but it cannot separate us from the love of Christ. O Glory! The love is in the life. Angels, good or bad, cannot come in and make any division between Christ and His people. Spiritual powers, the mightiest or national powers cannot change this inseparable bond. Christ and God cannot be separated and no more may Christ and His saints. He went down to the lowest rung of the ladder of woe to the depths of humiliation, darkness and death, but He proved the futility of all the might of wickedness to hold Him down. He came up out of it all and went up far above the greatest of principalities and dominions. He has proved the might of His life. It is greater than all the principles which Paul names. What creature is greater than Christ? He is One with God, hence no power of any, or all forces combined, is able to separate us from the love of Christ. All the greatest things, all the mightiest creatures are under our feet, because Christ is in God, and God is in Christ. His love is the love of God. Let us praise Him forever!

An Impassable Ocean

30 **Third.** "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge." Eph. 3:14-19.

The above is a part of the second of Paul's great inspired prayers in the book to the Ephesians. His heart was melted with gratitude to God for His goodness to the children of men, as he contemplated His marvelous provision as revealed to him. He went down upon his knees to thank God for His grace. He prays that the Ephesian assembly may learn of the great love of God for them. He appears to realize in some measure how few there were, and ever would be, who would practically enter into these divine realities. His prayer is vast and wonderful, deep and high, reaching out to God for us, that we might know something, which it is impossible to know. The verb from which this word "passeth" is derived, means "to hurl," "to throw far beyond a given mark," "to reach the zenith — over and beyond a given point." The Greek signifies something unusual, unique. Our language fails to

express the unlimited sweep of its meaning. Our English word, "hyperbole," meaning exaggeration, comes from it, but Paul does not intend to exaggerate in this respect. The love of Christ, which he prays we may know, and cannot be measured nor understood by the natural man, is what is implied. In fact, it sweeps far above and beyond the mind of even the redeemed. It scales the heights above anything which we have ever desired, sought for, or aimed at. It rises way up, beyond the dizzying apex of even spiritual knowledge, and says, that even yet it has not been reached. It is beyond the most developed mind; the one who has studied and mastered, philology, biology, zoology, astrology, and every 'ology' and science of all the world, is still far from knowing the love of Christ. And yet Paul prays that we may know it. What is the secret? It is only by revelation that we are able to understand the love of Christ. It is an illimitable ocean; but that prayer of Paul's must be answered. Some folks must enter into the unknowable love of Christ: some will let God give them this knowledge. It is too wonderful to contemplate, but it is possible to yield to God and let Him make us to know something that goes far beyond all knowledge of man. Are you going to attain to this? Am I? It is for us, hence what doth hinder? This attainment is the climax, the zenith of the true Christian life. It is the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ. To know this unknowable love is the honor that will be accorded the Bride. She will share with the Bridegroom in all things, even in the illimitable ocean of the love of Christ. How big is that ocean? I do not know, but I do know that it assures of the fullness of God. How wonderful!

31

And God is able to bring us into this knowledge of the love of Christ. He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we can ask or think. He is able to bring us and bring unto us all the fullness of God by this marvelous knowledge of the love of Christ. It excels everything. There is nothing greater, or more desirable here or hereafter. There is nothing man can show us, or give us that comes anywhere equaling this love. The devil has nothing that compares with this summum bonum. It is everything. Let us not grow weary of this way of slaughter here, but think on the glory hereafter. Let us not give up, slow down or grow indifferent because of the difficulties. Whether folks look down upon us now, or not what does their attitude amount to? We are exalted in the measure that we have attained to this knowledge of Christ, far

above all things, hence why be sorrowful or discouraged? We are the wisest of the wise, unutterably blessed, who are going on to know the unknowable. "We shall reap if we faint not."
(Reprint 1932)

Love's Sweet Song

I heard one day a plaintive sound
It fell on all the air around.
A dove was calling to his mate,
A cooing with his lover's bait.
The dove was fair with coat of blue,
His voice was gentle as the dew.
He called and cooed with ardor great,
And finally won his little mate.

32

I thought me then of Other Dove,
Who came far down from heights above.
His coat was white with flecks of blue.
He sought a bride—her love to sue.
Her coat was soiled, as black as night,
And she was in a sorry plight,
Another bird had sought her hand.
He had her bound with iron band.

And yet, such ardor filled that Dove,
He gave His life to win His love,
And make her fair—with dove to mate,
Of heavenly seed and high estate.
And now her plumage is as white
As e'er adorned that Dove of light.

Anon

The Tools Quarreled

J. Clark Soules

"For we are laborers together with God." I Cor.3:9

The carpenter tools had a conference. Brother Hammer was in the chair. The meeting had informed him that he must leave because he was so noisy. But he said, "If I am to leave the carpenter shop, Bro. Gimlet must go too. He is such an insignificant thing, that he makes very little impression." Little Bro. Gimlet said, "All right; but Bro. Screw must go also. You have to turn him around and around again and again to get him anywhere." Bro. Screw said, "If you wish, I will go; but Bro. Plane must leave also. All his work is on the surface. There is no depth to it." To this, Bro. Plane replied, "Well, Bro. Rule also will have to withdraw if I do; for he is always measuring folks, as though he were the only one who is right." Bro. Rule then complained against Bro. Sandpaper, and said, "I don't care; he is rougher than he ought to be and is always rubbing people up the wrong way." In the midst of those discussions, the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He had come to perform his day's work. He put on his apron and went to the bench to make a pulpit from which to preach the Gospel to the poor. He employed the screw, the gimlet, the hammer, the plane, the rule and all the tools. After the day's work was over and the pulpit was finished, there was silence in the conference for a while. Then Brother Saw arose and said, "Brethren, this convention is altogether uncalled for. I perceive that all of us '...are laborers together with God,...' in constructing His holy temple. Let us evermore be content to be used by the great Carpenter, each in his place and capacity." After singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," they departed in peace.

Eternal Life is neither obtained nor retained by self-effort; but by faith in Christ Who provided it!

We die by living to ourselves. We live by dying to ourselves.

None Like Him

Albert J. Woehr

"He trusted in the Lord God of Israel..." II Kings
18:5

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, the Lord names some of His greatest heroes — those of whom "He was not ashamed to be called their God." In our text we have another great man of God mentioned, named Hezekiah. Of this king it is said, "... after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any before him." This takes in a great deal of territory. What was the outstanding characteristic that caused God to have such a high opinion of His servant? It was his faith in God. For "...he, trusted in the Lord God of Israel."

We always trust those in whom we have faith! The significance of the word "...trust..." in this verse signifies to lean hard on God as a foundation. The actual use of the word is as a cripple leans hard upon crutches in order to move forward. This was the exact attitude expressed in the life of Hezekiah. There
34 was no fretting when the highly successful Sennacherib came up against him, for Hezekiah "...trusted in the Lord God," that is, leaned hard (depended upon) his foundation.

How well have we learned this lesson? Can it be said that we daily lean hard upon our sure Foundation, Jesus Christ? There is no other foundation for the people of God. Let us surrender ourselves unto our God, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, leaning and depending hard on, Him, constantly looking away from all the difficult circumstances, unto Him who died for us, and rose again, ascending on high to live and make intercession for us. Then our God will not be ashamed to be called our God.

(Reprint 1955)

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**He is coming Christ my Savior.  
Coming as the Light of morn:  
Coming to a world in darkness,  
At the first peep of the dawn.  
Coming to dispel all sorrow,  
And to reign as God's First Born.**





# Our Corn Crib

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

## Tracts

|                               |                                  |                           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Problem, Solution & Triumph | Freedom                          | Pauline Sanctification    |
| Arrangement & End of Ages     | Gifts of the Spirit              | Pauls Superlatives        |
| Attack against the Truth      | Glossolalia                      | Phoebe                    |
| A Burning Truth               | God- A Triunity                  | Preaching Another Jesus   |
| A Growing Relationship        | Gospel Records                   | Predestination            |
| Caught up with Paul           | Gospels, Acts & Epistles         | Preparation of the Bride  |
| Cherubim & Seraphim           | Holy Spirit- Baptism & Anointing | Ranks in Resurrection     |
| Chaste Virgin                 | How to Receive Holy Spirit       | Resume of What we Teach   |
| Comfort in Time of Sorrow     | It is Finished                   | Salvation for the Body    |
| Death, Hell & Lake of Fire    | Jesus Heals Today                | Scriptural Terms Defined  |
| Destiny of the Wicked         | Judgement Seat of Christ         | Words on Eternal Security |
| Diamonds in the Rough         | Law or Grace                     | The Adams Case            |
| Dying Daily                   | Life Everlasting                 | The Two Adams             |
| Earnest but Wrong             | Light on the Law                 | The Sin Offering          |
| Eternal Life                  | Living Ones                      | The Unforgiven Sin        |
| Extra! Extra!                 | Made Sin for Us                  | This is That              |
| Faith                         | Man Child- Rev. 12               | Times of the Gentiles     |
| Fear of the Lord              | Mercy or Judgement               | Tithing                   |
| First Day of the Week         | New Birth                        | Water Baptism             |
| Five Much Mores               | Not Legislation, Revelation      | Wheat and Tares           |
| Five Consequences             | Oneness of Christ                | Why am I Not Healed       |

## Books of the Bible

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

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