

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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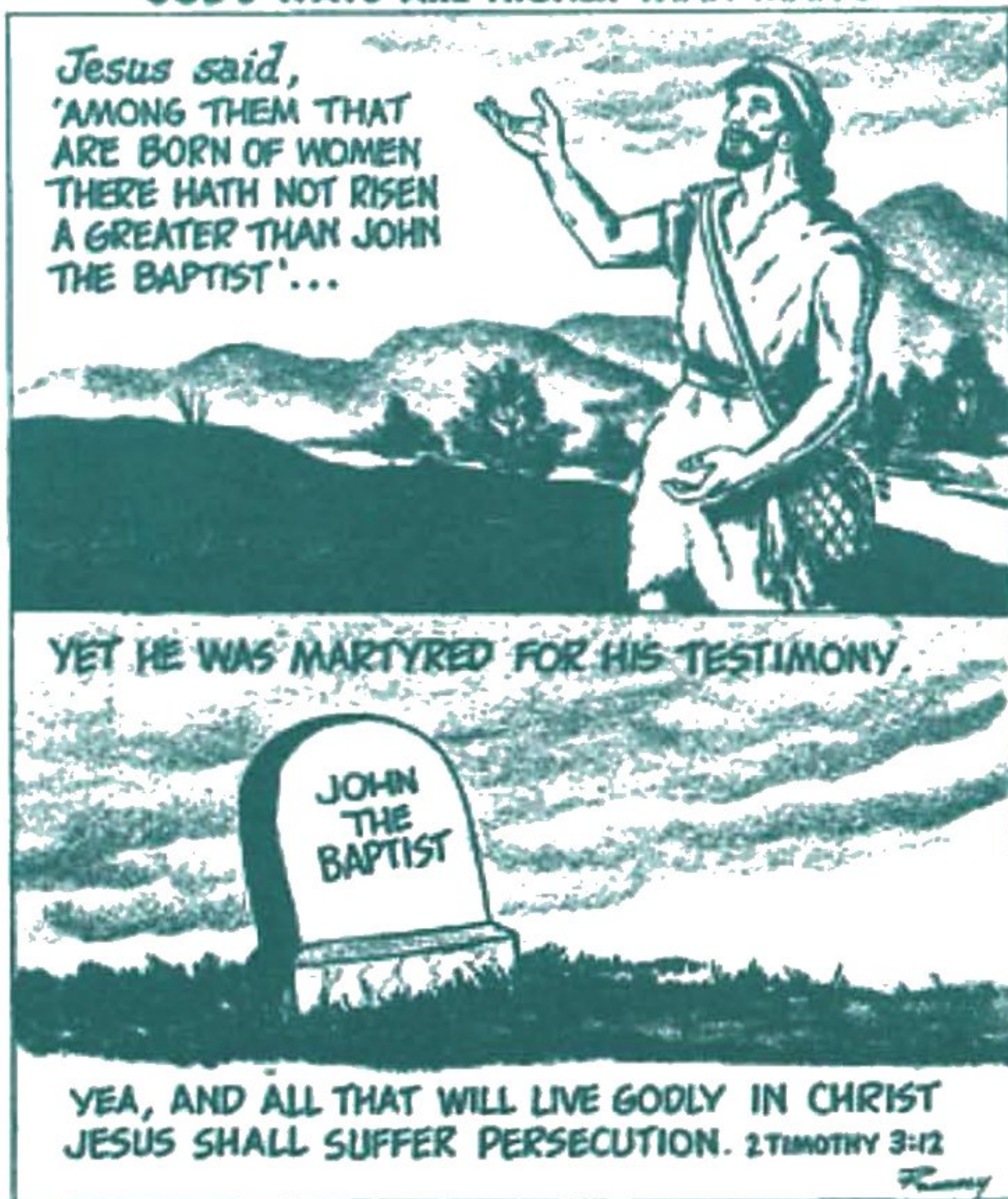


W here is
G O D
my maker, who
giveth songs in
the night?
-JOB 35:10

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GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN MAN'S



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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“**N**ow the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” (demons) I Tim. 4:1

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” II Pet. 3:3,4

Both Paul and Peter are in perfect agreement as they describe the characteristics surrounding these last days. Paul asserts that “...some shall depart from the faith...” Some have concluded over the years that this would apply only to believers with the implication that one must “be in the faith,” before he could depart from it. However, this text surely applies to all men for “...the faith...” is a direct reference to the entirety of God’s Word which most emphatically applies to the whole human race, whether they accept it or not. Peter’s message likewise includes unregenerate men who not only deny the message of Jesus’ coming recorded here, but are also wont to deny the very existence of the One and only God of the universe.

The denial of God’s truth is demonic according to Paul’s declaration and the apostle sets forth the pattern that when men refuse the truth expressed by “...the faith,...” they will give “... heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.” The Chief Apostle to the Church issues this same warning in II Thess. 2. “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 ...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause (rejecting truth) God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:” V. 8-11

Jesus cried out in Rev. 3:11 “Behold, I come quickly:...” Paul also insists that “...yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” Heb 10:37 The disciples likewise heard this same glorious message when Jesus ascended into heaven after the resurrection. “...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from

you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11 The second coming of Jesus is most assuredly one of the most glorious elements of “the faith” in these last days.

4 However, according to Peter, this is the very truth that men deny, “...saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” This messenger of “...the faith...” then emphatically refutes their assertion that “...all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation,” with this very prominent example of a major “interruption.” “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:” II Pet. 3:5-6 The reference here is to the days of Noah, wherein God surely did interrupt the natural course of events by bringing forth the flood of Noah’s day which covered the earth with water and only 8 souls were spared. Peter then announces another impending “interruption” which also contradicts the erroneous idea that “...all things continue as they were,...” declaring plainly that “...the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word (same Word of God V. 6 which brought forth the flood) are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” The pattern for these last days is exactly the same as the days of Noah, even as Jesus also prophesied. “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:37 The only difference is that the resulting judgment will be by fire rather than water. Peter emphatically proclaims here that “...this they willingly are ignorant of,...” indicating that men are simply in denial of God’s Prophetic Word for these last days. Thus the mockery continues, as men persist in pursuing their own objectives with no thought of God’s purposes for this world.

Peter, however, insists that the believer must not succumb to the idea that Jesus would delay His coming. “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” II Pet. 3:8 This simply means that if God chose to put any event off for 1000 years it would seem like only a day to Him. Contrariwise, if the projection of men is that Jesus will not come and usher

in judgment for another 1000 years, God could bring forth that day of reckoning in the 24 hour period of one day. There are those who insist that Jesus is most assuredly coming, but must be in a time yet future. Others seem to be rather insistent that the tribulation has already begun. God's Word must surely be perfectly understood in this matter. Scripture is very clear that no man knows the day nor the hour of Jesus' appearing, and though it is quite evident that He will make numerous appearances throughout the tribulation period, the majority of them follow this same pattern of His coming as a thief. The exhortation for all believers is simply: "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mk. 13:33 Paul likewise warned, "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, ...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.... Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch..." I Thess. 5:2-6

The subject in all these citations is "...the day of the Lord..." That day will begin the day Jesus is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. The Apostle John "...was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet," Rev. 1:10 This means that John was transported forward in spirit, some 2000 years from the time then present to the time when Jesus would be enthroned. The language here declares that he "...heard behind me a great voice..." That Voice is the Voice of Jesus and the fact that it came from behind him indicates that the events described had already happened. This means that John saw from his new vantage point what had already transpired during the entirety of the Church Age as Jesus walked among the Churches judging them. The day now present at the end of the Church Age places all those who are alive and well at the very threshold of the tribulation period. Once again, some are convinced that the horrific happenings of our day are sure proof that the tribulation has already begun, but that cannot be so, for Jesus has not yet ascended to the throne as recorded in Rev. 4. Until that time arrives, this world is still deeply imbedded in that era known as "...the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24:8 It is imperative, and indeed must be encouraging to all those looking earnestly for Jesus to appear, that all these "signs" are understood

as being precursors of that which will most assuredly follow and intensify once Jesus is on His throne and the “day of the Lord” has officially begun.

The fact of the matter is that the “mockers” of whom Peter warned are alive and well even though many of these telltale signs of the tribulation are all around them. It is somewhat humorous at times to hear of those who make long range plans on the one hand, yet insist that the planet will be destroyed in as little as 12 years if men do not address the problem of global warming. Scripture is very clear as has been noted in previous issues of Grace and Glory, that were Jesus to be enthroned tomorrow, the earth would continue for at least 1000 years. It will one day be destroyed, but it will be only God Who will do it. Not only so, but God, Who never leaves a void, will also make “...a new heaven and a new earth...” Rev. 21:1

6 The horrendous hardships of this present day will not only continue, but increase, and many of them will be self-inflicted, for Jesus will use the efforts of men to bring forth great misery when the seals of judgment are opened in Rev. 6. Scripture is very clear that the opening of the second seal will “...take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.” Rev 6:4 This description is one of great pain and difficulty due to the hazards of war. The next seal likewise opens a flood gate of human suffering, due to the efforts of men. “And when he had opened the third seal,..I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny;...” Rev. 6:5-6 This is surely a description of shortages and even “rationing” which will be decided and inflicted by men. The fourth seal likewise introduces more of man’s inhumanity to man. “And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death,... And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death,...” Rev. 6:8

The opening of the sixth seal brings forth a major change, however, for it tells of that which only God, rather than man, can control. “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars

of heaven fell unto the earth,...” Rev. 6:12 Men love to think that they have the power to raise or lower the earth’s temperature, but that is simply wishful thinking. The real culprit here is that, simply stated, men refuse to believe God’s Word. He prophesied long ago that all these catastrophic events on the earth which are caused by heavenly elements would occur, but men absolutely refuse to believe. Thus, they are certain that given enough time they will conquer the elements and produce the ideal world climate which they seek.

Just the opposite is true. It is clearly seen coming to pass at this present hour that the efforts of man to control the environment only add to the misery of mankind. Pres. Biden’s recent executive order to re-enter the Paris Climate Accords and halt the work on the Keystone XL Pipeline has produced great hardship on American workers. One stroke of a pen has left thousands of people with very lucrative jobs out of work. That pen stroke also involves other nations such as Canada. The following explanation is from the BBC. “Canada already sends 550,000 barrels of oil per day to the US via the existing Keystone pipeline. The oil fields in Alberta are landlocked and as they are further developed require means of access to international markets. Many of North America’s oil refineries are based in the Gulf Coast, and industry groups on both sides of the border want to benefit. An increased supply of oil from Canada would mean a decreased dependency on Middle Eastern supplies. According to market principles, increased availability of oil means lower prices for consumers.”

Indications are also that nations such as Russia, China, & Iran are waiting breathlessly for the opportunity to step into the place of energy independence which the U.S. willingly relinquished by Pres. Biden’s action. Make no mistake, the nations are at this very time beginning to take the places they will occupy in the quickly ensuing tribulation.

The effects of Climate Change restrictions are also coming very quickly into view, and the result will most assuredly be global. Pres. Biden re-joined the Paris Climate Accords on his first day in office and if all the nations involved implement the restrictions demanded by these accords and the “green new deal” being promoted in America, it is very easy to see how the judgments of Rev. 6 will be implemented and promoted by men.

A recent story out of Texas clearly demonstrates the problems men will face if they are able to fully replace oil with other so-called alternate energy sources such as wind. Evidently the state of Texas has gone to great lengths in using their massive space and availability of wind to create wind-powered electric generators. All seemed to be well and good with these wind farms until recent sub zero temperatures froze these wind turbines, making them absolutely useless. Texas was then forced to fall back on oil-based energy sources, but even then there was not enough to go around and rolling blackouts ensued. Ranchers have also reported water shortages due to failing electric pumps. Food shortages have also come to the fore and will become worse if the cattle do not survive. This is surely one more piece of evidence that God's Word will be fulfilled even by the foolishness of modern world leaders.

8 One stipulation when the sixth seal of Rev. 6 was opened is "...hurt not the oil..." There are a number of prophetic scholars who define that statement as meaning that God will ensure that the nations have enough oil to power their war machines in an effort to implement the man-made misery described above especially in the early days of tribulation. That scenario is surely true, but the situation in Texas seems to give this statement a whole new meaning as it also presents prominent evidence of another example as to how God shows mercy in the midst of judgment. "...hurt not the oil...." says God, in an effort to bring some relief to those who are so severely hurt by the decrees of men. Imagine the effect if the experience of Texas went global and men needed the reserves of oil just to survive the foolish restrictions demanded by the Paris Climate Accords and the Green New Deal.

The coronavirus has also produced many decisions by world leaders which have in some cases produced more devastating results than the virus itself. Some doctors and even politicians, have admitted that there has been massive over-reaction against this threat. There have been revolts in some countries due to work shut downs ordered by political leaders. The effect on the world economy has been staggering and threatens to become much worse. Psychological experts bemoan the fact that many problems of depression, suicide, and other ailments have been the result of people whom God made to be "social creatures" being sorely deprived of interacting with one another. One major battle

in the U.S. is school closings and very interactive children have paid the greatest price. All of these “problems” are just stark evidence of that which will be coming on a much larger scale in the tribulation, yet men seem to be completely unaware of the signs before them. Peter’s declaration that “...this they willingly are ignorant of,...” may surely be applied to world leaders who seem to have no clue that that the term “...this...” means the prophetic days announced by God’s Word are now in front of them.

The glorious declaration, “Behold I come quickly....” is stated three times in Revelation and must become the very source of preservation for all those who are truly looking for the promise of Jesus coming again. The first use of it is found in The Judge’s promise to the Church at Philadelphia Who then exhorts them to “...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” That “...which thou hast...” is a reference to the fivefold commendation given to them for their practical walk in the gospel which beings with “...thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Rev. 3:8 These Philadelphia believers truly adhered to the principles of God’s Word, which is the pattern those who would expect to be translated out of this world before the tribulation begins must adopt in their own lives. It is truly time to consciously lay hold of the promise “**For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.**” Heb 10:37

9

The End Is Near

Our redemption draweth nigh
Flash the news o’er earth and sky.
Soon we’ll lay our armour by
At His call, and upward fly.

Soon we’ll hear the angels sing.
Join their song; make heaven ring,
As we greet our Bridegroom, King,
Joy cometh in the morning.

Anon

The Cross of Christ

John F. Ney

"Wherefore kick ye at my Sacrifice and at my Offering, which I commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people." I Sam. 2:29.

This verse was primarily spoken to Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Eli's sons were sons of Belial, they knew not the Lord. In other words, they were professors; but did not possess the life of Christ within. Though they were serving as priests, they not only took the allotted part and portion of the roasted sacrifice that was lawful for them; but they wanted raw flesh. If any refused to give to them, they took it by force. "Wherefore the sin of the young men was great before the Lord: for men abhorred the Offering of the Lord"---V. 17. We know that these Sacrifices were types of Christ, pointing on to the fact that Christ must be judged and die on Calvary. He was there "roasted," as it were, with the fire of God's wrath for our sins and raised again so we could feast on Him. Now these sons of Belial demanding raw
10 flesh were denying in type these above facts. They were made fat with the chiefest of the offerings of Israel and the result was that men abhorred the Offering of the Lord.

Today the pulpits are filled with "sons of Belial," those preachers who feed only on a raw Christ. That is, they only know Christ after the flesh. They deny His atoning blood and His resurrection, and consequently the multitudes abhor the Sacrifice of the Lord. They have no faith in the Christ of Calvary. Nevertheless, these professors are getting fat at the expense of God's Offering on Calvary and are being honored above God. No wonder many say, "There is nothing to Christianity. The preachers are hypocrites. They are preaching for money and honor." The modern preachers do, and many of God's people do, in more or less measure, even as these sons of Belial. They are honored and well paid for kicking at God's Sacrifice. Some are in the eyes of the world successful kickers. Think of it! Being honored and getting rich for kicking at God's Son who had so great love for lost humanity that He left all the wealth and honor He had with His Father to take upon Him the form of man, and then as a man, had no riches and as a man lost His honor and died as a criminal.

Praise God! There are some true believers who are not

kicking at God's Sacrifice; but they find it an all-sufficient Love Offering for which all glory and honor be due unto Him. They are no more trying to bring an offering or sacrifice of their own. Paul once was a great kicker at God's Sacrifice. But when he heard that voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks," he surrendered and God took all the kick out of him. He became a great booster of the Lord. He learned to glory in the cross of Christ. He took all the honor away from the sons of Belial and gave it to God's Son to whom it all belonged.

Not all of God's people glory in the cross of Christ and honor God's Son above everything and everybody else; but love to take some honor and wealth at the expense of Calvary. Let us look at some verses in Luke 9:44, 45. "Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hand of men. But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask Him of that saying." In the two preceding verses we read that Jesus delivered a father's only son from an evil spirit whom His disciples could not cast out, and they were amazed at the mighty power of God. In verse 46, we read that there was a reasoning amongst as to whom should be the greatest. Here the disciples were amazed at the mighty power of God and wondered at the things that Jesus did, and yet at the same time they were reasoning amongst themselves who should be the greatest. And more, they forbade some to cast out devils in Jesus name, because "they did not follow with us" and they wanted fire to come down from heaven to consume others because they would not receive Jesus. But Jesus rebuked and warned them. He wanted the truth of His suffering at Calvary to sink down into the ears of their hearts. Surely this is the prominent fact. It is sad to see how little the work of Calvary sinks down into the ear of the heart of most of God's people. To a great extent they only hear it with the ears of the head. It occupies so very small a place in their lives.

There is no true greatness on the earth side of the cross. It is all on the resurrection side of the cross. Every healing and miracle that is wrought is because of the death and resurrection of Christ. And many of God's people have faith in healing and perform miracles and boast in their gifts. They glory very little in the cross of Christ. They are reigning before their time; without

Paul and without Christ. I Cor. 4.

The whole old creation kicks at the cross of Christ. It does not want to acknowledge its true condition before God or man. It does not want to die. King Saul failed here and he was rejected from being king. (Although Saul was Israel's king, he never qualified to become God's king.) He did not obey the voice of the Lord in slaying Amalek (type of the flesh) and all its belongings. He spared Agag and the best of the flock to sacrifice unto the Lord. But listen unto Samuel — "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams, for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry, Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, He also hath rejected thee from being king." I Sam. 15:22,23.

12 Oh how stubborn is the delicate, gentle, pliable, yielding old man in respect to Calvary; and how easily he is bewitched so as to get some false honor, glory and wealth for a moment of time here. Oh, Beloveds, let no man (or old man) take your crown. Not only the sins of Belial are causing the people to abhor the Sacrifice of the Lord; but false brethren are glorying in a circumcision (cutting off) which is not God's cutting off at Calvary. That is glorying in a cross which never does it work, but lets the criminal live to boast in his supposed death.

Balak said to Balaam, "I thought to promote thee to great honor, but lo, the Lord hath kept thee back from honour." Num. 24:11 Balaam was offered great wealth and honor to curse Israel. All the wealth, honor and glory of this world is on the wrong side of the cross. The watchmen who were appointed to watch the tomb of Jesus were offered large money, which they took, to deny the resurrection of Jesus. The devil has the wealth of the world to give freely to those who rebel against Calvary, who shoot off their mouths and try to curse God's people who are delivered from the curse because Christ was made a curse for them. Praise God! He is going to have the last kick at the devil and the Christ rejectors at the great white throne when He judges and kicks them into the lake of fire.

Oh, how thankful we are who have had a real inward revelation of the cross of Christ! How thankful we are that God kept us from honor in this world. Oh how the devil once painted

great pictures of honor and bags of gold before our eyes; but God in His sovereignty saw to it that we always had a puncture, a flat tire at the right time. Surely at the cross, all man's honor and glory passed away. And we, as believers, how thankful we are that God did not let us have outward success in His service above that which we were able to bear. How we thank Him for letting every plan and undertaking which we thought was for Him fail. How we thank Him, that others may do many things, that we are not allowed to do.

May the words of Calvary sink deeper into our hearts than ever before. Surely the cross of Christ crucifies us unto the world and the world unto us a double crucifixion. Those who believe it will not be condemned with the world. They will be gone when the judgments are falling upon the world. Oh yes, all the wealth and honor of the world, in its every phase, lies in ashes at the feet of the true believer. And the vision of the eternal wealth, honor and glory looms up before their eyes. There is only one place of safety from error in these self-seeking self-honored days, and that is self-judgment by the cross of Christ. Satan has no power over the new creation, for the new creation is only joined unto the Lord and lives by faith in God, and is wide awake to the voice of the enemy. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice and do follow me." But the old self-life is blinded, or at least nearsighted. It has a beam in the eye. How needful to judge every phase of the old life; for satan has a deception for every phase of truth. Satan's greatest weapon against the work of the Lord today is by imitation. His ministers are transformed into ministers of righteousness. Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses and Aaron by performing some of the very same miracles that they performed. It almost looks like Jesus Christ and Satan were shaking hands, or the Lord had invited him to help save the world. Satan has men with great brains, but they are "men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifested unto all men." Jannes and Jambres never crossed the Red Sea, type of the cross. We who live on the resurrection side of the cross are looking for an out-resurrection from this world. But how sad that many of God's people refuse to be fully judged by Christ's cross. They will have to see before they believe that there is an out-resurrection and out-translation. "If we would judge ourselves we should not be condemned with the world."

(Reprint 1932)

A Solemn Warning

A.S. Copley

“**B**ehold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” Rom. 11:22

It seems that I am compelled to be on the defensive continually. An earnest sister in another city writes very frankly and boldly warning us very solemnly against our stumbling (?) teaching, "once saved, never lost." She names four false beliefs into which she had been drawn, and considers our teaching the fifth. It is evident that she is perpetually occupied with the failures of men, and reads only what the Word says about them. I can see her long, sad face as she wrote to us. She **never** read carefully and thoroughly what God has to say about His great plan, and the full and marvelous provision which He has made for a perfect and eternal salvation. In short, like multitudes of others, she does not understand God's abounding grace. Therefore, she sends forth a fiery word of caution, based upon Scripture portions, which she misinterprets, and asks, How will you explain this away? Our sister quotes from Rom. 11:17-22.

This citation has absolutely nothing to do with anyone's personal salvation. The eleventh chapter of Romans compares God's attitude to the Gentiles **nationally** with that to the Jews **nationally**. Paul says expressly in verse 13, "For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office." "Some of the branches broken off..." (V.17) refers to the Israelites who rejected Christ and slew Him. Those wicked leaders represented the whole nation: hence, "...blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." V. 25 "A wild olive tree, grafted in among them,..." refers to the Gentile nations; for since Christ came and the Holy Spirit was poured out, "God has also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." Acts 11:18 See also Eph, 2:16-19, which speaks of both Jews and Gentiles. Paul cautions the nations against boasting of their privileges as if they were not the spiritual offspring of

Abraham. V. 18 He says to the Gentiles, "If God spared not the natural branches,..." the Jews, "...take heed lest He also spare not thee," the Gentiles. V. 21. Then the apostle adds the verse, which the critic applies to careless, or weak, failing Christians.

"Behold therefore, the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell (through unbelief and rebellion), severity; but toward thee (addressing the nations as one person), goodness, if thou continue in His goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." Now it is a most solemn fact that the Gentiles are not continuing in God's goodness as a people. They are doing with Jesus what the Jews did when He was here. They would crucify Him again if they could. They have already driven Him out of Russia; and Germany is trying to do it. What is the present apostacy in Christendom but the rejection of Jesus Christ? This age will end with the nations speaking "...blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle and them that dwell in heaven." Rev. 13:6 They will worship anti-Christ and his image. That is the danger that Paul had in mind. He warned the nations against rejecting God's Son. The critic shows her 15 ignorance of verses 25,26. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer (Jesus Christ) and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." That is, Israel will be grafted in again and become the chief people on earth.

The lady quotes also Ezek. 33 as a solemn warning. Here also she falls down through the lattice of ignorance. Salvation from sin is not at all in question here. A certain man was made watchman, to blow a trumpet if war broke out. If they who heard the trumpet fled, their lives were spared; but if they did not heed the warning, and perished, they could not blame the watchman. If they perished, their blood was upon themselves. "He that taketh warning shall deliver his soul," that is, his physical life from death. If war broke out and the watchman **did not** give warning by blowing the trumpet, then the lives of those who perished by

the sword were required at the watchman's hand. And God used that to illustrate His attitude to the prophets. Note verse 8.

"When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood (not his soul) will I require at thine hand." Verse 13 teaches that men prolong their lives by walking uprightly before God, but not by their own righteousness. "When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it." It teaches also that men shorten their days by committing sin. Even believers shorten their days by walking in the flesh, and failing to judge their own old man; but nowhere is it said that they are cut off from God and cast into hell. See I Cor. 11:30 and I John 5:16.

16 All the cautions and warnings in the epistles of Paul and of the other apostles are against losing a reward, and not one against the danger of being lost finally. The epistles were written to feed the saints and build them up in faith, love and hope, that they might have victory over sin in the flesh, be healthy in body, be useful every day and faithful to the end in view of a corresponding remuneration. But most Christians are so sadly ignorant of the real Truth and so saturated with legal teaching---"do right, or die and go to hell" ---that they cannot hear the sweet voice of God's grace, or see the ocean of His goodness. Write us for our tracts, on this subject from "Our Corn Crib." Let them help you study the Word of God on salvation.

- * Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.
- * "A wise man never blows his knows."
- * Did you ever notice this fact: that no one can sit comfortably in an easy chair having on the whole armour of God?

HOW IS YOUR APPETITE?

Alice S. Mooneyhan

"NOW an omer is the tenth part of an ephah." Ex. 16:36
Some of God's children have a voracious appetite for His Word, while others eat very little of it. In Ex. 16, we read that the children of Israel gathered manna, each one according to his eating. Though some gathered much and others gathered little, when it was measured" there was an omer for every man. The omer represents the measure of the gift of Christ which each of us is able to receive in the wilderness journey from Egypt to Canaan. The ephah speaks to us of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ into which we all may come by feeding on the Word of God day by day. It is represented in Josh. 5:11 by "the old corn of the land." Corn was measured by the bushel (ephah) , not by an omer, "And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land. Neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat the fruit of the land of Canaan that year." Josh.5:12 If you wish your full measure of spiritual sustenance, take advantage of the provision offered by our "Corn Crib."

(Reprint 1977)

17

The Lord My God

Oh Father, help me ev'ry day
To do Thy will in ev'ry way.
Oh never let me from Thee stray,
My loving Father, God.

Let Enoch nothing have on me,
But ev'ry hour Thy child I'd be.
Help me to walk each step with Thee,
My precious Father, God.

Hold fast my weak unruly tongue:
Lest it offends when old, as young,
And make me feel that I am dung,
Unworthy of my God.

Give me the faith that pleaseth Thee.
In-dwell my heart and set me free
From carnal life's impurity.
My holy Father, God.

Hattie Thayer Moore

REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

“**W**hat shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” Rom. 8:31

18 This verse exhibits a familiar pattern seen throughout Paul’s writings wherein he draws a very solid conclusion based upon the rather detailed foundation he has already laid. “...these things...” to which he refers could be applied to a great number of God’s accomplishments recorded from the very beginning of this book. However, the most prominent examples begin in V. 1 of this chapter, proclaiming every believer’s advantage of “...no condemnation...” directly because he is “...in Christ Jesus,...” The glorious list of blessing continues, tabulating a host of benefits such as “...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death....God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh:...That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit....And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness....For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God....And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him,...” V. 2-17 There are quite a number of additional “things” couched in these verses, but Paul’s argument is that if God has already accomplished all of this, He has produced irrefutable proof that He is for us! Since He is greater than all “...and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me,” (Isa 45:21) then “...who can be against us?”

It seems that David also discovered this same truth when he wrote, “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” Psa. 118:6 Yes, God does “take sides” with His own people and David understood that great advantage, also knowing

that "...If God be for us, who can be against us?" David's "day" was like unto these present end times wherein men of power are targeted directly because others covet that same power. However, he knew beyond doubt that "The LORD is on my side..." and thus none could penetrate God's Own barrier. He expresses this same advantage more than once, meaning that we too must understand that God's defense must be claimed more than once in our experience. "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me." Psa. 56:9

The true saints of God are no less a target, even at this present time. Satan surely knows those who are standing against him and is doing everything in his power to defeat them, for he well knows that one day these same warriors will indeed be a part of his removal. The battles seem to be raging on every hand for all those who would claim the fullness of God's provision, but the pattern set by both Paul and David must prevail for them. God is for us, beyond any shadow of doubt. He has already proven Himself after the manner described above, and thus the path is open before us to have the exact same assurance that King David had as we too are faced with unrelenting Satanic enemies. "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me." Psa. 56:9 And indeed, "...If God be for us, who can be against us?" It should also encourage our hearts to know that God's efforts in our behalf even go beyond just defending us, for His glory also becomes a very personal revelation. "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." Jesus has likewise given us this same glorious admonition. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Lk. 21:28

- * When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For forty days he drove the ark before he found a place to park.

Psalm 23
(Continued)

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

Psalm 23:3a: “He restoreth my soul.” “Restore” means “to give back something taken away or lost; to make restitution of; to bring back to a former condition, or position, place or rank; to return to original or better condition; to bring back health or strength.” In the medical field, we use physical therapy to try and improve function. Maintenance therapy means to maintain your current function without losing ground, or strength. Restorative therapy, however, is the ultimate goal for someone who has lost function due to illness, injury or a surgery. Ideally, we would like to see patients improve to the point that they are better than they were prior to the incident that caused them to lose function.

God is able to restore us completely. He does not just patch up our old life; we rather become a new creation in Christ. II Cor. 5:17: “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” We are fully and completely restored by the blood of Jesus; not made just as good as new, but new!

But what happened to our soul in the first place that would cause us to need restoring? The first definition of “restore” says “to give back something taken away or lost.” Who took it away or how did we lose it? Jesus gives us the answer in John 10:10 in His discourse on the Good Shepherd: “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...” The thief was Satan who tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden to eat of the tree which they had been forbidden to eat. She believed his lie and ate the fruit and gave it to Adam, who also partook. Prior to that time,

they were innocent and lived in a perfect environment. They were naked and not ashamed. They could walk and talk with God without fear. After they sinned, they lost their innocence and their relationship with God and hid from His presence.

At that point, they died spiritually and death entered into the world. Then they were driven out of the Garden. But God did not leave them hopeless. He clothed them with coats of skin to cover their nakedness and promised a Redeemer, represented by the animal that was slain and shed its blood to provide their clothing. That Redeemer was Jesus, Who said in the rest of V. 10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly".

The thief, Satan, came to steal, kill and destroy and brought sin and death into this world, but Jesus brought life. He was the Good Shepherd Who gave His life for the sheep, as He said in V. 11. This was prophesied in Psalm 69:4: "...I restored that which I took not away," and was fulfilled when He died on the cross. Jesus restored what Satan took away, because of God's grace we receive much more through salvation, through that restoration, than was lost in the fall.

Jesus exchanged death to us for life, His abundant life, eternal life. He provided for us complete restoration: body, soul and spirit through His death on the cross.

Our fellowship with God has also been restored so that we can now come into His presence without fear. We are invited to do that in Heb. 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

In addition, He continues to restore our strength daily through spiritual physical therapy as we exercise our faith by trusting Him to lead us, and as we feed upon His Word and commune with Him.

Psalm 23:3b: "...he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." He does not drive us; He leads us. How does He lead us? He does not tie a rope around our necks and drag us along. He leads us along by the gentle tugging of the Holy Spirit, as He promised in John 16:13: "...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." He tugs at our heart strings and shows us the path that is best for us. He leads us through His Voice, His Word: "...he goeth before them, and the

sheep follow him: for they know his voice.” Jn. 10:4 There are many paths in our lives but there are no road signs, so we must keep our eyes on the Shepherd and listen to His voice. His Word will warn us when we begin to stray, as we are told in Isa. 30:21: “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left.” We know His voice, but are we really listening? Sometimes we are talking when we should be listening. We are busy telling the Lord what we want Him to do in our lives instead of letting His Word guide us. So how do we listen to His voice? We listen to His voice by reading His Word and letting the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and teach us, as we find in Psa. 32:8: “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go...”.

22 If we get impatient and try to get ahead of the Lord, we may get off on the wrong path, as we are warned in Prov. 14:12. “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Our ways are not God’s ways even though they may seem to be the right way. We must heed the wise words of King Solomon in Prov. 3:5-6. “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” We acknowledge Him by listening to His Word and trusting what it says and following our Shepherd’s Voice. Isn’t it comforting to know that for every step we take as we follow Him, He has already been there and experienced it ahead of us? He has blazed the trail for us with His Own life. The trail may seem too rough, but He does not expect us to go through anything that He has not already been through Himself, for He is taking the same path ahead of us as He leads us.

Jesus declared in John 14:6 that He, Himself, was that path: “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” So, our Shepherd not only leads the way, but He is the way. There is only one way that is right, only one way that is righteous, and so He will always lead us in paths of righteousness. “Righteousness” means “uprightness” or “right standing.” How can we as sinners walk in the path of righteousness when there is no good in us? That would be impossible in ourselves, but many religions make people think that they must do that in order to be accepted by God. “...There

is none righteous, no, not one:...there is none that doeth good, no, not one," so we are doomed, no matter how hard we try. Rom. 3:12 Also, "...There is none righteous, no, not one." Rom. 3:10 But there is hope! When we confess our sins and accept Christ as Savior, we become a new creation and are given a perfect standing before God. The righteousness that is imparted to us is His righteousness, not ours. II Cor. 5:21 tells us this: "For he [God] hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who know no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." But then our Shepherd must lead us in paths of righteousness or "right standing" so that our testimony, our daily walk, will become consistent with our righteous standing. In other words, it must be made practical in our lives so that others can see it and glorify God.

One of the ways He leads us, in addition to His Word, is by the example of other faithful sheep which have gone on the path ahead of us. In every flock of sheep there are those older, more mature, sheep which always stay close to the Shepherd. They have learned by experience, and perhaps by prior chastening, to love the Shepherd dearly and no longer want to stray. By their actions they can teach the other younger, or less mature, ones that are following farther behind. This is true spiritually also. We can learn by their example how to live a life of submission and yieldedness to the Lord, as we observe in them the righteousness of Christ in action.

23

The Song of Solomon records a beautiful love story representing Christ and his bride, as she, the Shulamite woman, pursues the one whom her soul loves. In Song of Solomon 1:7 she is asking him where he feeds his flock and makes them to lie down to rest, because she desires to be with him more often and to develop a closer relationship. She wants to be as one of his flock of sheep who are loved and tenderly cared for by him. He responds to her question in V. 8. "If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock...". He is informing her that if she wants to know where he is leading his flock, then simply follow in their footsteps, for they are following him.

The apostle Paul was one of those sheep who had learned to follow close to the Shepherd in spite of the suffering he endured. We can safely follow in his footsteps if we also desire,

as the Shulamite woman in Song of Solomon, to have that closer relationship. Paul advises us to do just that in I Cor. 11:1. "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." He also said in Phil. 3:12, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after..." He was actively pursuing that closer relationship, always keeping his eyes on the Shepherd, as he said in Heb. 12:2. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." As Paul followed Jesus, he left footsteps through his epistles for us to follow. He, himself, had been encouraged by other believers and followed the example of those who had gone before him, such as the Old Testament overcomers whose footsteps were described in Hebrews 11. Some of those who were mentioned in that chapter of faithful followers had strayed at one time, including David, who wrote this Psalm. He had committed adultery and murder but had responded to the chastening rod and returned to the path of righteousness to follow the Shepherd even more closely. Perhaps you have been guided by the footsteps of some faithful sheep in your own life who are more personal to you, such as a godly grandparent, a minister or a close friend, even if they were not perfect. The examples given of the people in Hebrews 11 were not intended to bring glory to them as individuals, but to bring glory to God, for His Name's sake. David stated in another Psalm "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me." Psa. 31:3 So, let us be like David and follow our Shepherd as He leads us with His Voice (the Word), through the Holy Spirit and by the example of other faithful followers into the paths of righteousness that will bring glory to His name.

(To Be Continued)

- * "When science and knowledge falls exhausted the FAITH spreads its wings and enjoys the mysteries of God.
- * True humility does not try to be humble, or act humble. It springs from looking unto Jesus, believing His Word and yielding to the Holy Spirit. Then The Lord brings down high-mindedness and and conceit by letting us fail, be disappointed, suffer losses and be forced to trust Him.

The Gospel Of Christ

Royal V. Starr

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16.

These are the words of the apostle Paul. That he meant them is witnessed by his life and the things that he suffered for that gospel. How often we quote these words as a testimony of our own zeal for the same things that Paul stood for so firmly before all men. Does our walk and testimony prove that we are not at all ashamed of the Gospel of Christ that Paul preached? In considering this we need to think of what Paul meant by the gospel of Christ. In his last talk to the Ephesian elders, he declared to them, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts 2:27 The whole counsel of God includes far more than the forgiveness of sin. It takes in salvation in an all inclusive sense. It is the power of God unto salvation for body, soul, and spirit; for past, present, and future, yea for eternity. The salvation that Paul preached was all of grace and not of works. He recognized no merit in any man to deserve salvation, but showed all to be judged guilty before God and deserving of wrath to come. "There is none righteous, no not one," Rom. 1:10 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. Because he taught that our sinfulness and utter helplessness to become righteous gave God the opportunity to show His marvelous grace toward man; he was slanderously reported to teach that for us to do evil would magnify the grace of God. Some saints are afraid to proclaim the grace of God in its fullness lest some think that they believe in loose living, since we are under grace and not under law. Paul's walk refuted all these accusations, so he was not moved by them. To the saints, that might have been ill effected by such accusations, he pointed to the manner in which he had conducted himself toward all men.

Paul filled up or completed the Word of God. It was the gospel to the church which was revealed to him by the Lord Himself that completed the scripture. It is this fullness of the Good News that constituted the Gospel of Christ which Paul called "... my gospel." Rom. 2:16. Here he declares that the secrets of men will be judged by Jesus Christ, according to "MY GOSPEL." If men are to be judged by this gospel of Paul's preaching, which is

the whole counsel of God, should we proclaim anything short of it?

26 The gospel that Paul proclaimed as the power of God unto salvation is the power of God to save those that believe in Jesus Christ; the power of God to fill the believer with the Holy Spirit; the power of God to heal the body by the prayer of faith: the power of God to build up the believer that he might be filled with all the fullness of God, to have a full inheritance of eternal life, and be fruitful unto every good work. It is the power of God to deliver from the condemnation of sin once for all; the power to enable the believer to live above sin in this life and to walk, as Enoch of old, so that he had this testimony that he pleased God. Yes, the gospel that Paul preached was really a full gospel. Many today advertise that they preach the full gospel, but many of them leave out half of Paul's gospel, or just relegate it to the apostolic days, that part of it they do not want to accept. In other words they are ashamed of part of the gospel of Christ. In order to be free of all men's blood, Paul felt indebted to preach the gospel to all men. He said that he was debtor to the barbarian and to the Greek, to the wise and the unwise. In order to be blameless before God and man, he was also indebted to declare all the counsel of God to the believers. He did not shun to declare it all lest some be offended by it. Because he told them the whole truth, some were offended, and he wrote in II Tim 1:15, "All they that are in Asia be turned away from me." To the church at Corinth he wrote, "Am I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" No, he told them the truth because he loved them. He did not withhold the word of reproof to keep on the good side of men. He gave them the Word that was able to build them up and give them an inheritance among them that are sanctified.

When Paul first came to the disciples in Ephesus and found that they had not heard the whole truth he said, "Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed?" When they told him that they had not heard that the Holy Spirit had come, he asked them unto what they were 'baptized.' When they said, "Unto John's baptism," he told them that John baptized unto repentance that they should believe on one that was to come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. They had not known that Jesus was the one they were to look for. The Holy Spirit could not come until Christ had come, had risen, and ascended to the Father. So they did not know that the

Spirit had been poured out upon the church. When they heard that, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and when Paul had laid hands on them, they received the anointing of The Holy Spirit; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. It was the usual thing in that day when men believed and were baptized in the name of The Lord, they would receive the anointing of (be filled with) the Holy Spirit, just as He was received on the day of Pentecost. This is in accord with Peter's statement in that day, "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." When one was saved, the next thing in order was to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It should be the same today, but, sad to say, it is not.

Some will say that it is not needful to receive the Holy Spirit in these days. It is not that they do not need Him, but that they are ashamed of that part of the full gospel. Some claim to have received the Spirit when they were saved, others say that they received Him, by faith, when they were baptized, and still others say they receive the Holy Spirit as a second work of grace. All of these claims are unscriptural and will not stand up under the study of Paul's teaching. The ones who claim to have received the Spirit when they were saved do not seem to realize that they were not eligible to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit until they were born again. "Whom the world can not receive because it knoweth Him not." The believer does know Him. "But ye know Him for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you." John 14:17 It was the Holy Spirit who convicted the sinner of his need and led him to repentance. It was the Spirit that wrought the work of regeneration in his heart when he was born again; therefore, he knows HIM. He is then eligible to receive the gift of, or anointing, of the Holy Spirit. Those who say they received the Holy Spirit when they were baptized without any evidence are only fooling themselves. If they were really saved before they were baptized, they might have received the gift of the Spirit had they believed and had let Him come in, but they would have had the evidence as did the disciples at Ephesus. "When they heard, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them:, and they spake with tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:6. Are you ashamed of speaking in other tongues and prophesying? If so, you are

ashamed of part of the gospel and the most precious gift that God has given to the church, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who claim the Holy Spirit as a second work of grace forget that the Holy Spirit comes as a 'gift' and not as a work. He is received not as a work done in the heart of the life of the believer, but to do a work after He is received.

28 The disciples at Ephesus had no time to prepare themselves to receive Him in the manner that some teach. All that they did was to believe and let Him come in. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came he would lead into all truth and show things to come. He comes into the believer to lead and to guide, to instruct and to prepare the saint for service as a true witness. He does not come as a result of perfection in the life but to give power to go on to perfection, that he might grow up in all things and become mature in Christ. He comes into the believer to bring gifts of the Spirit to be used in the ministry to which he is called that he may be enabled to minister in the power and the wisdom of God, under the unction and anointing of the Spirit. Before that is possible He has a work to do in the saint in order to bring him to the place of dependence upon the Spirit and not upon self.

The Culminating objective of Paul's gospel was that the saints should be fully prepared for the coming of the Lord. He realized that only by being fully yielded to the spirit could they expect to be found worthy of the bridehood of Christ. His teachings explode the idea that the whole church will be that bride. He was jealous over them with a godly jealousy. They were espoused to one Husband, that is to Christ. Upon their faithfulness to Him depended not their salvation, for that was already accomplished and assured, but their meeting the requirement of being a chaste virgin, to be presented blameless and unreprouvable to the Lord at His coming. Let us follow carefully the instructions of our pattern racer in this race and so run that we may apprehend that for which we are apprehended, of Christ Jesus.

(Reprint 1948)

- * Wherever there is a human being there is an opportunity to do a kindness.
- * "Feed me with food convenient for me, lest I be full and deny thee." Prov. 30:8-9

The Secret of Happiness

Leslie Barrowcliff

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”
Jn. 13:17

Our Lord had just given His disciples a practical lesson on humility by word of mouth. He had taught it by example. And now He combined these two means of instruction in an act of lowliest service and an explanation of His act. It is one of the outstanding incidents in our Lord's life and it has a striking message for us today. It is not confined to an incident or a peculiar case, but its application is broader than at first appears, and its power is demonstrated by its divine origin.

The days of Jesus' ministry on earth were drawing to a close. The message had been delivered; the works had been performed. The religious and secular leaders had rejected Him. His final rejection by the Jewish race was about to be confirmed. His utter rejection and His fulfillment of the appointed task concluded. In His moment of apparent and utter defeat, He was to prove Himself the Mighty Overcomer. To human eyes, His failure was made absolute at the Cross. To God and them who believe, it was the very acme of His supreme triumph. "The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Cor. 1:18 The Cross was immediately before Him, and in that final "upper room scene" our Savior manifested His power and glory, yet revealed His humility as well. It was the hour of His triumph, and He knew it. Verse 3 of our present chapter declares that, "Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His Hands and that He was come from God and went to God, riseth from supper..." He knew He was Conqueror. He knew He was Lord of all. He knew He was perfect before God, His Father, and yet He humbled Himself to those whom He had created! It is very important that we remember the circumstances under which our Lord then acted. What did He do? He rose from the table, girded Himself with a towel, then washed the disciples' feet! Those three menial acts give us three steps down the pathway of humility.

1. He rose from the table. He was the acknowledged Master and looked upon as their Leader, yet He had never treated them as servants, but rather had served them instead. He should have been the last to rise to do that thing, if at all. They

were all gathered together; all were doubtless weary and all had dusty feet; yet none of them thought to do the servant's task and provide water for their feet. But Jesus did more. He rose from the table. He took the servant's place. The Master sits; but none else would act as servant, so the Lord Himself took that place.

2. He girded Himself with a towel. He intended doing more than merely provide the water for each to wash his own feet. Laying aside His garments, He girded Himself with a towel to wash His disciples' feet. Think of it! I suppose the men were too dumbfounded for the moment to speak. In fact, Peter seemed to be the only one to grasp what was happening, for he alone protested; but at a word from our Savior, his protestations turned to solicitations. The Lord put aside His robes, an act which speaks of laying aside His Glory. He rose from the table, which speaks of leaving His Throne in Heaven. He laid aside His robes and girded Himself with a towel. That speaks of laying aside His Glory and taking a servant's form --- being found in fashion as a man. Then,

3. He poured water into a basin, washed His disciples' feet and dried them with the towel wherewith He was girded. How significant is that. In His humility He bore our sins. In His humility He took away our offences and His words to Peter explain this typical event. All we have sinned and gone astray and our feet have become defiled. The feet betoken the unclean person and none of us is able to put himself in that position where he could cleanse another from his uncleanness. Maybe we feel we are as clean as anyone else or that they are as unclean as we; so we are all in the same category.

But Jesus saw our uncleanness. He saw our soiled and sin-marred way, and He alone could put us right, could cleanse us from our sin. He symbolized this in His action. He poured the water into the bason. No one poured it out for Him. He provided it Himself. He washed the disciples' feet. He thus removed their stains. He wiped their feet with the towel **WITH WHICH HE WAS GIRDED** and thus took away all signs of uncleanness by washing and left them spotless and clean.

That the washing of the feet indicates a perfect cleansing is definitely affirmed by our Lord Himself. "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit." V.10 Therefore, we see that the disciples were completely cleansed. The

Lord humbled Himself to cleanse them and took unto Himself the consequences of their uncleanness. He did not use a separate towel, but **THE ONE WHEREWITH HE WAS GIRDED.** And Paul tells us that for our sakes Jesus "made Himself of no reputation (that is, laid aside His Glory) 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." Phil. 2:7,8 And by His death upon the Cross He liberated us all from the power of sin. He poured out His own life blood upon the Tree. He shed His own precious blood upon that Cross and girding Himself with a garment of judgment, He washed away our sins, bearing our judgment in His own Body on the Tree and completely cleansed us from all sin and every stain of sin. In His death, He cleansed us. In His resurrection He justified us. Thus, He removed all signs of our need of washing and we now stand and forevermore shall stand before God, justified from all things, justified by God as though we had never sinned, never been unclean, never needed washing at all, but always been pure from every taint of sin. So we can perceive in this act of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **31** His threefold act of coming down to earth as a man, dying on the Cross as man's substitute and Head, and rising again the **NEW MAN**, the Glorified Man, that all men might be justified through Him. By humbling Himself He prevailed. Next, having completed that task, our Lord rose and once more took His garments and sat down again. Those two actions following the washing of His disciples' feet reveal still further phases in our Lord's wonderful work and glory. He completed the work of redemption when He died upon the Tree; for there He cried with voice triumphant, "**IT IS FINISHED.**" He sealed our redemption in His resurrection, then ascended up on high to take His place where He was before. He went back to God, His Father. As He went up on High, the angel hosts exclaimed, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in," To the query, "Who is this King of Glory?" the reply thunders forth in majestic glory, worship and adoration, "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in." Oh, how the hosts of God love their King! And the repeated query was not in doubt, not in curiosity; but to

bring forth the joyful, gleeful and all-rejoicing reply, It was asked and answered --- "The Lord of hosts, He is the King of Glory." Psa. 24:7-10 He, the Lord mighty in battle. He, the Conqueror at the Cross. He, the Lord of hosts the Mighty Redeemer. He, our Lord Jesus Christ. **HE IS THE KING OF GLORY!** Hallelujah! This our Lord portrayed when He took His garments and sat down again; for after His death and resurrection, He took again His Glory and sat down at the Right Hand of God Most High. Heb. 1:3-4 His glory was regained. His authority restored. His majesty acclaimed!

32 "So after He had washed their feet and had taken His garments and was set down again," He declared unto them His reasons for so doing. "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS, HAPPY ARE YE IF YE DO THEM.**" Ah! That is the core of the matter. IF ye know, IF ye do. Many of us know the things that are written for our admonition. Many of us know the things that are written for our learning; but how few do them! Not only in the big, showy things, but in the humble things. We need to cultivate the Spirit of our Lord and to yield ourselves to His commandments. He served. Not because He was inferior, but because He was superior. His love was greater than theirs. Had they loved as He loved, they would have been willing to serve; for love delights to serve. Love is the only power which produces true service. It gives better service; for it does not serve for reward. Jesus loved us and gave Himself for us. He gave His best and had to humble Himself to do it. We are exhorted to a like conduct by Paul in his words to the Galatians ---"By love serve one another." Love is the power which causes faith to work. Faith without love produces nothing. "Faith worketh by love" and "love is the fulfilling of the law." It precludes all motions of selfishness. It has no room for high-mindedness, lofty looks, self-exaltation and unpleasant comparisons. Love is lowly, humble, meek; therefore **LOVE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH.** The Cross stood before our Lord. He saw His resurrection. He knew in that hour He was Lord of all, yet in that hour He humbled Himself to the creature.

Would you conquer like that? Would you overcome all your foes? Would you prevail with God and overcome all your

enemies? Shall I tell you how to do it? "Bless them that curse you; pray for them that despitefully use you: and to him that smiteth thee on the one cheek, turn the other also." You say, It is hard. How can I do that? I will tell you so that you may know and do. "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." Gal. 2:20 "And they who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Gal. 5:24. Hence, it is no longer I, but Christ who liveth in me, and the conquering Christian who knows this truth by practical appropriation can DO those things; for it is written, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13 I can --- through Christ. I can do all things. I can love my enemies. I can bless them that curse me. I can pray for them which despitefully use me. I can walk in full fellowship with God. I can overcome in all trials and temptations. I can do always those things which are good and well-pleasing in His sight, simply by knowing and doing those very things which Christ has taught me and enables me to do. Without God this would be utterly impossible; but NOW CHRIST LIVETH IN ME. This is the secret of power with God. This is the secret of the overcoming life, secret of true happiness, knowing and doing these very things. Happy indeed is that man who knows and does these things which our Savior taught us to do by His Own divine example.

33

(Reprint 1940)

THOUGHTS ON THE 23rd PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd I have no need;
In pastures of green Daily I feed.
He leads me beside The waters so still;
My life with His goodness He constantly fills.

I fear not the darkness Of the valley so deep,
For His rod and His staff They forever shall keep.
As I sit at His table Content in His love,
My head He anoints With oil from above.
All the days of my life His goodness I'll see
And dwell in His house eternally.

--Beula Clark

Our Father's Care

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.” Isa 49:15

God has put before us in the above citation the greatest love manifested in earthly relationships --- that of a mother for her child. He had created this love more irrefragable than any other. It is here shown as the figure of His love for His children. The mother holds her new-born babe to her breast, so dependent upon her for everything, with greatest tenderness. She must sustain that infant's life, care for it every minute of the day and night. With a compassion which no words can describe, she yearns over that bundle of weakness. It is hers. She never forgets it. In sickness and health, she serves her babe. Whole nights she waits upon it, losing sleep, strength and flesh to nurture that frail little creature, though it does not respond to, nor appreciate her wonderful love in the very least. It is worth nothing and may be nothing to others; but to her it is the dearest object on earth. She never tires of her charge.

34 The Lord does not compare His love for His child to the callous, debased woman on earth who may neglect, forget and forsake her offspring, as has occasionally been the case. It would be a little thing for His love to exceed such callousness. It is mother-love at its purest and best to which He refers. It is far more possible for even that irrefragable tie to be broken and the most tender loving mother that the earth has ever witnessed to abandon her infant, than for Jehovah to forget Zion the city of His love, or for our Father in Christ to forget even the feeblest of those little ones that believe on His Son. They have derived their true life from Him and He cannot forsake His own.

For see, that Mighty Hand is tightly closed over something as if it held a treasure too precious to be exposed to mortal vision; but He opens it and lo, there we are held in that invincible Hand, our names engraved upon the palms, actually cut into HIS OWN HANDS! Consider this statement carefully. Who is able to pluck us out from thence? Who can erase that engraving? It reminds us of John 10:27, where we read, "My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish; neither shall any pluck them out of My hand. My Father which gave them to Me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's Hand. I and My Father are one." Let us ask our heavenly Father to strengthen our shamefully weak faith in His boundless love and infinite grace.

Anon



Our Corn Crib

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

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

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

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Therefore I
say unto you,
What things soever
ye desire, when ye
pray, believe that
ye receive them,
and ye shall have
them. —MARK 11:24