

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the
whole counsel of GOD

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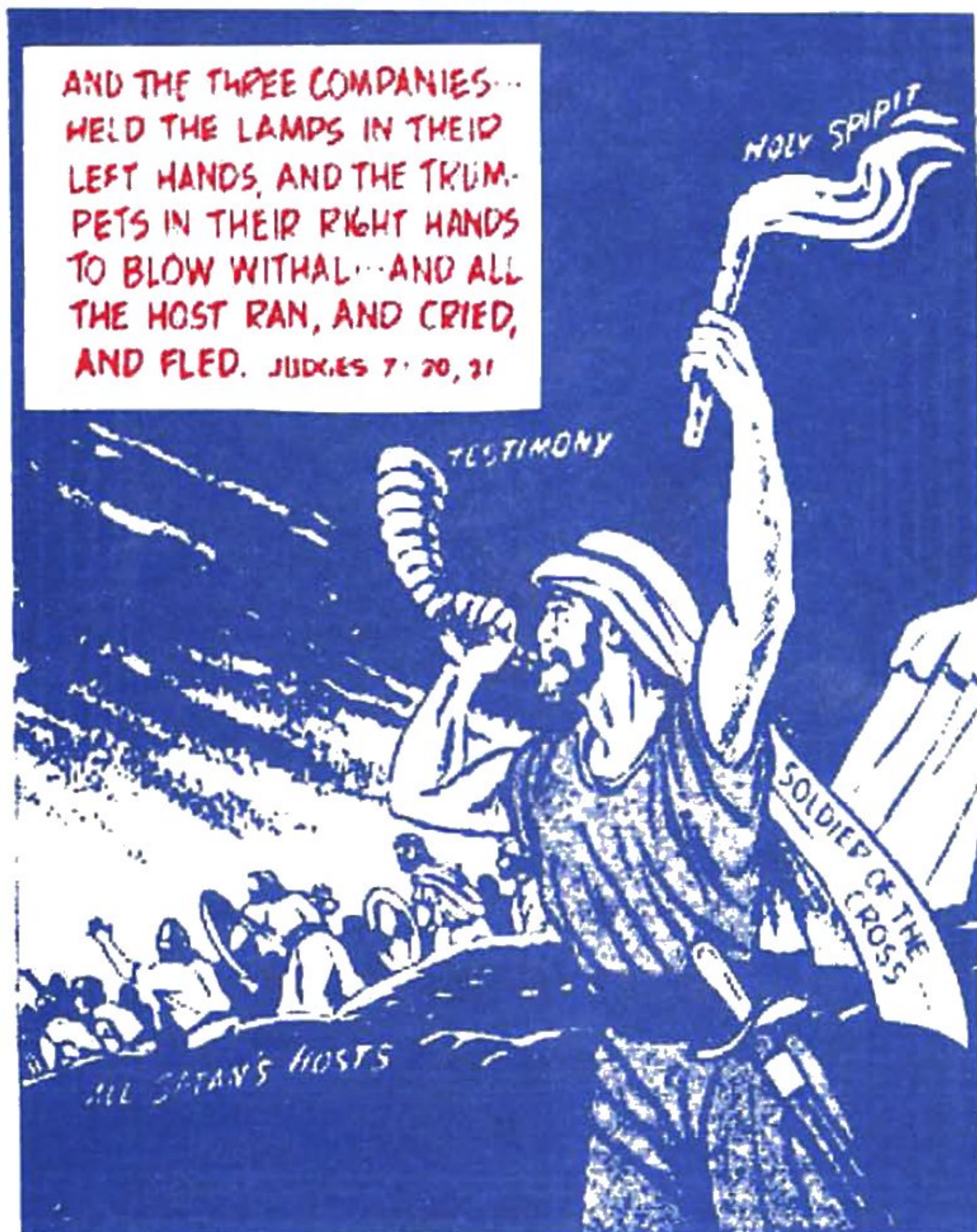


JOHN 8:36

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INVINCIBLE WEAPONS



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Editor: Gene Hawkins

Definite Sign Posts Of The End!

Gene Hawkins

“In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, ...he began to say unto his disciples... Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” Lk. 12:1-2

Jesus emphatically and unequivocally proclaimed that “...there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed,....” in reference to the “...leaven of the Pharisees...” Such leaven is, in turn, termed “...hypocrisy” which is none other than “deceit, or acting under a feigned part.” This definition must be applied to a vast host of ungodly assertions advanced by many social, religious, and political leaders in these last days. Jesus’ first response to the disciples’ question, “...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” was likewise, “Take heed that no man **deceive** you.” Matt. 24:3-4

The glorious promise here is that truth will without **3** doubt triumph, for “...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known.” Paul also proclaims that there would come “...the day when God shall judge the **secrets** of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” Rom. 2:16 That “day” has surely come to pass for many believers in their own personal lives, but there is no time limit stated as to **WHEN** such a promise should be fulfilled in these days just prior to the tribulation.

These last days have literally escalated into a time when men have made an art form out of hiding truth in order to pursue their own advantage. Jesus plainly declared that “...men loved darkness rather than light, **because their deeds were evil.**” Jn. 3:19 Darkness is in fact a “safe haven” for wicked men and therefore they pursue that environment. Paul also warned of those who “...resist (oppose) the truth...” II Tim. 3:8 He drew this conclusion after announcing “...that in the last days perilous times shall come.” II Tim. 3:1 This chief apostle to the Church then describes selfish men who “... shall be lovers of their own

selves, covetous, boasters, proud,...” etc. concluding that they are “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” II Tim 3:7

Next comes a striking example and proof of that statement. “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also **resist the truth**: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” II Tim. 3:8

The names “...Jannes and Jambres...” are not found elsewhere in scripture, but most scholars accept the account of Jewish tradition that they refer to the Egyptian magicians employed by Pharaoh. Four times it is said of them, after God showed His signs and wonders through Moses, that “they did so...” or “... in like manner...” “...with their enchantments,...” meaning that these magicians produced miracles like unto those demonstrated by Moses and Aaron. The message is clear: “Moses, we can do anything that God can do.” Let all men clearly understand that Jannes and Jambres are alive and well today. Men repeatedly try to convince the world that they can control the temperature of the world, and this doctrine has become a mantra for ungodly men world-wide as has been repeatedly reported in these pages heretofore. However, another, even more blatant demonstration of men’s efforts to make themselves like unto Almighty God has literally dominated the air waves in the past few weeks and months. Men have now intruded into God’s realm of creation wherein He specifically states, “Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.” Gen. 5:2 Modern day “Jannes and Jambres” are now saying to God, “we can inject hormones to reverse the natural development of males and females and we can ‘surgically’ create them male and female at our own discretion. Whatever You do, we too can accomplish.” Breast implants have been used to great advantage for women who have lost their breasts due to disease, but such expertise of men is now being used to “**create** a woman out of a man.” Some women who have simply “**called** themselves men” are now insisting that a “man can get pregnant.” Likewise, some women have surrendered their breasts to surgery in order that they might “**become a man.**” This is surely one

prominent illustration of what Jesus meant when He said, "... Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matt. 24:4-5 The very actions of ungodly men such as those listed above send the very loud message that "...I am Christ..." thus demonstrating the hypocrisy of the Pharisees by simply "acting under a feigned part."

Scripture is very clear that God did not allow the antics of Jannes and Jambres to continue as "...the LORD said unto Moses, say unto Aaron ...Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice...And they did so;...And the magicians did so with their enchantments...**but they could not...**" Ex 8:16-18 It is also quite certain that these current times of deception will most assuredly give way to total revelations of truth.

Be it ever remembered that **TRUTH NEVER EVER CONTRADICTS ITSELF**. When anyone contradicts themselves, it is stark proof that they have **not** declared truth. Those promoting this ungodly doctrine and practice known as "transgender" constantly contradict themselves. They claim on the one hand that they can indeed create a man out of a woman or vice versa, but then loudly proclaim that "there is no difference between the sexes." One political woman was asked, "how do you define a woman?" and she replied "I cannot." Likewise, some biological men who insist they be allowed to participate in women's sports declare both by their actions and rhetoric that "there is no difference between male and female." That vague difference is also exacerbated when the demand is made that all transgenders be addressed with the common designation "they."

All this absurdity and stupidity on the part of those subscribing to such foolishness would be laughable if it were not so tragic. Untold harm is being inflicted on young children because of it, directly due to the fact that those children **ARE NOT** being taught anything about their Creator. Thus, Paul's final indictment against those who practice and publish "...the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy..." is "...so do these also **resist the truth**: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning

the faith.” II Tim. 3:8

It has already been established that truth will eventually prevail, “For there is nothing covered, that **shall not be revealed**; neither hid, that **shall not be known**.” The deceptive acts of the magicians came to an abrupt end in Moses’ day, and the same will come to pass in these closing days of the Church Age. The great question facing those who are so decimated and grieved by these current practices and doctrine which deny truth is “how long must we wait for that to happen?” Furthermore, how must those who love God and His Truth conduct themselves in the midst of this ungodly environment?

6 The opening text from Luke 12 provides some answers as Jesus continues, declaring: “Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.” Lk. 12:3 The promise that “...there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested;...” is also found in Mark 4:22. That declaration is preceded by Jesus’ direct question: “...Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?” Mk. 4:21 These citations clearly indicate that the only way to reveal that which is hidden by darkness is to bring forth light. Paul confirms the exact same truth. “But all things that are reprov’d are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.” Eph 5:13 The lesson here is that God’s people must assert themselves as “**revealing light**.” A small candle may seem a bit miniscule in the midst of today’s rampant darkness, but Jesus insists that such light, as small as it may be, must not remain hidden and unobserved. He further instructs His disciples, after the Pharisees have accused Him of being the “...master of the house Beelzebub...” (more leaven of the Pharisees,) “Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.” He then instructs, “What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.” Matt. 10:25-26 Jesus’ counsel for all those today who are forced into an encounter with this ungodly transgender doctrine, along with many other expressions of the

Pharisee's leaven, is that they simply display the light which they have. Paul also admonished the Ephesians, after declaring that "...whatsoever doth make manifest is light,... 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." Eph 5:14-16

One major point here is the priority that those who would receive light must walk in it themselves. Their own lives must become a testimony of light and truth or as Jesus illustrated, they must be displayed prominently on a candlestick.

The above citation also promises that "...Christ shall give thee light..." This is of course the light of God's Word, suggesting deep personal revelations of His mysteries, but this statement must also include the fact that He will reveal **that which is truth, and that which is not**, since there are a multitude of voices in this day of darkness proclaiming that they are declaring truth.

There must of necessity be a way to know who is declaring truth and who is hiding it. It has already been noted that one major way to discern that is to observe contradictory messages, such as the many conflicting instructions regarding masks and injections during the Covid -19 debacle. There were multiple contradictions out of the same mouth, which was purported to be "the scientific medical authority" on that subject. Another way to determine truth is to ascertain the motive behind certain declarations. One major purpose driving the horrific contradictory statements proffered in regard to Covid was to instill fear. Sadly, even though some in authority have announced that the Covid threat is past, there are those who are still living in mortal fear of it. It has often been declared in these pages that God's people must measure the words and actions of those in authority today by God's Word, and thus anyone who promotes an atmosphere of fear for the sake of controlling others by it is automatically in violation of God's Word. The apostle John clearly declared that "...fear hath torment." I Jn. 4:18. Never did God intend His people to live in torment, but many world leaders today are convinced that such a tool is imperative to control their subjects. Paul also addressed this subject of fear in a very positive manner,

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asserting without apology that, "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Tim. 1:7 Fear does NOT come from God. Rather than concentrating on fear of what MIGHT happen, complete trust and submission must be rendered unto Him, Who must be given control of everything in our lives.

Other motives must also be ascertained today, especially when considering the conduct of many national leaders around the world. It is quite evident that both China and Russia are determined to control the world. Iran is intent on annihilating Israel. It is not hard, then, to reject any explanation they may give for their current conduct. There have been some reports that the Covid virus was most assuredly created in the Wuhan Lab in China, something vehemently denied by authorities both in the U.S. and China. But, "...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;..." and recent evidence seems to clearly indicate that there was a concerted effort on the part of both these countries to "cover up" or hide the truth that this tremendous debacle did not accidentally come from some bat in a wet market. It must be clear that Scripture specifically prophesies a time when various plagues will be unleashed into this world and there can be no doubt that many of them will be released on purpose. "And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth:...And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, ...but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Rev. 9:3 Verse 7 of this same chapter reveals that these "...locusts..." "...were as the faces of men..." meaning that these plagues came from men. This scene will take place in the midst of the tribulation, but it is not hard to see that intentional man-made destruction may have already begun.

Another tell tale sign of men "tampering" with truth, which is so rampant at the present time, is prophesied by Isaiah. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isa. 5:20 This simply expresses the fact that many in today's world put forth total lies as truth. The so-called "righteousness" of same sex marriage, transgender, and

gay pride are the exact opposite of truth as proclaimed by God's Word. The current American administration made a great issue out of "pride month." Have none of them ever heard from God's Word that, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18 These things have been addressed repeatedly in past issues of Grace and Glory, but the current practice of accusing the police of brutality when they are only enforcing the law is a contradiction to righteousness. A marine, intent on protecting passengers riding the subway, and who should have been treated as a defending hero, was recently accused of manslaughter because he used a choke hold on a known criminal who was openly threatening the entire train. Scripture is clear. When men "...received not the love of the truth,...God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:" II Thess. 2:10-11 Evidence is also clear that when they believe the lie, they also publish it.

Paul's final admonition to "redeem the time," emphasizes that time is of the essence in the display of light. Jesus also noted above, "What I tell you in darkness,..." indicating perhaps a time of darkness or difficulty when hearts have been especially tender and open to His revelations of truth, "...speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops." All these terms indicate a very intimate, private, and close conversation with Jesus. There is no substitute for this adherence to Him during these last days in order to be totally consumed and possessed of Light. He will also surely make known His time of opportunity to declare these things unto others.

Jesus plainly asked in the text above, "...Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?" Much of the difficulty in this present world is due to the fact that a great majority of those "who absolutely do know" about certain things are simply not publishing it. It surely seems evident that this has been done in recent years simply to "protect" certain individuals in an effort to promote their own agenda. It is encouraging to hear of some brave "whistle blowers" at this present time who have finally listened to their conscience and decided they can no longer keep silent, refusing to proclaim

what they know to be true. It is not known whether these are believers or not, but God's Word is filled with examples of how He uses even the ungodly to fulfill His purposes. "The LORD hath made all things for himself: (for His purposes) yea, **even the wicked** for the day of evil." Prov. 16:4 He used the worst of the worst to put Jesus on the cross, and whether they know it or not, wicked nations today are simply being moved about as chess pieces to bring forth God's plan for these end times. Thus, it should be no surprise that God could use those who disregard their own well being in an effort to be God's "candle" in bringing forth light to reprove darkness and fulfill His promise that, "...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known." It is therefore imperative that God's people pray earnestly for those who are in such a position. Paul specifically exhorted "...that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for **all that are in authority**; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Tim. 2:1-2

10 There are many in this day who do have both the knowledge and authority to proclaim what they know to be true. Some in the national media have decried the idea that some journalists are simply "no longer journalists" because they refuse to shed forth the light or the truth that they have. "...there is nothing covered, **that shall not be revealed;**..." but if these "candlesticks" will do their jobs, that time may come sooner rather than later.

Regardless of whether they do so or not, those who are **looking for Jesus** must continue earnestly in that sublime occupation, refusing to be distracted by that which is so wrong in our world. The only recourse in this matter is to faithfully accept the role of a candle, be it ever so small, and abide faithful to His purpose, which is, "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops." Matt. 10:27

MEN AND TREES

A.S. Copley

“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.” Gen. 3:8

Here we read of a man **AMONG THE TREES**. After Adam had taken of the forbidden fruit that Eve gave to him, he hid himself from God. He was afraid of God. He heard God speaking, and he hid himself amidst the trees of the garden. If he knew that God was all wise, he had forgotten it. He had known that God could see through a tree, but he forgot that now. Sin has a terrific effect on the human mind. It made a bad impression on Adam's mind; it made him ashamed and afraid. Sin made him hide himself from God, his true Friend. Six thousand years this side of Adam's day, sin has the same effect: It makes people fearful and ashamed. Men want to cover up their meanness. Sin makes them do wicked things, and they justify themselves in their wickedness. The human family has been ruined by sin in every way. 11

Then we read of a man **UNDER A TREE**. "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Jn. 1:45-47

Nathanael was evidently resting under the tree of meditation. He was one of those good Israelites who was looking for the promised Messiah to come. That is why Jesus said, "An Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." He was not a Pharisee, a self-conceited priest, nor self-opinionated scribe, but a humble believer in the Word of God; and there he was resting under the fig tree. That has also spiritual meaning to it. The fig tree represents the Jewish nation. He was a Hebrew, resting under a banner of Judah, a true loyal Israelite who was seeking Jesus. Nathanael had heard of Him before, no doubt; so Philip says, "We have found

Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph."

The Lord sees us wherever we are. When we are seeking Him, He knows it. He knows our thoughts afar off. If you have the slightest inclination toward Jesus Christ, toward believing on Him, or surrendering to His will, He knows that. There is nothing hidden from Him. Just as He knew Nathanael, He knows all about us. If you are resting under the tree of meditation and reflection, the Lord knows that. Will you heed His Voice as He speaks to you?

Then we read of a man UP A TREE OF ANXIETY. "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zaccheus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich." (It does not say whether Nathanael was poor or rich; but Zaccheus was rich). "And he sought to see Jesus who He was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him; for He was to pass that way." Lk. 19:1-4 He had heard of
12 the miracles which Jesus wrought and had learned about Him, but could not see Him for the crowd. He was determined to see Him; so he skirmished along the roadside and climbed up a tree, because he was little and could not see above the crowd. This is also one that the Lord knew. He knew where Zaccheus was, and He came along that way at the right time. God's providences are marvelous. They work together for our good. The Lord is interested in everyone.

"And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zaccheus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Lk. 19:5. In spite of all the people who were following Jesus, when they came to the right place the Lord lifted up His head at the right time and said, "Today I must abide at thy house." Possibly Zaccheus was frightened at first at Jesus' saying; but he dismissed any fear he might have had. "And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully." Lk. 19:6 He received Jesus into his house. He had heard so much about the wonderful Man, the great Teacher, the mighty miracle Worker.

"And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That

He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner." - Lk. 19:7
Yes, that is the way people do today. If you receive Christ, someone will scorn you and say, "Oh, you're getting religious, getting pious, starting to Church." The devil puts hatred in other people's minds. "Gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner." they complained against Jesus. The carnal mind is enmity against God. The natural man hates Jesus Christ. "And Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Lk. 19:8 Just meeting the Lord and hearing His word put him under conviction and made him feel that perhaps he had taken something that did not belong to him; or perhaps he had assessed undue taxes on the people, for he was a collector of taxes. Perhaps that is why he was rich.

"And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house." Lk. 19:9 How glad the Lord will be if He can say to you, "This day is salvation come to this house." How happy we will be if you accept Christ. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Lk. 19:10 That is why Jesus Christ came into the world. That is why He was born a Babe in Bethlehem, grew up to be a Man, wrought miracles, healed the sick, preached in Judea and Galilee and Jerusalem and all Palestine, because He came to seek and to save men. How many were lost? All that were born of Adam and Eve are lost, dead in trespasses and sin, and need a Saviour. Jesus Christ came to be that Saviour. I repeat and emphasize it: "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." He seeks us. We would never seek Him, if He had not first sought us. God provided salvation and announced it to us. He had to inform us of this wonderful provision and seek us. That is why the Gospel is preached. He proved that He was seeking the lost that day, by walking down the street of Jericho and looking up into the tree to that little man.

Now we read of another Man --- not hid in, nor under the trees, not up in a tree, but HANGING ON A TREE. "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom

ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:29-31 Because Jesus Christ was going to be hanged on a tree and die in his stead, He sought Zaccheus and called him and invited him to Himself and went to his home. If Adam had not sinned and hid behind a tree, Jesus Christ would not have been hanged on a tree. There He was judged for you and me. He took the sinner's place. He took my place and your place.

14 He substituted Himself for you and for me, and let God inflict on Him the punishment that was due you and me. He voluntarily gave up His life for us. He voluntarily died in our stead. Sin entailed the wrath of God, demanded punishment as justice, required that the transgressor should pay a penalty for the wrong that he had done, and that penalty was death. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Gen. 2:16,17 Ezekiel wrote hundreds of years after, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek .18:4,20. Death came as a result of sin, and death was the penalty that God inflicted on the sinner. Jesus Christ, four thousand years later, put Himself in the breach and surrendered His will and took the sinner's place. He said, "I will bear his judgment. I will be judged in his stead. I will pay his debt. I will meet the need of humanity." And He was hanged on the sinner's tree.

Jesus came and preached the Gospel to His own people but, though the scribes and Pharisees and the high priest were all religious, they were self-righteous. They did not listen to His offers of mercy. He had a wonderful message, a message of grace. He came as the Redeemer and Saviour, the One who was promised in their Scriptures; but they rejected Him. They turned Him down and hanged Him on a tree! They crucified Him. To hang on a tree is a shameful death. Only outlaws and malefactors are executed in that manner. Sometimes men have been mobbed and hanged on a tree. Why? Because it is a shameful death. Jesus

died under that uttermost shame. He was rejected of God and rejected of humanity. He was suspended above the earth, but yet under Heaven. The world did not want Him, and God could not look upon Him because He was made sin and numbered among the transgressors. In dying He wrought redemption for humanity. His death brought salvation for mankind. It hushed the cruel voice of the law and satisfied to the uttermost the claim of God, bridging the chasm between Heaven and earth. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself"; not imputing men's trespasses to them, but imputing them to His Son - II Cor. 5:19. The whole human race was seen gathered up in that moment and nailed to the Cross in Jesus Christ. All humanity, all men and women, children that may be born from now on until the end of the Millennium - all were reckoned as dying with Jesus Christ. He paid humanity's debt. We were in debt to God. Jesus Christ paid our debt. Come to Him who has paid the debt, and receive His life by believing on Him. Is He not a wonderful Redeemer? He suffered and died in shame, dying as a transgressor. He recoiled from dying, because He did not want to be made sin for us. Now He offers us a life by believing on Him. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Jn. 3:36. 15

Thank God for this wonderful One who died for our sins. "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:31. Yes, He died, was buried, raised again; and God has exalted Him, raised Him on high. He is in Heaven at the right hand of the Father today, and He receives everyone that comes to Him. Have you believed on Jesus Christ? It does not matter whether you are hid behind a tree of fear or dread, or resting under some tree of investigation, or climbing up some tree of anxiety. No matter where you are, you may come to Jesus. You can believe on Jesus Christ this very moment. Let your heart go out to this Saviour who has borne all your sins and sicknesses. There is just one thing the Lord cannot do without your cooperation and that is to save you. What is your part? Only to believe on Him. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" - Acts 16:31.

The Faith

"Beloved,...I...exhort that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 1:3

Jude intended to write to the saints concerning some phase of the "common salvation," but the Holy Spirit guided his hand in the manner recorded here. This epistle marks the end of the doctrine of the Church and the content is important, for it completes the whole body of Truth. Notice his subject — "the Faith delivered to the saints."

The world is filled with divers kinds of religions and cults, but the Lord has delivered only ONE FAITH, not a faith. And He has never given the Church, or any body of people, authority to add to the truth "once delivered to the saints," or to take any portion from it. There are many religions which have arisen in the last century and thousands of poor ignorant souls have been deceived. God has given His Word and there are no further revelations given. The canon of Scripture, "the Faith," is complete. It was delivered to the saints. It was not to the Jews, nor the Pope nor any ecclesiastical leaders, but to the saints of the Church age. This Faith is our heritage — the will of our Elder Brother to His brethren and no one must detract or seek to change it by worldly wisdom.

16 And we are to earnestly contend for the Faith as Jude instructs. It is the need of the hour — not contending for religion, or for this organization or that creed, but for "the Faith." Few present-day ministers obey this injunction and if they do raise their voice against some departure from the Truth, they put on the soft-pedal. They feel or think it is not ministerial courtesy to take issue with one who is a brother. But they should consider the attitude of the Lord toward false teaching or even a false attitude, to see the error of their position. In all of His public ministry He was in the midst of decided controversialists, yet never do we read that He lost His temper or was found lacking in meekness. Nevertheless, no one ever was more severe with those who took issue against His teaching.

The Apostles followed the Lord in this attitude toward error and those who were spreading it. We ought to be thankful for the scriptural examples set before by those Christian leaders in contending for the Faith once for all delivered to the saints. Paul did not hesitate to rebuke Peter publicly for his compromising in the matter of not eating with the Gentiles when the legalists were present. — Gal. 2:4-21 None of the great reformers were afraid to defend the Faith. Imagine Luther, Calvin, Knox and others of like caliber being mealy-mouthed with the adversaries against the Truth. The comparison of the present-day church leaders with those past contenders of the Faith makes these later ones look little and pusillanimous. They are not protesting against anything. It is not polite, they would say.

THE MEAL OFFERING

What It Means To Us

“**A**nd when any will offer a meat (or, meal) offering unto the Lord his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it and put frankincense thereon.” Lev. 2:1

The meal offering pictures the perfect life of the Lord Jesus presented to His Father, a sweet savor. It is also deeply instructive of the believer's life presented to God. Three things characterize the sweet-savor life:

(1) Fine flour --- the balanced life, with harshness removed, an end of self.

(2) Oil --- the Holy Spirit poured out without measure upon it, available to every Christian.

(3) Frankincense --- the likeness of God --- as Jesus did “...always those things that pleased Him, (the Father) leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.” Jn. 8:29 I Peter 2:21

The meal offering was not acceptable without these things. A Christian life is not what it should be without the counterpart of **17** the type.

--C.F.Bundy

* * * * *

I FORGAVE

My heart was heavy, for its trust had been
Abused, its kindness answered with foul wrong;
So turning gloomily from my fellowmen,
One summer Sabbath day I strolled among
The green mounds of the village burial place;
Where, pondering how all human love and hate
Find one sad level; and how, soon or late,
Wronged and wrongdoer, each with meekened face,
And cold hands folded over a stilled heart,
Pass the green threshold of our common grave,
Whither all footsteps tend, whence none depart,
Awed for myself, and pitying my race,
Our common sorrow, like a mighty wave,
Swept all my pride away, and trembling, I forgave.

Whittier

REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“...Who is the LORD,...” Ex 5:2

This question was advanced by Pharaoh, after God had sent Moses and Aaron to him demanding that he “...Let my people go...” Ex. 5:1 God answered that question in no uncertain terms when He demonstrated His power with great signs and wonders as Israel departed out of Egypt in glorious triumph.

David also presents a glorious fivefold declaration defining “**Who**” God is in Psalm 103. He begins with “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” V. 1 These “...benefits” surely apply to all men in general as Jesus boldly declared, “...your Father which is in heaven: ...maketh **his** sun to rise on **the evil** and on **the good**, and sendeth rain on the just and on **the unjust**.” Matt. 5:45 Peter proclaims in addition that “... Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust,...” I Pet. 3:18 He also asserted, “The Lord... is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that **any** should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance.” II Pet. 3:9 These are just a small example of the “benefits” God has made available to all men.

However, V. 3-5 of the above Psalm employ the word “**Who**” five separate times in describing “Who God is.” Each time the word is used, it bespeaks a greater degree of knowledge which every believer may experience, but sadly many do not. First, He is the God “...**Who** forgiveth all thine iniquities...” This is the first lesson that any sinner **MUST** learn in discovering the knowledge of God as Peter explains. “This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders,... Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:11-12 Peter also takes center stage in John 6 regarding this same intimate knowledge. Jesus “...said,... no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples... walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jn. 6:65-69

Psalm 103 continues with “...**who** healeth all thy diseases...” Sadly many believers never get beyond the first “who,” but others discover the God **WHO** identifies as the healer of multiple maladies

which include physical, spiritual, psychological, emotional, social, and many others. The end time promise for Israel is "...unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;..." Mal 4:2

David's third "**Who** redeemeth thy life from destruction:..." V. 4 This applies to those steadfast warriors who have found by experience that "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:..." Jn. 10:10 Paul thus recounted, "...we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;" II Cor 1:9-10

Next, this knowledgeable Psalmist defines God as One "...**who** crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies:" Peter speaks on these depths of grace as coming from "...the God of all grace, **who** hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,..." I Pet. 5:10 He also affirms that eternal glory comes only through such tremendous grace. John also indicates that such a "crown" of grace can never be obtained in only one experience. "And **of his fulness** have all we received, and grace for (upon) grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Jo. 1:16-17 Law keepers will NEVER enjoy the grace which come ONLY through Christ Jesus.

19

Finally, David's fifth "**Who**, satisfieth thy mouth with good things." V.5 Paul is once again a striking example of such satisfaction. "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly,.. I **have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be **content**. I know both how to be abased, and... how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry,... to abound and ...suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:10-13 Such "satisfaction" comes only from the intimate knowledge of this "Who" and is a continual and growing process, but consider this glorious result: "thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" V. 5 This would be the very fullness of the victorious life in Christ Jesus, even the very pinnacle of eternal life.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

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Gospel Fellowship, 13001 Grandview Rd.

Grandview, Missouri 64030

Dates: Sept. 2-3, 2023

**Food and lodging will be provided. Please contact us at
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The Two Creations

Dr. Vicky Moots

“**T**herefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” II Cor. 5:17:

Paul is speaking of two different creations: an old creation, our old, sinful nature with which we were born, and a new one which we become in Christ.

There is nothing good in our old nature, as we find written in Rom. 3:10-12: “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” And again V.23 asserts, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

20 It is through the new birth that we become a new creation and receive a new nature. The life of Christ is conceived in our hearts by the Holy Spirit in much the same way that Christ was conceived in Mary’s womb. We accept it by faith. His life then becomes just as real to us spiritually as it was to Mary physically. But, as a Christian, have you ever struggled with “trying to live a Christian life” and finding out that you keep on failing and making mistakes, no matter how hard you try to “be good”, and to “do the right thing”? Perhaps you thought that after you were born again that you would no longer have to deal with any of your old sinful desires and that you would just automatically quit all of those bad habits that you knew were harmful or displeasing to God.

If we are a “new creation” in Christ, and “all things are become new”, then why do we find ourselves still doing some of the “old things” that are supposed to have passed away? It is because those two creations, the old and the new, are at war within us, trying to gain control over each other in our lives.

The Apostle Paul explains this battle in Gal. 5:17: “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” The word “lusteth” means “has a strong desire,” indicating that the Spirit and the flesh are battling within us and have a strong desire against each other to suppress and overcome each other.

Even though we are a new creation spiritually in Christ, we are still living in our old creation body, with its fleshly desires that wants to have its own way. So, how can we have victory over our old nature? Before I discuss that, we need to see what else the scriptures have to say about these two creations.

In the New Testament, Paul refers to the old and new creation as the “old man” and the “new man.” (We will study those verses later). The “old man” is our old, corrupt nature which we inherited from our earthly father through Adam. This nature is present in all mankind ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. The “new man” is the life of Christ, Himself, which is formed in us after we are born again.

In the Old Testament, in Gen. 25:21-26, we find described for us a physical example of this struggle within us. This is the story of Isaac’s children, Jacob and Esau, before they were born. Rebekah, his wife, was experiencing some unusual discomfort inside her womb during her pregnancy and couldn’t understand what was happening. We read in v.22, “And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord.”

The Lord explained the problem to her in v.23: “And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels: and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.” She was not aware that she was carrying twins and that they were fighting each other. We find in vv.24-26 that Esau came out first so he was the elder one, and then came Jacob, the younger.

These two brothers are a spiritual type, or picture, of the two creations, the old (the elder) and the new (the younger), which are at war inside each of us as Christians. So, is it normal for all Christians to experience this kind of struggle? If so, how long does it last, and how do we end the battle?

Yes, it is normal, but just as Rebekah’s difficult pregnancy did not last forever, neither does our spiritual struggle need to continue. The struggle within her ended when she was delivered. God has likewise provided a way of deliverance for us, which Paul explains in Romans chapter 6. But Paul had to learn this by experience, just like us. Would you be surprised to know that he also went through a personal struggle between the two natures

early in his Christian life? He relates this for us in Rom. 7:18-24, and then, in v.25, he testifies of his deliverance so that we too can know the way of victory.

Before Paul's conversion, he had been a very religious person. He was a strict Law-keeper of the Mosaic Law, a Pharisee, and considered himself to be blameless before God. In fact, he thought he was doing a good service for God by persecuting the church and those who called themselves Christians. He thought he had much to be proud of and to boast in until one day he came face to face with Jesus in a vision on the road to Damascus. The light of that vision was so bright that he fell to the ground and was blinded. That encounter changed his heart, for he became a new creation in Christ. Three days later God opened his blinded physical and spiritual eyes and called him to preach the gospel. Yes, he was a new man.

But then a struggle began. In his heart he wanted to serve and follow Christ, but his flesh, his old nature, was rebelling. A war was now waging within him between the "old man" and the "new man." He soon discovered that in his own strength, in his flesh, he was not able to do the good that he wanted to do.

22

That spiritual battle is recorded for us by Paul in Rom. 7:18-24. He stated in vv.18-19, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Does that problem sound familiar to anyone? It certainly does to me, for it mirrors my own experience.

Paul had not yet learned to lay hold of the power of the Holy Spirit in order to have victory over the flesh. He continues on in v.20 to say, "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I [as a new creation] that do it, but sin [the old creation] that dwelleth in me." And in v.21, "I find then a law, [principle] that, when I would do good, evil is present with me."

He further describes this war in vv.22-23: "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

This constant warfare was very distressing to Paul, and he cried out in despair in v.24. "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death"? But, praise God,

the conflict did not end in defeat! He claimed the victory in v.25: "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord..." And also in Rom. 8:2 when he stated, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Yes, Jesus delivered Paul, but how do we claim the same victory that Paul experienced and make it a reality in our own lives? Paul explains this to us in Romans 6. In v.6 he declares the facts concerning what Jesus accomplished for us through His death on the cross: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him [Jesus], ..." This first fact is something that Paul wants to make sure that we know without a doubt because it is the basis of our victory over the flesh. We must accept this and believe it by faith to be true.

He then continues on in this verse to give us the purpose of knowing this fact: "...that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." The Amplified Version clarifies this portion of Scripture for us this way: "...that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin, might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin." This means that instead of having to serve sin, we are free to serve Christ with our body.

23

Next, in v.7, Paul makes an obvious statement of fact: "For he that is dead is freed from sin." When a person dies, his sinful nature no longer has power over him to cause him to sin. Therefore, death frees us from continuing to live a life of sin. But it doesn't end there, because Christ rose from the dead, and so must we, as Paul states in v.8: "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."

If we believe these facts to be true, then we are admonished in v.11 to apply them to our own lives so that we may personally experience the victory over the old creation (our old man): "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Paul clearly states in this verse, that there are two things which we must "reckon." The word "reckon" means "to count it to be so." This word is actually an old bookkeeping term which referred to counting up both sides of the ledger and balancing, or reckoning, the books at the end of the day. You had to be very careful to add up all of the numbers correctly or your books would be off. You wanted your count to be true. Both sides of the ledger had to

agree. Spiritually, this means that we must be willing to count things the way God counts them and to agree with what He says in His Word.

The first thing which we must reckon is to agree with God that our “old man” was indeed crucified with Christ, and therefore, we are dead to sin and free from its power over us.

The second thing that we are to reckon is that we, as a new creation, have been resurrected with Christ and are alive unto God.

When we reckon these two things to be true, and allow them to become a reality in our daily lives, then we can shout the victory along with Paul, who declared in Gal. 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

It is the resurrected life of Christ in us who gives us the victory over sin. Our “new man” is Christ Himself living His life through us as we yield to the Holy Spirit. So, we can now say, “It is no longer I (the “old man”), but Christ (the “new man”) that lives in me.” The “old man”, who was crucified with Christ, no longer has any authority over our bodies, because we reckoned him to be dead.

As a result of this reckoning, our bodies are free to serve God instead of serving sin, as Paul tells us in Rom. 6:12-13: “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members [of your body] as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

At this time, I would like to discuss the verses in Ephesians and Colossians in which Paul uses the terms “old man” and “new man” to refer to the two creations. As stated previously, the “old man” is our old, sinful nature which we inherited at birth through Adam. Paul plainly declares that the “old man” is corrupt and acts according to the lusts of the flesh. God does not patch up the “old man” and try to make him better or to reform him. The “old man” is corrupt and had to be put to death, as we were told by Paul in Rom. 6:6.

Paul commands us in Eph. 4:22 that, as Christians, we are to “...put off concerning the former conversation [manner of life] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”

In this verse he illustrates the “old man” by using the example of an old, filthy, contaminated garment that must be removed and destroyed.

This filthy garment represents the outward manifestations of the “old man” in our lives. The inner lust of the flesh will manifest itself outwardly through sinful deeds of the body. This is the outer garment of the flesh. We must choose to remove the filthy garment of the “old man” in order to be clothed with our new clean garment.

Next, in v.23, we are instructed, “...be renewed in the spirit of your mind.” We can only be renewed in the spirit of our mind by yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit, as Paul tells us in Gal. 5:16: “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Since we are a new creation in Christ, God has provided us with a new garment to replace the old, contaminated garment which we have removed. Paul calls this new garment the “new man” and commands us in v.24 of Ephesians 4 to “...put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

This same illustration is expressed further by Paul in Col. 3:8-10: “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy...; Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.” The new man is created in God’s image, not Adam’s image. When we are born in the natural, we bear the image of our earthly father, and that of Adam. When we are born again, as a new creation, we bear the image of our heavenly Father. 25

Since we have put off the old man with his deeds and put on the new man, what are the deeds that should now be on display in our lives? What does our new garment look like? Paul gives us the answer to this question in the last two verses of Eph. 4: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice [these are the deeds of the old man]: And be ye kind one to another, ... even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” These deeds are only possible as we yield to the new creation life, the life of Christ in us. So, let us put off the “old man” and put on “the new,” and glorify Christ.

LEAVE THE MIRACLE TO HIM

Paul N. Smith

“**A**nd the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.” Jn. 2:1-3

The Scriptures quoted above lay the groundwork for the first of the many miracles performed by Jesus. Compared to the other miracles which He did, this one does not seem important nor even necessary. However, we are not attempting to judge either the value of His works, nor the motive behind His acts. He had a definite purpose to accomplish and in every situation God was glorified.

Whenever a miracle occurred, there was a definite need. To the governor of the feast, to the bride and bridegroom, it was important to have enough refreshments on hand. Evidently Jesus entered into the festivities also; perhaps this wedding concerned
26 Him very much. A relative, friend, or perhaps one of the disciples was in the wedding party. Already, Jesus was looked upon as being different, of having power not possessed or exercised by the others. His mother told Him of the need, and expected Him to act. Could it be that He had performed similar acts while at home? There is a principle seen here that holds true in every instance, whenever there is need for a miracle. Notice the words of Mary to the servants, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." Ah, this is the secret of miracles. Here is how wonderful things happen to us. "Whatsoever He saith," is the important fact in this particular event, or in any other supernatural work. The servants had but to obey. It wasn't a great thing to fill the pots with water; but, when instructed to do so by the great Master of miracles, it meant something.

The lesson is obvious. The servants of God need only to obey Christ's instructions and leave the results to Him. It was necessary for those servants to believe that He was able to do something about the pots of water. What went through their minds, we are not told. They may have wondered at such a request, and

whispered to each other, "Wait till the governor tastes this water!" We are sometimes guilty of reacting this way. In looking for miracles, we fail to observe that God can use what is at hand. We need no special incantations, nor some great person to be present. If Jesus says, "Fill the waterpots," we can obey and expect Him to do the rest. It might do the reader well to look through the Gospels and note the circumstance surrounding each of His miracles.

There were some outstanding miracles which occurred before Jesus came to earth. The principle of faith and obedience was the same then. We want to note a few.

Read the familiar account of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis twenty-two. The Lord told Abraham to take his only son - the son of promise - and offer him as a sacrifice. Again, we do not know what battles, nor what doubts Abraham had; but we read that he obeyed. His faith in God was so strong, that he brought Isaac to the determined spot and tied him to the altar.

He, like the servants at the wedding, obeyed as far as he could; and then left the miracle to God. Abraham was expecting to kill his son, and then see him raised from the dead. He had spoken words of faith to Isaac before this when he said, "God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." And God did. Abraham became acquainted in a deeper way with Jehovahjireh that day. He knew forever after, that "the Lord will provide."

If we are called upon to make a supreme sacrifice, there is the comforting assurance that the Lord will provide. Faith brings forth obedience, and obedience paves the way for a miracle to appear. We are to do what God tells us to do, and leave the miracle with Him.

In Exodus fourteen, is another familiar story. The Children of Israel were hemmed in by the Egyptians from the rear, the mountains on either side, and the Red Sea to the front. There was a definite need and, as always, God was on the scene and brought the victory.

The people cried in fear unto Moses, who in turn took their plea to the Lord. The answer he received was short but to the point. "Wherefore criest thou unto Me? Speak unto the Children of Israel, that they GO FORWARD" -14:15. Here again,

all they had to do was obey and leave the miracle to Him. They did march forward and even dipped their feet into the water. What obedience! The only muddy spot was on the shore; in the center of the river there was dry land. It pays to obey the Lord, and move at His command.

In their case, Israel had nothing to lose. To submit to Egypt would have meant terrible punishment; to have gone to either side would have brought death to them. Why not go forward? It is good to be hemmed in some times; then all we can do is what God wanted us to do all the time. There is nothing to go back to. We cannot get off the Gospel trail without injury; so let us go forward, and leave the miracle to Him. He took care of the waters and of their enemies.

28 Joshua six records another great miracle. Israel were called upon again to obey the Lord and leave the rest with Him. This time they were told to march around the city once every day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around seven times. Here was another occasion for conjecture and doubt. Can't you hear yourself saying, "Well, at least, we are making a path around the wall."

But, march on they did. They were not to try to bolster their courage by singing or chanting praises. In fact, Joshua told them, "Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout" -6:10. What a sight this must have been! This multitude of people marching around the walls, no sound but the tramping of their feet; no shouts nor threats, no moans nor groans. I'm sure the walls were lined with spectators watching this "freedom march."

On the seventh day, the spectators became the more curious because the one trip around stretched into two, then three, and finally seven times. At Joshua's command, the priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted, and God did the rest. The battle was won without a shot being fired. The inhabitants of Jericho thought they had nothing to worry about with these people. They had no weapons, and all they did was march. They did not know, though, that God had ordered this march.

What lessons we learn from the saints of old! If all we can do is march, and God tells us to march, then we can expect a miracle to be done somewhere along the way. "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it," is still good advice today. It may seem ridiculous to you, and insignificant to others; but if you are obeying the Lord's command, then leave the results to Him. He is the Miracle-Worker. The pots, the water, the knife, the wood, the marching - in fact, all things are His to use. He can use anything and anyone to bring glory to the Father. Let us be obedient and pliable in His hands, and leave the miracle to Him!

(Reprint 1968)

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### **I Needed The Quiet**

I needed the quiet so He drew me aside  
Into the shadows where we could confide;  
Away from the bustle where all the day long  
I hurried and worried when active and strong.

29

I needed the quiet though at first I rebelled,  
But gently - so gently my cross He upheld  
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things;  
Though weakened in body my spirit took wings  
To heights never dreamed of when active and gay;  
He loved me so greatly He drew me away.

I needed the quiet - no prison my bed  
But a beautiful valley of blessing instead;  
A place to grow richer in Jesus to hide,  
I needed the quiet so He drew me aside.

Anon

# **Is Christianity Natural? or Supernatural?**

**Dan McNally**

**30** The questions above have been borne in upon my mind so often, and urgently of late, that I thought to treat them briefly in this article by the help of God's Precious Spirit. There seems to be a distorted conception of Christianity among many of God's children. This distortion is very noticeable in much of our present-day, ministry. Entirely too often we hear the minister lustily exhorting his hearers to "stay away from such places," "Don't be seen with such people," "The world has its eye upon you," "You are living epistles," "Wear this." "Walk in the light," "Don't wear that," "Spit that out," "Swallow this," etc. As a result of this NEGATIVE type of preaching, we have a stilted, uncomfortable, unreal type of Christian, who is terrified most of the time for fear he will not "swallow" the proper thing. Forcing himself to act in an unnatural manner, he labors under the false impression that his UNNATURAL-ISM is acceptable service to God. How much better to "walk in the Spirit," and, in so doing, enjoy the ease, comfort, joy, and victory of God's perfect plan. Unnaturalism only succeeds in erecting an insurmountable barrier that prevents the church from reaching the world with her glorious message of salvation.

We are told in the Scriptures that Jesus ate with sinners, went to sinners, was seen with sinners, ministered to sinners and died for sinners (Luke 5:31,32, 7:34 and 15:2 and I Tim. 1 :15), and still we have recorded in the same precious book the fact that He "...was separate from sinners..." Heb. 7:26. Never once was the Savior of men polluted by contact with sinners. "As He is so are we in this world." Occasionally we read that Jesus and His disciples drew apart, but only on rare occasions, and that, that He might impart some hidden truth to them, or that they might rest from their labors for a brief period. Usually, both He and His followers were going up and down the highway and into the places destitute of righteousness. In those places they could be found, ministering in the most humble manner, preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, etc. They went from house to house and from town to town and were not just seeking fellowship with

other Christians, but were walking, talking, searching, working Christians. Their chief purpose in life was to preach the Gospel of Christ, which "is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

Today, however, the great commission, "...Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel,..." has lost its meaning to most of self-styled Christendom; for, instead of "...going into all the world,..." we sit in our churches, enjoying the fellowship of each other and send an invitation to the world to "come to us." When we are thrown into contact with life "in the raw," the way of life really is under the guise of pretenses and sham. We have neither the knowledge, or the grace of God to avail ourselves of the opportunities to do good. On the contrary, we too often wrap ourselves in Christian (?) dignity and brush by, for fear of becoming contaminated by the touch.

This unnatural attitude, which is truly a reproach to the Gospel, is far from the spirit exhibited by our blessed Lord when mingling with the people during His earthly ministry. On the contrary, He "went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil," manifesting the supernatural power of God. Jesus is our example. Let us pattern our lives after Him. He was misunderstood for going to certain places and for being seen with certain people. "The servant is NOT greater than His Lord." Always it was man who criticized, and we are told that "man looketh on the outward appearance; but God looketh on the heart." Take care that your heart is right with God and that your purpose is inspired of God, and then adopt the words of Jesus as your slogan, "I must be about my Father's 'business.'" 31

The first man who ever talked to me about my soul was Warden Sam Hill, who came to me when I lay with twenty-two bullet wounds in my, body in a cell in the INSANE WARD of the MISSOURI PENITENTIARY Hospital. He came in love and tenderness, "moved with compassion." He was never injured in any sense by ministering to me; but MY SOUL WAS SAVED as a direct result of his ministry. Again I declare, CHRISTIANITY IS NOT AN UNNATURAL ATTITUDE, BUT A SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATION.

(Reprint 1937)

## **THE PLACE OF OUR REST**

Martha Wainright

" ... in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength..." Isa. 30:15

Our human nature usually identifies confidence and strength as "power, a demanding attitude and loud, vocal assertiveness." This is the way we "wrestle" with the Lord regarding a desire or request. We may thrash about like a child throwing a tantrum, and we try to persuade the Lord to give us what we want. Perhaps we demand, yell, or tell Him that we are worthy of our request and deserve His special attention. These attitudes should make us blush! We can't fool God.

32 After a lot of fleshly energy, we surrender and allow the Holy Spirit to comfort us with the truth of His sovereignty. Then, and only then, can we enter into the "...secret of His tabernacle..." Psa. 27:5 This is the place of "...quietness and confidence..." It is by the Divine Work of the Word of God and the dear Holy Spirit that we are led into this glorious place.

Elijah was a man of faith. He told Ahab there was a sound of abundance of much-needed rain before there was any evidence. Elijah WALKED by faith, SPOKE by faith, and then he had the TRIAL of faith. This seems to be a 3-step pattern we experience over and over as we grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord answered Elijah's prayer and the rains came.

Even after Elijah's great victory on Mt. Carmel, he had to learn that the Lord was not in the strong wind, nor in the earthquake and fire. The Lord spoke to him in a "...still small voice..." ("a sound of gentle stillness" --Amplified) -- I Kings 19:12. What a paradox! It is only when we come to the end of our own resources that we hear His "...still



small voice..." This is our place of quietness and confidence, wherein is our greatest strength.

Only in quietness before the throne  
Can the full extent of grace be known.  
This power that flows throughout our being  
Will be triumphant regardless of feeling.  
The confidence we have sitting at His feet  
Lifts us high in heavenly retreat;  
We wait on Him, and He on us;  
Blessed Jesus! In Thee we trust.  
(Reprint 1997)

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### **"We Should All Be This "Disabled"**

Several years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants -- all physically or mentally disabled -- assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the sound of the gun, they all started out -- not exactly in a dash, but with the relish to run the race to the finish and win. 33

They all started out except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry.

The other eight, hearing the boy cry, slowed down and then paused. Then they circled around and hurried back -- everyone of them.

One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed the boy and said, "This will make it all better."

Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

(The Executive Speechwriter)

\* In the light of Christ's brilliance, the world's wisdom is but a shadow.

\* There are four steps to accomplishment. Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently.

## “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Thomas Andrew Dorsey was a black jazz musician from Atlanta. In the twenties he gained a certain amount of notoriety as a composer of jazz tunes with suggestive lyrics, but he gave all that up in 1926 to concentrate exclusively on spiritual music. "Peace in the Valley" is one of his best known songs, but there is a story behind his most famous song that deserves to be told.

In 1932, times were hard for Dorsey. Just trying to survive the depression years as a working musician meant rough going. On top of that, his music was not accepted by many church people, who said it was too worldly --- the devil's music, they called it. Many years later Dorsey could laugh about it. He said, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land." But the real "kick in the teeth" came one night in St. Louis when he received a telegram informing him that his pregnant wife had died suddenly.

34 Dorsey was so filled with grief that his faith was shaken to the roots, but instead of wallowing in self-pity, he turned to the discipline he knew best --- music. In the midst of agony he wrote the following lyrics:

“Precious Lord, Take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light;  
Take my hand precious Lord,  
Lead me home.”

If you live long enough, you will experience heartache, disappointment, and sheer helplessness. The Lord is our most Precious resource in these hours of trauma. "The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble." Psa. 9:9 Tom Dorsey understood that. His song was originally written as a way of coping with his personal pain, but even today it continues to bless thousands of others as they pass through times of hardship.

(“From "Pulpit Helps”)

(Reprint 2005)



# Our Corn Crib

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

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| Earnest but Wrong             | Light on the Law                 | The Sin Offering          |
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| Extra! Extra!                 | Made Sin for Us                  | This is That              |
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| Fear of the Lord              | Mercy or Judgement               | Tithing                   |
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| Five Much Mores               | Not Legislation, Revelation      | Wheat and Tares           |
| Five Consequences             | Oneness of Christ                | Why am I Not Healed       |

## Books of the Bible

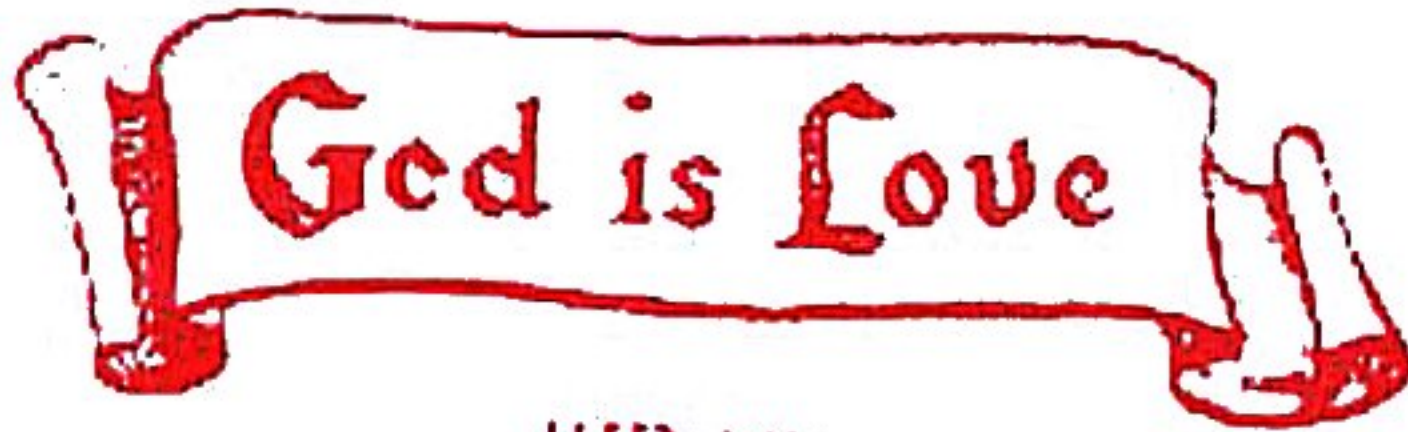
|             |                                     |                  |                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Genesis     | Esther                              | Luke             | 1, 2 Thessalonians    |
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| 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            |
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