

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole Counsel of GOD

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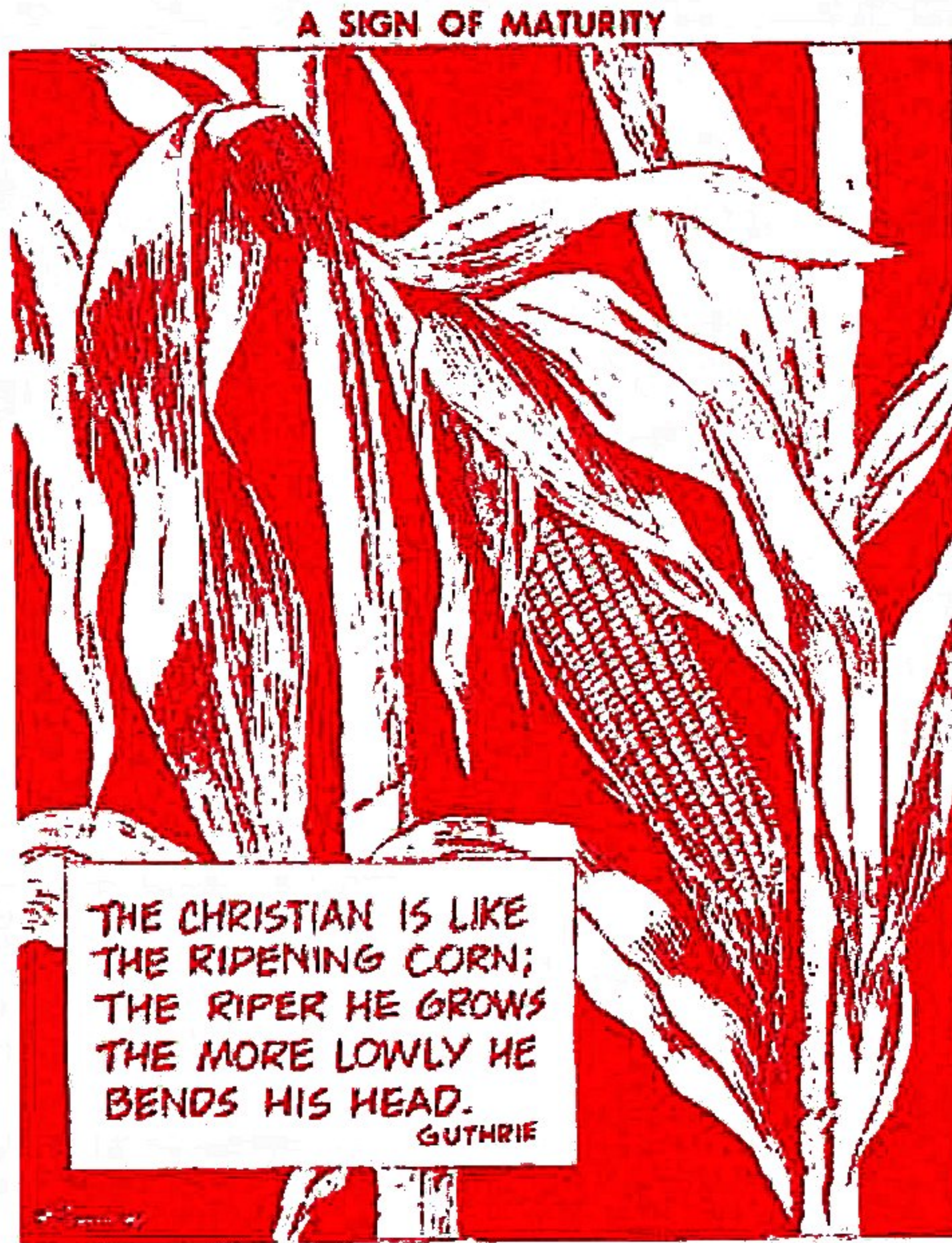
If I take the wings  
of the morning,  
and dwell in the  
uttermost parts of  
the sea; even there  
shall thy hand lead  
me, and thy right  
hand shall hold me.

PSALM 138: 9, 10.



## Table Of Contents

Article	Author	Page
Definite Sign Posts of the End.....	Gene Hawkins.....	3
Rewards.....	D.E. Hill.....	10
Prepared For Battle.....	Dr. Vicky Moots.....	20
An Astounding Determination.....	Mary M. Bodie.....	25
Hosea (Book Section).....	Gene Hawkins.....	31



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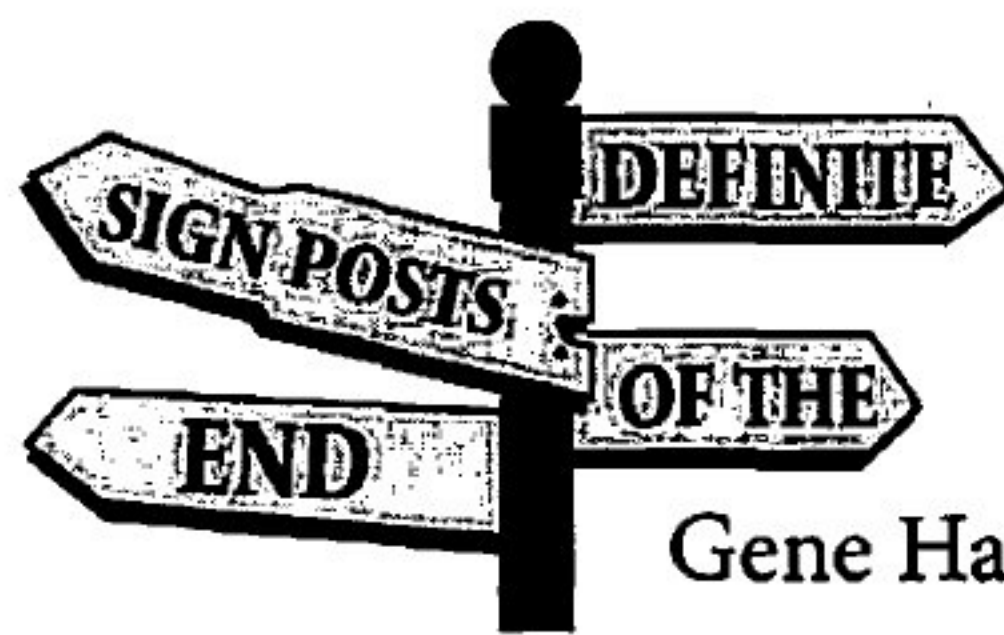
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GRACE & GLORY is published for the purpose of proclaiming God's Holy Word. We believe that the Scriptures are inspired of God and were given to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)

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Editor: Gene Hawkins





Gene Hawkins

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you;... That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 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. 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: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

II Pet. 3:1-7

3

Peter is yet another of many apostles warning men of these last days. His urgency and incentive for writing is based on the fact that the prophets and apostles of the Lord warned of Jesus' coming again. The predominant sign he records in the above text is that of "...scoffers walking after their own lusts And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?" After that, he refutes the idea that "...all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation," citing the flood of Noah's day as proof that God had most assuredly "interrupted" the so-called "natural course of events" by the Word of His power. Not only so, but the apostle emphatically declares that that same Word is yet to bring the judgment of fire on both heaven and earth in these last days.

The day of "...scoffers..." is surely upon the entire world at this present hour, and there can be no doubt that Noah must have contended with the same atmosphere. Hebrews 11:7 is very clear that this man of faith, "...being warned of God of things not seen as yet, (rain) moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world,..."



Noah believed this unprecedented event would take place, even though those around him were steeped in denial and unbelief. Furthermore, although there is no record that he prophesied or preached any semblance of a sermon, Peter identifies him as "...a preacher of righteousness,..." II Pet. 2:5 Thus his "preaching" was in his action of preparing the ark, a clear demonstration of one whose faith was manifest by his works. Jas. 2:18 It must have been effective, for by it "...he condemned the world..." The results of such preaching are also manifest by virtue of the fact that Jesus "...went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." I Pet. 3:19-20 It is evident by this account that some of Noah's day believed the message that Noah preached and were transported to upper sheol rather than being doomed to hell.

4 True believers today must also be faithful to preach righteousness, bearing witness by their conduct that they do believe "...the promise of his coming,...." in these final days of the Church Age.

The word "scoffer" means, "a derider, a false teacher--a mocker, to jeer, make sport." All these terms describe the attitude of many in regard to the promise of Jesus' eminent return at this present hour.

Such mockery and denial of God's truth is rampant around this entire globe, and their ideas and comments regarding the "end of the world" are often contradictory. Politicians and many world leaders continue to vehemently predict the collapse of planet earth due to global warming. It has been previously noted in these pages that more than one has set a date, which has already come and gone, for this total destruction. Contrariwise, scripture is very clear that earth will NOT be destroyed until AFTER the Millennium when God Himself will make "...a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Rev. 21:1 That premise is totally disregarded in these last days, for disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and extremely erratic weather patterns which were once defined as "acts of God," are now attributed



to “climate change.” Rather than acknowledging these events as the fulfillment of God’s Word, men foolishly imagine that they can by their own efforts prevent them from happening.

On the other hand, there are those like China and Russia who seem to indicate that time will go on indefinitely and thus China in particular has broadcast their plans to conquer the world by a certain future date. Consider this quote from Forbes.com Nov. 12, 2019. “China’s Hundred-Year Marathon “In The Hundred-Year Marathon, Michael Pillsbury marshals a lot of evidence showing the Chinese government has a detailed strategy to overtake the US as the world’s dominant power. They want to do this by 2049, the centennial of China’s Communist revolution. The strategy has been well documented in Chinese literature, published and sanctioned by organizations of the People’s Liberation Army, for well over 50 years.” Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has also prompted a number of reports that this ungodly nation also has aspirations directed toward world dominion.

Both of the above scenarios, even though they are contradictory one to the other, are defined as “mockery” because they totally deny what God’s Word has prophesied for centuries as Peter has already explained. 5

According the opening text, when men deny the eminent return of Jesus, they are classified as “scoffers or mockers,” the ultimate reason being that they reject the truth of God’s Word. Psalm 2 reflects God’s response to this matter, turning His Own derision upon those who in fact have mocked Him. “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” Psa. 2:2-5 The great problem with rebellion or rejection of God’s Word is that such an attitude is directly “...against the LORD, and against his anointed....” It is God Who will determine the demise of planet earth even as Peter emphatically declared, “...the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against



the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” It is likewise that same message from God’s Word which vehemently promises that “...his anointed...” Jesus Himself will reign as God for 1000 years after He has subdued all nations, including both China and Russia, unto Himself. Rev. 20:4 Such wording surely does NOT bespeak the idea that the world is just about to be destroyed, unless man quickly does something about it.

Peter also defined those who are guilty of such mockery as “...walking after their own lusts...” the word “...lust...” being defined as “a longing (especially for what is forbidden):--concupiscence.” Jude likewise prophesies of these same scoffers, following Peter’s pattern of citing God’s Word as the basis for his entreaty. “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.” Jude 1:17-20

6 Jude had every intention of writing to his followers about “...the common salvation...” but was instead compelled “...to exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” V. 2 He then explains his reasoning for this change. “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” V. 4 These same men are then defined as “...mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.” V. 18 Jude, like Peter, acknowledges the denial of “...the only Lord God...” but especially enlarges on the conduct of these mockers, declaring that they are “...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness...” The word “mockers” carries exactly the same meaning as “scoffer” the term used by Peter, meaning “a derider, a false teacher.” Vine’s Expository Dictionary defines “lasciviousness” as “excess licentiousness, (lacking moral discipline, ...esp. in sexual conduct...having no regard for accepted rules and standards”) absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness. (immoral, unchaste, lewd)” Jude’s accusation of “...turning the grace of our God



into lasciviousness...” is extremely clear. These mockers teach that men may pursue their own lusts and use the grace of God as an excuse for it. We hear the comment many times in our day that we must support and love those engaged in fleshly activity all in the name of grace. That word “support” is simply code for “approval.” Christians must accept or approve people “as they are,” and indeed some governments such as that of the U.S. are passing laws designed to ensure that the conduct of lesbians, homosexuals, and the new demand of transgender is not questioned. Homosexual relationships are pronounced an “...abomination...” in Lev. 20:13 and though some declare this is irrelevant because it is in the O.T., Paul proclaims the same message. “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, (indecent, shameful) and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” Rom. 1:26-27

7

Mockers likewise are now teaching that not only adults but young children have the right to decide whether they are male or female, thus completely denouncing the absolute scriptural fact that “...God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Gen. 1:27 When men try to claim that they are the opposite sex, they are in fact shouting from the housetops, “GOD MADE A GROSS MISTAKE WHEN HE CREATED ME.” That is utter blasphemy and as Jude put it, “...denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Some of our day have taken steps to “correct that mistake” and are encouraging others to do the same. There are also reports of some who have taken such steps but now painfully regret it.

Rampant fornication is also a part of this same mockery and men walking after their own lusts, as some have chosen to simply live together outside the confines of marriage. Evidently, this same problem prevailed in Corinth, for Paul issued this scathing rebuke when he wrote his second epistle to them. “For



I fear, lest, when I come,... there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.” II Cor. 12:20-21 Men must not be approved in such conduct, but rather encouraged to repent of it. The scriptural fact is that God will graciously forgive all manner of sin, but He will not excuse it.

Many very godly families have been forced to search for some direction regarding these very sensitive issues and Jude provides the answer for them. “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,” Jude 1:20 His counsel is the same as that of Paul’s parting exhortation to the Ephesian elders: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, ...to feed the church of God,...” Acts 20:28 The first responsibility of every believer who is actively looking for “...the promise of his coming...” is to “Take heed...  
8 unto yourselves...” Jude specifically instructs this same group in “...building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,...” This godly man is not teaching his followers to pray for “mountain moving faith” by praying in tongues so to speak but rather to seek the Holy Ghost in “...contending for THE faith,...” the very burden of this book. V. 3 Jesus likewise taught the disciples that “...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” John 16:13-14 Scripture is very clear that “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17 Thus Jesus also explained that “...the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Jn. 14:26

Jude continues to emphasize the fact that every believer must give priority to his own life, admonishing his hearers to



“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” V. 21 This simply means that men are to be motivated by divine love, as they take their place daily in that same realm. They must also look for God’s mercy or grace as a power in their own lives in these last days, in direct contrast to “...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness...” Having attended to their first priority, Jude’s beloved brethren are now exhorted to turn their attention to others. “And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.” V. 22-23 Once again the exhortation here is not to support or encourage fleshly behavior, but rather save them “...with fear pulling them out of the fire...” This can only be accomplished by God’s Word after the same pattern set by Noah as he preached righteousness by his actions. The attitude expressed by “...hating even the garment (outward appearance) spotted by the flesh,” must also be on display.

Finally, Jude provides this glorious consolation to all who would be ready for that first trumpet sound to meet Jesus in the air. “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” V. 24-25

WITH CHRIST”  
(Philippians 1:23)

WITH CHRIST! Brief word; all human thought transcending:  
To tell its bliss the mortal tongue must fail:  
Earth hath no speech, and mind no comprehending,  
For the blest state which reigns within the veil.

WITH CHRIST! Set free from human limitation;  
Free from its pangs, its burdens, and its woe;  
Free, ever free; oh glad emancipation!  
No sense of frailty henceforth now to know.

WITH CHRIST! What bliss! Glad, unalloyed communion!  
What hallowed joys with loved ones gathered there!  
With choice celestial spirits! Oh what union!  
With Christ! Blest place! Blest Home beyond compare!

- J. Danson Smith



## REWARDS

D.E. Hill

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Rev. 22:12  
This scripture makes our work such an important thing. It is not referring to our eternal security in Christ but instead refers to the reward many of God’s precious people will receive. The reward will be “....according as his work shall be.”

Is a marvelous, world-changing work required to receive God’s best rewards? A fabulous or remarkable work is not required for God’s best. Instead, any child of God who simply does what God wants them to do will receive a full reward. The widow with her two mites was commended by Jesus, “Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all.” Lk. 21:3 Of the woman with the box of spikenard Jesus said, “Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.” Mk. 14:6

**10** God’s Word is full of examples of people just like us receiving His best reward. The Apostle Paul told Timothy, “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” II Tim. 4:8 The Church of Philadelphia receives the reward simply because they have “... kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Rev 3:8 It isn’t some great thing in the eyes of people that will determine our reward. God looks upon the heart and if you yield yourself to God, then you will receive the reward.

James tells us, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” Jas. 1:12 Temptation here is speaking of a trial. Notice it is the enduring man that is blessed and receives the reward. “Having” a trial does not receive a reward but “enduring” the trial. All of God’s people have trials but who is enduring the trial? The dictionary defines enduring as: “bear up under hardship and persecution.” II Tim. 3:11, I Pet. 2:19 “to remain under.” Heb.10:32; 12:2; Jas. 1:12; 5:1, “to be strong and firm.” Heb. 11:27, “to persevere beneath



a heavy burden.” Matt. 10:22 Are we patiently and faithfully bearing up under the hardship, or are we filled with anxiety and complaining throughout our test? Patience and faith will receive the reward. If we endure trials patiently and to God’s glory, we will receive a crown. If we suffer with him, we will reign with Him. II Timothy 2:12. We may be joint heirs with Christ if we suffer together with him. Rom. 8:17

We do not need to endure for our salvation. Eternal life is God’s free gift. We are saved to the uttermost, “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Heb. 7:25 What is beyond uttermost – nothing. Our salvation is complete!

James also tells us, “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” Jas. 5:7-8 The Bible shows us that Christians are that precious fruit from the earth. We are the fruit that will come to God out of this world. It benefits us to know what we are and to know what God is doing. We are God’s jewels. Mal 3:17 11

While all saints are precious, some saints are more precious in God’s sight than others. These are the ones who draw nigh to Him and yield to Him and allow Him to have His way in their lives. They are God’s inheritance, “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,” Eph. 1:18 These saints are the ones who allow God to mold them into what He wants them to be. God does this through our trials, “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.” I Peter 4:12 Why does God permit the testing that might make us falter? Do you remember when you made a whole-hearted, full dedication to God? Growth and maturity came, yet as time passed, many Christians fail and falter. It is the testing that brings us to an understanding and



appreciation that God has for us a perfect standing in Christ. This is how God sees us in Christ. God has given to us a perfect righteousness by the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. The trial and testing shows us that we are insufficient for the task, that "He must increase, but I must decrease." Jn. 3:30 We must wholly depend on God. We can either accept this fact or turn from it and miss the reward.

God loves all of His children and He wants us to have His best. All Christians could share in the Sun Glory as seen in I Cor. 15: 40-41, but not all Christians will. It is as we yield to God that we learn the love, grace, mercy and longsuffering of God that will ultimately determine the reward.

It becomes so sweet that the triune God has the power and patience to perfect that good work which He began in us. One day He will bring us forth as gold tried in the fire --- not because of us but because He is "...the author and finisher of our faith..." Heb 12:2 God allows us to fail to show us our weakness. He needs to separate us from our strength and give us His. It is easy  
**12** to become strong in self and think we are something when we are nothing. God did not choose us because of our value, merit or talent. We were nothing when God chose us. Rom. 3 Only God can bring us where He wants us to be.

Any value we have is only in God. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zech 4:6 We learn this as we go with God. It is so easy to look at the outer man and judge what we see naturally. When we are looking at our outer man and our brother's outer man, we can become self-righteous. Nothing defeats the children of God like self-righteousness. The moment you rise up in judgment against your faltering and stumbling brother you are exhibiting your self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is "...filthy rags..." to God. Isa. 64:6 This does not mean that we agree with the bad actions of our brother but instead recognize the only difference between your brother and you (if there is a difference) is God's grace.

Some saints excuse their own failures by blaming faults in other Christians. They make a stand against their brother and Satan defeats them, j ust like Aaron and Miriam rose up against



Moses. God spoke and told Aaron and Miriam “With him (Moses) will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold.” Num. 12:8 In reality, Aaron and Miriam were not rising up against Moses but were rising up against the Word of God. We need fervent love for one another. Love is essential to winning God’s best.

James speaks of the last days when evil is maturing in the world. This evil is ready to be harvested. “And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.” Rev. 14: 18 – 20 You think of the evil that is in the world today. We are living in the time the earth is about to produce its harvest. This harvest will be judged and rejected by God.

13

Many things may be disguised as something “good” but are evil at the core. Wolves in sheep’s clothing. God’s precious people often know nothing about resisting such efforts. We must take the Word of God as our only way to reprove such lies and deceptions. Some Christians are tempted to follow the crowd and excuse or compromise God’s Word. We need to know God’s Word to resist Satan and his tricks. You learn to stay with the Word of God. Jesus is coming and he will reward you. He WANTS to reward you. Even a cold cup of water will be rewarded. How easy and simple.

Heb 11: 5-6 declares, “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” “...must believe



that he is..." Do not all God's people believe that "...he is...?" So often we get into a situation and God's Word says that God is the solution, but do we believe it? Or do we murmur and complain without having faith in what God said and is doing? He's our Helper, He's our Rock, He's our Butler, He is our Everything. "But my God shall supply ALL YOUR NEED according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil 4:19

So we get in the test, what do we do? Do we believe "...he is..." . . . or do we believe He used to be . . . and He might be tomorrow? We must believe "...HE IS..." and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Notice here there are three things that are required: (1) believe in God's existence; (2) seek him diligently; and (3) please him by demonstrating faith, for "...without faith it is impossible to please him..." If we have faith we please God. How do we get faith? "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17

14 Peter likewise teaches, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:7 God is offering us something far more precious than gold. When he allows the trial on our life, it is MORE PRECIOUS than gold.

It is not "miracle working faith" that is rewarded, but instead "tested faith" that will receive the reward. Having faith for the situation God has us in and enduring the trial (even enduring with silent contentment) will receive the reward. God can keep you in the fire as easily as delivering you from the fire. He may be working something far better for us in the fire than removing us from it. Paul asked God three times to remove the thorn from his side. God didn't remove the thorn but instead reassured Paul it was for his good to leave it and concluded "...my strength is made perfect in your weakness..." II Cor. 12:9 Don't we want God's perfect strength in our life?

I Cor 3:9-10 says, "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let



every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” God is not working with us . . . we are working with Him. His plan is in the Word but many people today are using man’s ways which are against the Word. If you are working with God and He tells you something to do, you do not need to be afraid even for a moment. No matter what He tells you to do, He will take care of it. Trust God. God chooses us, puts us in our place and tells us to be a co-worker with Him in His plan.

Perhaps everyone reading this has some measure of faith. We can be rich in faith, and we do not need to cast away our confidence which will receive a reward. We can look to God. We can trust God and let Him have His way --- even the smallest expression of faith can have a great reward. God is looking at us today and sees us in all the Worth of His Son. God gave us a perfect righteousness --- we cannot add to it or subtract from it --- because it is His righteousness. It is God who gets us ready for this time and for this hour.

(Transcribed from an audio recording 1976)

### “MY PRESENCE”

15

Our hearts would ask a program,  
An outline, sent from heaven,  
But no such chart is granted,  
A life-map is not given;  
Instead, there comes a promise,  
A promise for each day,  
“My presence shall go with thee,  
My presence --- all the way.”

Provision and protection  
We rightly seem to crave;  
Were we of these quite certain,  
We think we could be brave:  
But --- greater than these portions  
Can this Word come to be:  
“My presence shall go with thee,  
“My Presence! Mine! With Thee.”

-Selected



## The Axe And The Axe Man

Anon

"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." Matt. 3:10

"The axe" is the Law of God, even as the Word is known to be the sword of the Spirit. "The trees" are the people. "The root" is Adam the first. Comp. Rev. 5:5 By the series of God's dealings with mankind as outlined in Rom. 1 to 3, every tree is found to be utterly barren of "good fruit." Fourteen stern indictments are filed in these chapters against the old creation. Fourteen effectual gashes made by the axe, the law, stopping every mouth and bringing the whole race under the judgment of God. Rom. 3:10-19 Hence, all the trees had to be hewn down; for **"...all have sinned and are coming short of the glory of God;"** all the race died in the death of Christ on Calvary for, **"...if One died for all, then all died;"** all were cast into the judgment fire that fell upon Jesus in our stead. The root also was killed as --- **"our old man**  
**16 (Adam) was crucified with Him"** (Christ); because the root and the trees were alike irretrievably bad.

John the Baptist was the last "axe - man." He was the final one and the greatest in the line of the **"...schoolmaster..."** Gal. 3:26, 27 . Jesus said "...among them that are born of women, there hath not arisen a greater than John the Baptist,..." Himself excepted. Matt. 11:11 He was the foretold prophet of fire, likened to Elijah. Matt. 3:14 The law struck its heaviest blows, exerting its uttermost energy, by his ministry. Hence, he declares. "Christ must increase, but I must decrease," even as the very law which he proclaimed had to pass away to make room for absolute grace. He was imprisoned (thus put to shame), and finally beheaded, typical of the blush upon, and the hush of the law as far as being able to save anyone; "...it was weak through the flesh..." Rom. 8:3 He felt unworthy to bear Jesus' shoe, or to unloose His shoe latchet. Rather, according to a custom in Israel (Deut. 25:8-10 and Ruth 4:4-8), John took off his shoe and gave it to Jesus; he gave Jesus the right to serve in his stead --- "...there cometh One after me;..." Acts 13:25 "He must increase; but



I must decrease.” Jn. 3:30 John, like the law, told the people what to do: but Jesus Only, could enable them to do it by giving them His Own Holy Life. John hewed down the old creation; but Jesus brought in the new creation. Though he was the greatest man under the old covenant, yet Jesus, the least in the kingdom of God, because He chose the place of poverty and dependence upon His Father, became the greatest by virtue of the fact that He redeemed and saved those whom John could cut down. Thus Grace is far greater than law, though the law in itself is "holy and just and good." Grace came through Jesus Christ.

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## **Sermons--Not Remembered, But...**

(Letter in the British Weekly)

Dear Sir:

It seems ministers feel their sermons are very important and spend a great deal of time preparing them. I have been attending a church quite regularly for the past 30 years, and I have probably heard 3,000. To my consternation, I discovered that I cannot remember a single one. I wonder if a minister's time might be more profitably spent on something else? 17

Sincerely ....

For weeks, a real storm of editorial responses ensued. The uproar was finally ended by this letter:

Dear Sir:

I have been married for 30 years. During that time I have eaten 32,580 meals, mostly of my wife's cooking. Suddenly, I discovered that I could not remember the menu of a single meal. And yet, I have received nourishment from every single one of them. I have the distinct impression that without them, I would have starved to death long ago.

Sincerely ....

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“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”  
Acts 20:28



# REFLECTIONS

*... From the Editor*

“And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;... 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him,...” Gen. 18:17,19

The question might well be asked “Who was Abraham that God should, in effect, give account for His decision to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?” His answer is found in the assertion “...I know him, that he will command...his household after him....” God commended the patriarch here for being a leader of his house. Jesus likewise expresses the urgency of a man to claim full responsibility for “...his house,...” especially in view of these last days. “But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.” Matt. 24:43

18

Joshua is another who emphatically verbalized his decision in this matter, proclaiming “...for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Josh. 24:15 Joshua, along with Caleb, had made the decision 40 years earlier to believe God and conquer the land of Canaan, but their “fellow spies” elected not to follow. However, Joshua remains undaunted even after all the hardships in the wilderness and the battles in Canaan. His resolve for him and his house is still steadfast. His influence on others is also immediately apparent, for the people also “...answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;” V. 15 Not only so, but “...Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua,...”

David likewise was a leader in “...his house,...” thus making his own household a priority in his leadership. “I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way.... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.” Psa. 101:2 The specifics of that exemplary heart are found throughout this entire Psalm. He begins by declaring that “I will sing of (God’s) mercy and judgment:...”



V. 1 The example "...within my house..." continues with the commitment to "...set no wicked thing before mine eyes:..." V. 3 David enlarges on that statement, asserting that "A froward heart (his own) shall depart from me:..." He then guards against those who will present a bad influence both on himself and his house. "I will not know a wicked person. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off:...(from fellowship) him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer." V. 4-5

Next, such fleshly association with the proud must be replaced and thus, "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me:..." V. 6 Though many young people may have informed their parents, "You are not going to choose my friends for me," young hearts must be advised that the associations described above can be very detrimental to the rest of your lives.

This separation for the benefit of "his house" is reinforced by this godly leader taking a definite stand, whereby "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." V. 7

Though he was king, David could not actually carry out the intent to "... early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD." V. 8 Neither can believers eliminate such wickedness in these last days. Those who are intently looking into the heavens for Jesus' soon return can, however, make the individual decision to take oversight of "his own house." 19

## LAST CALL!

President's Day Fellowship Meeting at Living Waters Tabernacle, 1701 S. Sherman St., Denver, Colorado 80210  
Friday February 10 through Sunday February 12.

Services will commence on Friday at 7 P.M. and adjourn on Sunday after Lunch at 2:30 P.M.

If you plan to attend or for further information, please contact Polly O'Dorisio at (303) 594-0933 or pollyodorisio@gmail.com



## *Prepared for Battle*

(Cont'd)

Dr. Vicky Moots

“Wherefore, take unto you the whole armour of God...”  
Eph. 6:13a: The word “Wherefore...” means “on this account” or “because of this.” Because of what? Because we are under attack daily, in the spiritual realm, by the evil forces of Satan, so we must fully clothe ourselves with God’s protective spiritual armour.

The command which we are given by Paul to “take unto you” is actually given in the Greek as an imperative military type order, meaning that it is to be obeyed at once and once for all. Therefore, the whole armour must be taken up and put on and kept on for the constant use of protection against the enemy, both day and night.

20 So, how do we do that? How do we take it up and put it on and then leave it on without growing weary of it? Through prayer! Through continuous prayer, as Paul tells us in I Thess. 5:17: “Pray without ceasing.” This does not mean that we are to always be on our knees, or having our heads bowed or our eyes closed.

It means that we are to remain in a constant attitude of prayer and communication with the Lord throughout the day, no matter what we are doing.

An example in the natural realm of being in constant communication would be to carry a cell phone with you every where you go, leaving it turned on and charged up, so that you can receive or make a phone call anytime, day or night. The line of communication would always be open, even when you were not making or receiving a call. Your ears would always be tuned to hear the phone ring, and you would also know that you have immediate access to reach someone if the need arose.

Likewise, in the spiritual realm, we can stay continually connected with the Lord through an attitude of prayer and feel His presence with us all day long in everything that we do. God not only provides the armour, but He strengthens us to wear it



through prayer. Sadly, what we find today is that many Christians are more concerned with spending time on their cell phones and staying connected on social media than they are with staying connected to God through prayer.

“...that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...” Eph. 6:13b “Withstand” means “to resist”. We must be able to resist Satan, as Peter warns us in I Pet. 5:8-9: “Be sober [alert], be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom, resist steadfast in the faith...”

It is only when we are fully equipped with the whole armour of God that we are able to steadfastly resist Satan. He is roaring loudly through TV and social media to try to put fear into our hearts and minds. But our spiritual armour has been specifically designed to protect those areas. We have also been given a shield and a sword to use against Satan when he attacks us. The armour which God has provided for us is more than adequate to protect us, but we must be willing to take it up unto ourselves personally and put it on and keep it on, lest the evil day overtakes us. 21

I believe that we are currently living in the evil day to which Paul is referring. Paul also warned us in II Timothy 3 that the evil day was coming. Verse 1 states, “This know also, that in the last days perilous [fierce] times shall come.” He then describes the conditions that would prevail at that time, which will keep getting worse until the day of Christ’s appearing. Verse 13 appears to be happening before our very eyes: “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” These evil men are those who have been deceived by Satan, whom Satan then uses to continue to deceive others.

The “evil day” could also apply to a specific day in our lives when we are going through an extremely hard situation. Satan then attacks us when we are weakened from sorrow, pain or other emotional or physical trauma.

This would be similar to the time in which Satan attacked Jesus when He was in a weakened physical state from fasting for 40 days in the wilderness. Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into



bread to satisfy His physical hunger. Satan uses the same tactic to tempt us to satisfy our physical, emotional or sexual desires with the things of the world or with things which are contrary to the Word of God. When that happens, we will be able to withstand Satan, as Jesus did, by wielding our spiritual sword which has been provided for us with our armour. (This will be discussed in detail later in this study).

“...and having done all, to stand.” Eph. 6:13c “Having done all” means “having achieved all things, or carried to their ultimate conclusion.” Jesus was a perfect example of this when He cried out on the cross, “It is finished.” He was able to make that statement by faith even before His resurrection, because He knew that His purpose for coming to this world had come to its ultimate conclusion when He died for our sins.

By faith, we can also claim the victory in Christ and then take our stand in the evil day. “To stand” means “to hold your ground”, as in a military stand. We need not fear Satan’s attacks if we have on the whole armour of God, because we are “...more  
22 than conquerors through him [Christ] that loved us” (Rom. 8:37). We can stand in the victory of Christ, even when we fall, for He will pick us up again.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...” Eph. 6:14a The first step which Paul mentions in the process of donning our armour is to gird up our loins. What are the loins? The loins are the large lower back muscles that enable us to stand in an upright position.

But there is also another meaning for loins which is used in Scripture. In Gen. 35:11, God is speaking to Jacob after He changed his name to Israel: “And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply...and kings shall come out of thy loins.” The obvious meaning of the word “loins”, as used here, is that it is referring to the reproductive organs.

Peter uses the word “loins” in that same manner in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:30 where he is speaking of the prophecy concerning David: “...that of the fruit of thy loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.” Therefore, the word “loins” has a double meaning



to us spiritually in Eph. 6. It applies both to our ability to stand upright, to take our stand against Satan, and also to our ability to be fruitful. As Christians we are to bear the fruit of the Spirit, so Satan is sure to attack our spiritual loins to try and cause us to become unfruitful. He will also do anything he can to cause us to become so bowed down from the weight of the cares of this life and with the burden of the Law that we are unable to stand upright.

So, how do we strengthen and protect our loins? The answer is that our loins must be girded. "To gird" means "to fasten garments with a girdle or belt." In the middle east, during Bible times, men wore long, flowing garments with a girdle, or belt, around the waist instead of pants.

In order to do physical labor or to be prepared to fight, they would need to gird their loins, because the skirt of their garment would hinder their movement. To do this, they would gather their skirt in front of them to a level above the knees, twist it a little, and then pass it between their legs and up through their girdle, or belt, in the back to secure it in place. This would not only allow them to move more freely, but it would actually pad and help protect the genital region from injury. This is especially important because a significant injury to that area could result in the loss of ability to produce children.

Our spiritual girdle which we have been provided has a special name. It is called "Truth", and it is powerful enough to secure the rest of our armour firmly in place. It also has the power to strengthen our loin muscles so that we are able to raise up and cast all of our cares upon the Lord (I Pet. 5:7). The truth will reveal to us our righteous standing in Christ and free us from the heavy yoke of the Law.

But what is truth? This same question was asked by Pilate, in John 18:38, when Jesus was brought before him for sentencing after Jesus had told him in v. 37, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness of the truth..."

Jesus had declared to his disciples in John 14:6 that He,



Himself, was the truth: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..." Jesus' words confirmed John's statement which he wrote at the beginning of his Gospel, in John 1:17: "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

When Jesus walked among men, He was not only Truth personified, but He was the Word that became flesh, as John proclaimed in John 1:14. John chapter 17 records Jesus' intercessory prayer which He prayed for His disciples, and for us, shortly before going to the cross. He prayed, in v. 17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." So, our girdle, called truth, is actually the Word of God, which is Jesus, Himself.

But how do we determine for ourselves, "what is truth" when we listen to a preacher or read a study book? We must prove all things by comparing them to the unerring Word of God. We must study the Scriptures daily, just as the Berean saints did in Acts 17. Paul commended them in v. 11 when he stated, "...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

24

Peter tells us in I Pet. 1:13, "...gird up the loins of your mind..." Girding our minds with the truth of God's Word will protect us from accepting and believing Satan's lies.

In the original Greek text, the verbal phrase "having your loins girt about" shows action which has been completed in the past, which you did to yourself, but which is also a continuous, ongoing process. In other words, you can't just take a one- or two-year Bible Study course and consider yourself to be fully girded for action.

The truth of God's Word is revealed to us on a daily basis, a little at a time, by the Holy Spirit, as we read and study it and apply it to our own lives. The truth is a living girdle that grows with us as we grow in Christ, and it enables us to stand against Satan's lies without wavering.

(To Be Continued)

\* Life's big responsibilities come by doing well the little things.



## *An Astounding Determination*

Mary M. Bodie

“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” I Cor. 2:2

Paul the great Apostle of the church, the loud speaker on the platform of the age, the dispenser of the Truth for our time so wrote. His words should be heard and heeded.

Paul was writing to the Corinthians when he expressed himself in the above forceful words. These folk were the educated, cultured, Grecians of that era; and to them he came with the astounding determination to know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And this was the more remarkable in that Paul was a learned man, probably as much, or more so, on some lines, than those men of Corinth, but he considered this one item of his extensive knowledge as of paramount importance. Christ and Him crucified includes all the wisdom of God in its embrace. This was the one aim and firm determination and should be the aim of all ministers, for without this message of Christ and Him crucified, men cannot be saved.

25

Christ was truly God, one with the Father from a past eternity and He was also truly Man, born of the virgin Mary. He was the God-appointed and God-anointed Redeemer of mankind. He came into the world in due time and was rejected by the Jews, to whom He first offered Himself, and also by the Gentiles, who gave sentence to crucify Him. They hanged Him upon the cross --- Christ, the holy, sinless Man, who, in His deepest humiliation proved that He was God. He died in a supernatural manner. He bowed His head, crying aloud, "IT IS FINISHED," and dismissed His Spirit. He willed to die. No ordinary man can do that. His spirit is taken from him, generally under protest. The guard under the tree was constrained to say, "Truly this was the Son of God"

Crucifixion was regarded as one of the most painful as well as most shameful modes of execution. It was akin to the gallows and was that whereby the worst criminals met death. Yet the pain involved for Christ was not the ordinary pain as experienced by others of this death. It was much more, as His



words, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" reveal to us. They declare that His sufferings were more than the physical, though those were dreadful. But Christ's sufferings were the sufferings of the lost in hell. He was forsaken of God, as truly as those in a lost eternity will be forsaken of Him. No fancy is vivid enough to imagine; no tongue is eloquent enough to give adequate description of the torments of the abyss of horrors, and neither can we adequately tell of Christ's sufferings.

Why was Jesus crucified? Some may be so ignorant as to inquire. If He was the Son of God, who could find Him worthy of such a death? Of what was He guilty? Here is the answer to all these questions. You and I were the guilty sinners. We were appointed to die; not only physical, but eternal death, eternal separation from God was appointed for us because of sin. Our whole nature is sinful. It is lawless and at enmity toward God. Not only the sins which we commit, that which we do; but that which we are is the point at issue. Murder, theft, adultery and all the rest of the catalogue of sins --- these are only symptoms (as 26 the medical profession would say), of the real disease. These are petty offenses compared with the ugly, hateful heart of unbelief and hatred that we carry around on the inside. From out this heart of sin, the depraved life of our fallen head, Adam, which we inherit, comes the terrible sins which we commit. Do you love God with all your heart? No, you do not. Do you love your neighbor as yourself? No, you do not. There was only one Man, the Man Christ Jesus, of Whom this could be said. Only One Man proved His love to God and to His neighbor by His death upon the cross. He obeyed God and yielded up His life to the death of shame and thus delivered his neighbor, man. He volunteered to take the sins of the whole of mankind upon Himself there upon the cross and God accepted His sacrifice.

The sinless Son of God was your Substitute and mine there on Calvary. He exchanged the joy and exaltation of heaven for the torments and the degradation of hell in order to satisfy the justice of a holy God against sin. He saw us in our ruined estate and He loved us. **God so loved us that He gave His Son. The Son of God so loved us that He gave Himself to the death**



which we deserved. Thus He has delivered us from sin's penalty. He has restored man's lost inheritance to him. He has opened heaven to us and restored us to fellowship with God. But we must believe in His efficacious death for us and receive the full pardon which God is holding out to us. We must come to the Judge and receive the acquittal from the guilt of our sins. The supreme court of heaven has passed upon our case, and the Judge declares that we are free, because Another has died in our stead. He took our condemnation paid the penalty of sin that was our portion that we might come into His place in God's favor and love. If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you need not be troubled any more about your sins. He has assumed the whole responsibility. You are free, and may rejoice in that fact.

He championed the cause of man. It is no marvel that Paul said he determined to know nothing, but Christ and Him crucified. That expresses all the wealth and wisdom of the Infinite. What story has man to tell after that story of love and sacrifice? What has any man to offer to the sons of men compared to God's offer to him because of what Christ has accomplished for him? What can philosophy give to a dying man to calm his fears? What can the higher critic give? What has infidelity to offer? Nothing in the face of death. That pale horse that comes into our homes, uninvited generally proves that the Bible is true. Men still die. Science has brought great things to mankind --- but it has not brought the release from death or even old age. But this Gospel which Paul delivered brings hope in the midst of death. It offers life, eternal life beyond the grave. Death is only a shadow when we believe in Christ and Him crucified. There is nothing so wonderful. We were listening the other evening to the announcement from this station KCKN of some breakfast foods. There were two packages offered for a certain price and a third one given for a penny. The announcer emphatically declared that was some bargain, 3 packages cornflakes, etc. all three for much less than they regularly sold for. (We'll tell you a secret. We took advantage of the offer it sounded so good.) But here is the reason that we are using this incident. We want to declare that the message of Paul's is the best news that has ever been heard.



There is nothing like it in all the world. Men will spend millions for that which this Gospel will give for nothing. Peace of mind, rest of soul, and health of body, are only a few of the good things it contains. We can emphatically commend it. Honey, milk, and meat --- spiritual food of the very best is contained in Christ. All that God's heart of love longed to do for us, but could not because of our sin is now ours. We may come boldly to a throne of grace and find help in time of need. Earth has many treasures, real or imagined, but none of them can be compared to God's riches for us in Christ. All the happiness of this world is dimmed by the sight of the joy of heaven. Christ gave up His heavenly treasures and joys for a season to give to us these supernal things. What are we doing about it? His blessings are free. There is nothing like them. Men of the world offer their wares and call them bargains. Well, we have the best of earth and heaven to offer --- all contained in Paul's message. Christ and Him crucified. Let us appropriate these blessings.

28

It is no marvel then that the great Apostle Paul determined to know nothing else than Christ and Him crucified. He knew the worth of His message. He was enthusiastic about it, as well as demonstrative. And we are also. We preach it. We teach it. We announce Christ and Him crucified, as meeting all the needs of man. There is no greater news in all the world. Trust the Christ Who died upon the cross for you. He also lives for you. He will help you in life and be with you in death. He is your Savior. Accept Him and you too will say to Know Christ and Him crucified is greater wisdom than all the world can give. It will outlast time and its results will be with you in eternity.

(Reprint 1938)

\* "It will take more than lights to lighten this darekened world. There is One real LIGHT and that is the Son of Righteousness."

\* "Always do right. This will gratify some folks and astonish the rest."



## TRUTH

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” Jn. 1:17

The law genders bondage. Grace genders freedom. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth..." Eph. 6:14. Truth is the first part of the armor to be donned, none of the other parts of the armor will fit unless Truth is first girdling the loins. This does not mean "part truth", patched up with self effort, trying to perfect the old creation. We see such saints who are earnest but wrong, trying their best to hold their armor in place. They remind me of a youngster whose garters are too big and his stockings keep falling down, which keeps him busy pulling them up, every two or three steps.

It was a happy day when the Lord showed me that my trouble was the "patched-up girdle," that refused to stay put and consequently everything else was out of place. What a busy woman I was! I was doing my best to keep my armor in place, but every few steps it was another yank, until I felt sometimes it was no use to go on. But, the girdle looked good, regardless what others said about it, so I refused to give it up. 29

TRUTH gives FREEDOM. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Truth frees us from Hagar and her bewitchment, frees from her bondage and torment. "School is out," since we are no longer under the old schoolmaster, the law. We may enjoy a life-long vacation of rest in Christ Jesus our Sabbath!

TRUTH gives ASSURANCE. "Beloved, NOW are we the sons of God." Now! This present moment! There is no more "hope so" (if I'm able to hold out). There is no more "guess so" (I'm trying to live a good life for Christ). But now there is a "KNOW SO SALVATION" in Christ, for keeps!

TRUTH gives CLEAR VISION. Truth dispels the doubts, reveals the errors and clears away the fog of unbelief. Now we see clearly, for we find we are a NEW CREATION in Christ, with a PERFECT STANDING, in Christ. We see ourselves seated in the heavenlies, in Christ. We see the wonderful land of Canaan and discover we have been living in the wilderness. Immediately we



stake our claim in Jesus name, and possess the land. It is ours-  
the milk, the honey and the fruit. BUT, there are giants! WELL,  
what of it? We know we are WELLABLE to overcome them thru  
Christ.

TRUTH gives STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE. We  
know who we are.

We know what we are.

We know where we're going.

We know who is backing us.

We know our resources.

We know our rights as sons of God, and wax bold to  
declare that this wonderful work of God was not done in a corner.

We become subtle, like Paul, wise as serpents, harmless  
as doves. We become good fishermen, not casting the "racks"  
of "once saved, always saved" (though it is gloriously true) and  
"eternal security" and like expressions into the water, scaring away  
the fish. But by using wisdom and love, we preach and testify of  
His wonderful Grace to many dear saints who are enlightened and  
**30** find their place IN CHRIST and rejoice in eternal life and the rest  
that is rightfully theirs.

TRUTH gives FAITH. When we know the truth and find  
it is backed up from Genesis to Revelation, our faith grows by  
leaps and bounds. As God enlarges the truth to our hearts, our  
faith is strengthened and increases until we reach the place where  
in Christ, the enemy's strongholds are torn down and we press on,  
conquering and to conquer!

TRUTH REVEALS. Truth is a searchlight that reveals the  
imperfections and weaknesses of the flesh. Truth also reveals to  
us the victory, which Christ Jesus won for us --- and every part  
of this victory is ours --- as Paul proved when he "browbeat his  
body, leading it captive" (Diaglot) and find that IN CHRIST we  
are more than conquerors. "In all these things we are more than  
conquerors through Him that loved us." Rom. 8:37.

-Sent in.

(Reprint 1950)



*Hosea 14*  
Gene Hawkins

“O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God: for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.” V. 1

The opening words of this text could well be a parting message directly from the lips of Hosea, exhorting Israel to turn their attention back to the LORD. They had most assuredly “... fallen by thine iniquity...” as they bowed to the gross idolatry of which he has accused them throughout this book. This faithful prophet also tells them what steps must be taken to achieve this goal, giving them almost “repeat after me” instruction. “Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.” V. 2 National repentance is outlined in these verses and there is no substitute for it when wrongdoing has occurred. Hosea’s reference to “...the calves of our lips...” is simply a very poetic way of saying “we will render unto Him the fullness of praise out of a good heart,” even as Jesus declared “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” Lk. 6:45

31

God’s “doctrine of replacement” is also manifest in Israel’s heartfelt request to “...Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously...” God never leaves a void and thus when iniquity is removed, that vacated space would be filled with God’s acceptance in an atmosphere of Divine Grace.

This idolatrous nation must also acknowledge the fallacy of seeking help from the nations, and at the time then present it was an admission that “Asshur (Assyria) shall not save us;...” V. 3 Israel not only failed to find deliverance through this ungodly nation, Assyria actually took them into captivity. However, this verse continues, asserting that “.... we will not ride upon horses:...” Horses are symbolic of natural strength, and Israel has at long last learned that such power cannot be trusted. They will learn the same lesson in the end time when their own resources,



along with that of other major nations like unto Assyria, will again prove futile in achieving freedom from national bondage. National repentance, meaning a reversal of their former conduct, continues with the commitment that "... neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods:..." The "calves of their lips..." will no longer render honor and reflect confidence in these false gods, "...for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy." God had declared earlier in this book that "I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early." Hos. 5:15 Their words of true repentance signify that they have finally learned the lesson God intended, by His departure from them, and according to Hosea's assessment here, the "...fatherless..." have found the path of mercy back to Him. He is now free to "... heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." (Israel) V. 4 This would surely be the love of a father, one of the few references to the Fatherhood of God in the O.T. It is, however, as a Loving Father that He "will be as the dew unto Israel: he (Israel) shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon." V. 5 God's blessing can now rest upon them as the dew from heaven, resulting in their growth "...as a lily..." and sending "...forth his roots as Lebanon..." indicative of strength and stability which will now prevail rather than chaos and uncertainty. The glorious results of genuine repentance are further manifest, as "His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon." V. 6 These are "...branches..." of spiritual prosperity such as that seen in the fruitfulness of the olive tree, from whence comes the oil of the Holy Ghost. Israel also emits the sweet smell of "Lebanon," meaning whiteness or purity, as a sweet savor unto God.

Hosea continues to define this restoration, asserting that it is not a temporary experience, for "They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon." V. 7 All these things may be projected to that which will take place for the entire nation of Israel during the tribulation. They will surely learn by experience that the nations cannot be trusted to provide



their protection. It is that failure which will ultimately drive them to the place where they shall "...dwell under his shadow..." of protection. However, God will be much more to them than just a shield from the nations. "...they shall revive as the corn,..." meaning that they will finally display the resurrection life of Christ, their Messiah. Add to that the fact that they shall also "...grow as the vine:..." for they will be the true vine of God bearing spiritual fruit rather than wild grapes, as defined by Isaiah. "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved... My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:..he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, ... and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes....What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?" Isa 5:1-4 Hosea now explains that this vine which bore "...wild grapes..." will be restored and "...the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon." Israel will become the true vine of God, producing the genuine wine or purity found in The Holy Ghost. 33

All this will come to pass because "Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found." Israel as a nation will not only forsake their ungodly pursuit of idols but will discover the true Source of both their life and fruit. Jesus is that "...green fir tree..." and from Him "...is thy fruit found." Jesus spoke these same truths to His disciples. "I am the true vine,... every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Jn.15:1-5

Hosea concludes this chapter and entire book with the question, "Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall



fall therein.” V. 9 The designated “...things...” to understand refer especially to these glorious points of Israel’s restoration and the “...wise...” reveal those who will “...understand...” them by experience. They will bow wholeheartedly to the premise that “...the ways of the LORD are right...” and then walk in them. However, those in Israel, as well as all men must realize that men must still make their own choice. Either they will understand and walk in the ways of righteousness or they will choose to reject God’s assertion that “...the ways of the LORD are right,...” and those same “...transgressors shall fall therein.”

It seems that Hosea ends his prophecy rather abruptly, but perhaps that is because the judgment of these transgressors is so sure and eminent.

#### The Finale

34

When earth’s last picture is painted  
and the tubes are twisted and dried,  
When the oldest colors have faded  
and the youngest critic has died,  
We shall rest and, faith, we shall need it----  
lie down for an aeon, or two,  
Till the Master of All Good Workmen  
shall set us to work anew!

And those that were good will be happy:  
they shall sit in a golden chair;  
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas  
with brushes of comet’s hair;  
They shall find real saints to draw from -  
Magdalene, Peter and Paul;  
They shall work for an age at a sitting  
and never be tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us  
and only the Master shall blame;  
And no one shall work for money  
and no one shall work for fame;  
But each for the joy of the working  
and each in his separate star,  
Shall draw the Thing as he sees it,  
for the God of Things as They Are!

-Rudyard Kipling





# 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	

## Music CD's

*Wings of Faith* - Live- '79 feat. Greg, Milita, Rick, Sue & Frank  
 Tabernacle Choir Album- 1963- Beloved Grace & Glory Favorites

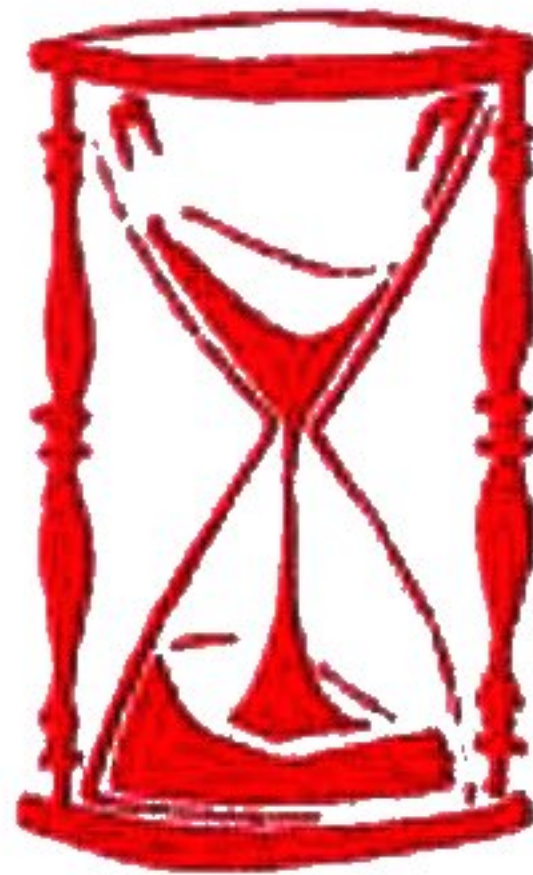
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# grace and glory

P.O. Box 831

Grandview, Missouri 64030



*"Wherefore He saith,  
Awake thou that sleepest,  
And arise from the dead,  
And Christ shall give thee light.  
See then that ye walk circumspectly,  
not as fools, but as wise,  
**REDEEMING THE TIME,**  
Because the days are evil."  
Ephesians 5:14-16.*