

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the  
whole counsel of GOD

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Num. 11



O give  
thanks unto the  
Lord, for He  
is good: for his  
mercy endureth  
forever

Ps 107:1

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### GOING BACK TO BETHEL



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Editor: Gene Hawkins

# Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided;... And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.... **And in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:.. it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay,... the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter:...” Dan. 2:41-45

The feet and toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image present a graphic picture in regard to the very last vestiges of Gentile Rule which is quickly coming to pass in the **end of this age** as is signified by the term, “...**hereafter**...” The two legs and feet symbolize the revival of what is known today as The Great Roman Empire, divided between East and West. The ten toes represent 10 kings or “powers” which will be evident when Jesus comes again, for “...in the days of **these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...” That kingdom refers to none other than the thousand year reign of Christ in God's stead.

These ten “toes” defined here as “...kings...” must not be confused with Daniel's vision wherein, “...ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them;... and he shall subdue three kings.” Dan. 7:24 Both visions portray the same time period, but there is no record that the ten toes were reduced to seven as were the horns. The opening text from Daniel 2 must rather be correlated with John's vision of this same beast in Rev.13:1. “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, (Gentile Nations) having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” The seven heads picture a 7 nation coalition of the end time, while “...the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.” Rev. 17:12 This is one great clue to identifying the ten toes seen by Nebuchadnezzar. They represent formidable political powers

but **“...have received no kingdom as yet...”** These ten toes or kings display a number of characteristics manifest in various terrorist groups around the entire world, who **“...have no kingdom as yet...”** but, we would add, **“desperately desire one.”** Not only so, but John is told that this same **“...ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.”** Rev. 17:16 These ten kings specifically **“...hate the whore,...”** that is, the false Church, indicating that they are **“religionists,”** waging **“Jihad”** or **“holy war”** against those who would dare resist their own their ideology. They are literally motivated by a false religious system, namely that of Islam.

4 The number 10 is also highly significant. God’s dealings with Israel are often in exact numbers, as for example their tenure in the wilderness due to unbelief was exactly 40 years. Jeremiah also prophesied that their captivity to Babylon would be exactly 70 years. Their bondage in Egypt was precisely 430 years. **“And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”** Ex. 12:41 God’s references to the Gentiles are more in general or figurative terms, even as stated above **“...the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter:...”** Though Gentile Times began in 606 BC, the end of that period is not specifically defined. Other terms here in Daniel convey the same message. **“And in the latter time...a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.”** Dan. 8:23 This is a direct reference to the antichrist, who will appear as the very last Gentile World Ruler. Reference to the same period of time is made in terms such as **“...at the time of the end shall be the vision,”** and **“... Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: (tribulation) for at the time appointed the end shall be.”** Dan. 8:17-18 Although specific times relative to the Gentiles are not forthcoming, it must be ever remembered that God has given specific **signs** of which His people must be aware, for they most assuredly proclaim the eminent return of Jesus, **“... the stone...cut out of the mountain without hands,...”**

Because these terrorist groups are Gentile, the number 10 is more likely symbolic, rather than literal, meaning that there would be only 10 such groups. According to various internet

sources, global terrorist organizations number in the hundreds. Thus, it would not be surprising that 10% of the world's population might well be listed as terrorists. Some of the more prominent names on that list would include Al-Qaida, The Taliban, Isis, Isis-K, Hezbollah, and Hamas.

The above sign of the "...ten toes..." looms majestically before us in living color at this present hour, due to the fact that one of them (Hamas) has emerged, launching multiple destructive rockets from Gaza into Israel. But, just who is Hamas? USA Today provides this description: **"Hamas' political wing has controlled the Gaza Strip for over a decade, but the group is most known for its many suicide bombings and other attacks on Israel amid the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict that has lasted decades. It's considered a terrorist group by the United States and other nations.... Hamas – an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, or Islamic resistance movement – was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank by a Palestinian activist connected to the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2006, Hamas won parliamentary elections, and in 2007 the group violently seized control of the Gaza Strip from the Palestinian Authority, which was controlled by the rival Fatah movement that governs the West Bank. There have been no elections since."** 5

It must also be understood that since the "feet bearing those toes" represent East and West, no nation throughout the entire world is immune to the invasion of these "toes." They are, in fact, a plague upon every country in the world. Many Americans lament the "open border" policy of the current administration, for it is a certainty that terrorism has invaded this land. Not only so, but there are a number of Washington politicians who openly defend the so-called Palestinian cause and Islam. Recent pro-Palestinian demonstrations defending Hamas erupted in major American cities, even after their barbaric actions in slaughtering and beheading innocent Israeli children had been confirmed. Some went so far as to blame Israel for the atrocities committed by Hamas. This same type of people also try desperately to justify their action by declaring the tragic fallacy that Islam's "Allah" and The Very God of Creation are exactly the same. Islamists themselves destroy that myth with words out of their own mouths when they call on "Allah" to "wipe Israel from the face of the

earth.”

The One True God, Who has unequivocally declared in Isaiah 45:6 “That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is **none beside me**. I am the LORD, and **there is none else**,” also stated emphatically that, “...the LORD shall make thee (Israel) the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath;...” This verse concludes with this stipulation: “...if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:” Deut. 28:13

6 The sad fact is that Israel **did not** bow in obedience to God and they have suffered the consequence of unbelief down through the ages because of it. However, Scripture is very clear that The LORD will yet fulfill the above promise in their behalf. Paul plainly enquires, “...Hath God cast away his people?...” He then answers his own question with an emphatic, “...God forbid!...” The apostle then offers himself as proof of this statement, declaring that “...I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.” Rom. 11:1 He also speaks of himself as having been “... born out of due time,” meaning that he had accepted Christ, The Messiah before the rest of the nation. I Cor. 15:8 Furthermore, “**God hath not cast away his people** which he foreknew....” Rom. 11:2 The chief apostle to the Church represents the entire nation of Israel and just as Saul of Tarsus, the unbelieving Jew, was knocked to the ground on the dusty road to Damascus, so also will this nation as a whole find themselves in the dust of tribulation. They will likewise repent of their unbelief and accept Jesus as their Messiah, after which they, like Paul, will become ministers of the gospel to the Gentile, indeed the head of leadership in the ways of The LORD, not the tail of every nation on earth.

Thus, the pleas of many Palestinians to “Allah” for the destruction of Israel are totally contradictory to the intent and promise of **The One and Only God** Who is in fact The God Of Israel. “Allah” must take his place as being simply one of the long list of idolatrous gods men have taken to themselves since time began.

While there seems to be an abundance of those lauding Hamas and criticizing Israel, it is gratifying to hear some political leaders openly declaring their support for Israel. However, when

asked WHY they support this people, the answer is often “Well, they are our strongest ally in the Middle East.” The better answer, which has in no wise been heard, should be “Because they are God’s Chosen People!”

It is a scriptural fact that the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image emerge just prior to Jesus’ second coming, for “...in the days of **these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...” Thus, it is highly probable that the current attack of Hamas against Israel is graphic proof that these ten toes have now **begun** to emerge right before the eyes of the entire world as they wage “Jihad” against God’s Chosen People.

Some defenders of this ungodly group prefer that these rebellious fighters be respected as “militants,” defending a so-called “legitimate cause,” but others insist on the term “terrorists,” which indeed they are, as is clearly evident by their attacks against innocent women and children. Reports are that these vicious terrorists have literally ripped babies from the wombs of pregnant mothers, burned people alive, and dismembered others, even parading naked bodies through the streets. An article from **The New York Post** states that, **“Hamas terrorists slaughtered at least 40 babies and young children — decapitating some of them...“They killed babies in front of their parents, and then killed the parents.... They cut heads of the people...Babies with their heads cut off, that’s what [the soldiers] said....Families gunned down, completely gunned down in their beds,...”**

Jesus likened His second coming to the “...days of Noah...” Matt. 24:37 One major characteristic of those days is found in Genesis 6:11 “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” It is rather intriguing that the word “...violence...” is “chamac, or khaw-mawce” in Hebrew, and by some accounts is pronounced “Hamas.” Though this is not an **exclusive** reference to Hamas, it most assuredly does suggest that at this present hour, they are leading the charge in committing the atrocious ACTS of violence.

The fact that these kings “...have received no kingdom as yet...” further identifies them. None of them are the antichrist, for it is plainly stipulated that they only “...receive power as kings **one hour** with the beast,” as stated above. However, since they presently have no kingdom of their own, they clearly have no

tax support or any other source of revenue and financial supply. Thus, they must depend on some other “higher power” which in this case is Iran, the nation recognized worldwide, as the leader of state - sponsored terrorism. Current estimates are that Hamas and Hezbollah receive 93% of their funding from Iran. Hamas has also gone on record verbally thanking Iran numerous times for their support even though the present American administration has been adamant that “there is no evidence of Iranian involvement in Hamas’ attack against Israel.” Many others have produced mounting evidence to disprove that claim.

The attacks against Israel and the idiocy of blaming them for the aforementioned atrocities are heart rending, but all this must be put into the context of announcing that Jesus’ coming is eminent. The opening account of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image specifically declares that, “...in the **days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom,... Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands,... the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.” Dan. 2:44-45

8

God’s Word is very clear that the setting up of Jesus’ Millennial Kingdom is a process which will comprise a number of years. He must first officially become King of kings in heaven as outlined in Rev. 4:1-3, **before He begins** to set up that kingdom in the earth. Once He is crowned, all earthly powers will be ruling in usurpation as enemies. Since Jesus promised the Church at Philadelphia in Rev. 3:10 that, “... I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world,...” the Bride of Christ **must of necessity** be translated out of this world **BEFORE** the tribulation begins, to witness His coronation. Thus, “...the Lord himself shall descend **from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord **in the air**: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” I Thess. 4:16-17

After this select company is by His side, Jesus will begin to pour out His judgment on the nations, taking by force that which belongs to Him. Such a period will take about 7 years and is commonly known as the “Great Tribulation.” When every



national enemy has been subdued, then will This Man, ruling as God, bring forth a kingdom of total peace and tranquility lasting 1000 years.

It is also noteworthy that David encouraged people to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem..." Psa. 122:6 Men must **understand** that before peace ever comes to Jerusalem, Israel as a nation absolutely must be brought to her knees in order to accept Christ as "The Messiah." The throes of tribulation will accomplish that end, but rest assured that during this horrendous time, God will protect them. He will defend them. He will sustain them and He will most assuredly preserve them.

Many are praying earnestly at this hour that Israel will literally "wipe Hamas from the face of the earth." God could very well answer that plea, but there are many other terrorist groups who will take their place, and it will only be when they, as a nation, bow their knee before Jesus, even as Saul of Tarsus did, that He will deliver them speedily. That is the time when they will truly become the head and not the tail of the nations, thus bringing peace not only to Israel but to the rest of the world.

If indeed the above interpretation defining these "...ten 9  
toes..." is correct, it means that the time for Jesus to set up His kingdom on earth is extremely eminent. His first order of business will be to catch away His Bride, seen in the throne room as "... the four beasts..." and "...twenty four elders,..." (Rev. 4:6&10) who will reign with Him as "...kings and priests..." Rev. 5:10 It is so very difficult to witness the graphic atrocities committed at this time against God's Chosen People, but those who have their eyes trained on the heavens, and looking intently for Jesus' return, must not spend their time bowing down in sorrow and despair. Rather they must hear Jesus' majestic words of promise ringing daily in their ears,

*"Behold, I come quickly: hold  
that fast which thou hast, that  
no man take thy crown."  
Rev. 3:11*

## **The Power Of Faith**

Mary M. Bodie

"... Ye have heard of the patience of Job and have seen the end of the Lord, that He is very pitiful and of tender mercy." Jas. 5:11

"Elias (Elijah) was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and it rained not... And he prayed again and the heaven gave rain and the earth brought forth fruit." Jas. 5:17,18

James is proclaiming the power of faith in this chapter of his little letter. In fact, James is emphasizing different phases of FAITH all through his epistle. He teaches that faith is the victory in every part of the Christian life.

In the first chapter, FAITH is upheld as the sole sustaining asset in the trial which besets every believer. The second chapter suggests it as the only way of good works. Chapter three declares it as the way of victory. Chapter four tells us that it is the way of dependence upon God. Chapter five affirms it as the way of power — power to endure, power to do. Faith is the prominent theme of the letter.

To prove his case, James, at the close of his discourse, brings on the scene two of the striking examples of faith from the Old Testament. One on the line of endurance, the other of doing. They witness to the truth of his statements as to the pre-eminence of faith. These men teach that faith was always the way of spiritual power, even agreeing with James that there is no other means of pleasing God than by faith. Men never had salvation or prestige or honor with Him otherwise than by believing Him.

Job, the oldest writer of the Bible, is the first witness that James calls on the scene to back up his argument as to the power of faith. He lived previous to Moses and Sinai. All authorities agree, that his book is the oldest among the 66 of the Bible, because there is not one reference to Abraham and his family, the Law, or the Law-giver, Moses. This would be impossible in a book of such a vast discussion of facts upon the problems of life, if these characters were known at the time.

According to James, Job occupies a unique place on the program of the ages; and testifies among God's worthies to the power of FAITH, and in a peculiar sense — it's POWER TO ENDURE. He stands forth as the illustration of its might in

this way, making men patient in all matters whether these be in circumstances, afflictions, bereavements, or the uttermost of physical pain. The power of faith to endure is stupendous, as manifested in a yielded life, as Job testifies.

The Patriarch did not at first understand the wherefore of the trial, nor the reason for the multitude of sorrows which came upon him. He did not know that through these tribulations he was to be the synonym of patience to all men throughout the ages; for that he was the type, the witness, the striking figure of faith's power to stand the greatest sufferings, the most intense pain, with never a murmur against God; though he bewailed his fate and his misfortune in possessing three such friends as Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.

Job received all this trial from the Hand of God, not from Satan. His wife could not understand the reason for them. She blamed God in allowing them to so suffer, for she was also in anguish at the loss of children and fortune of every kind. She urged Job to "...curse God and die." Job 2:9 His friends blamed him, declaring that he was chastened of the Lord for some wicked way in him. Hardness, cruelty, censure and criticism for Job are found in their words. They had no sympathy or comfort for the patient, suffering man. They did not understand, even as the majority of folk today, why the godly suffer. In fact, this is the problem of the book. Job gives the answer himself. He declares that all his sufferings were allowed of God, that he might be tried. He was to be purified thereby, as he tells us, "...when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10 Notice that he acknowledges the Lord in everything.

Job was a marvelous man of faith and practical righteousness. He was an example to all men of his day. If he had not been of this caliber — able to stand such terrific trials and justify God in all of His ways with him he would not have been thus tested. The hedge which was around him would not have been removed. The Lord would not have let Satan get at Job, if He was not sure that his man of faith would not fail. Job 1:12 God knows His men. Some are able to stand in any place and under all circumstances. The new man in them is so developed that they can hold fast in the darkest night, believing God in the most pronounced trial, while others fail in a little test. The new man in them is so immature that they need to be coddled

continually to keep them going on in any measure. Their faith is so little that it will not stand any strain put upon it. Therefore, they are seldom tested and they generally, like Job's comforters, judge those who are so tried.

We say "It is a privilege, an honor, to be allowed to suffer to the uttermost in the will of God." It is a sign that God can trust us, and that we will be faithful in any place. Trials, thus allowed, purify us. They deliver us from the dross which is a part of all of us, until it is burned off in the furnace of affliction. The trial of our faith works good for us. We are kept down at the feet of the Lord, humbled and little, made to cry mightily, exercised in the very depths of our being, as the waters of woe overwhelm our soul. We are thus broken and contrite in the Hands of the Lord, not murmuring nor complaining at His ways with us. We prove the Word of God and He proves our faith at the same time.

Job, as James declares, witnesses to this fact. He endured because he had FAITH. It held him steady amid the taunts of friends and foes. "He endured as seeing Him who is invisible." Heb. 11:27

12 Elijah is the second man to be called from the Old Testament record to prove the power of faith. The mighty Prophet steps up and takes the chair and testifies by his works to its might. He shows the force of faith in the way of doing, not enduring, though he did not come short on this line either. But his strong point was performing. And James emphasizes the fact that he was a man like all other men, weak and fallible. His strength was not in himself but in his faith in God. He believed Him, and thus his name has become the synonym of power to do.

James declares that he prayed earnestly. Ah, this tells the story of his might. He was dependent upon God. He went down before the Creator in weakness and need. Israel, his people, were departing from God. Ahab and Jezebel, worshippers of Baal, were on the throne, a wicked pair, and the people were following in their steps. The Prophet's heart was broken. He was despairing. They refused to listen to the words of Jehovah, the true and living God. He knew something startling and destructive must happen to awaken them. He called on the Lord to send judgment upon His people. He prayed that it might not rain for three years. He even set the time limit, knowing that a drought of such length would ensure a famine which would bring them to their senses.

God heard Elijah's prayer. It was in the will of God and for His glory. The Prophet had the mind of the Spirit in thus petitioning the Lord. His prayer was not born of his own desire. He was not seeking his own things, nor hoping to pay back in their own coin, the harshness of the people. Oh no! He loved them and was seeking their ultimate blessing; but he knew that judgment must come first. Therefore, he prayed, and the prayer of faith was heard. It had power, and brought forth the result that he desired. The windows of heaven were shut up. The rain was stayed and Israel, beginning with the king and down to the lowliest in the kingdom, were desperate. They were brought down to the dust before the Lord; and this is the point. Elijah's FAITH WAS THE POWER that brought this about.

But that was not the end of Elijah's faith to do. He did not leave Israel to suffer and die in their dilemma. When the trial had brought forth the desired result, "...he prayed again..." Jas. 5:18 Thank God for the second prayer. It is "...again..." indeed for Israel. God came upon the scene to execute the will of Elijah, which was also His Will, and the waters fell in torrents upon the dry ground. Mercy followed judgment, and the people rejoiced. The power of faith was evidenced a second time in mighty demonstration, far beyond the finite mind to understand. Faith is a force impossible to fathom. Its power no man can penetrate or estimate — POWER TO EXECUTE, POWER TO ENDURE.

13

(Reprint 1934)

### **COULD THIS BE THE DAY?**

Could this be the day of His coming  
For which we have waited so long,  
The day for which we are living,  
The hope that gives us a song?

He's coming in power and glory.  
Look up! For He will not delay.  
His bride will be caught up to meet Him--  
Oh, tell me! Could this be the day?

Beulah Clark

## ***Eternal Life***

Dr. Vicky Moots

There are many Scriptures in the New Testament concerning the phrase “eternal life” or “everlasting life.” One of the most well known is John 3:16. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

In the Greek, the words which have been translated “eternal” and everlasting,” relating to life, are the same word. That word is “aionios.” What does this word really mean, and what is its significance to us spiritually? According to the Greek lexicon compiled by Zodhiates, “eternal life” means “the life which is God’s and hence not affected by the limitations of time; not belonging to what is transitory; not only during the time of one’s natural life, but through endless ages.”

14 Eternal life, therefore, is Divine Life and is not affected by our physical life or by our physical or spiritual limitations or actions. It is the life of God which has been given to us through His Son, Jesus, as John 5:26 declares: “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.” The life of the Father and the Son are both eternal.

John describes eternal life for us further in I John 1:1-2: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us).”

John here declares that “eternal life” was manifested in the Person of Jesus Christ, Himself, and that they were eye witnesses of that life. He further clarifies this thought in I John 5:11: “And this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” Verse 12 makes it clear that there is no other way to have eternal life: “He that hath the Son hath life [eternal]; and he that hath not the Son hath not life.”

Then, V.13 sums up the matter in order to remove all doubt: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the

name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life..." This is intended to give present tense, not simply future assurance for all Christians that the gift of eternal life is ours the moment we believe. It is not something that we must strive to achieve. All we have to do is to believe and receive. And because it is eternal, it will never end.

John also stated previously, in Chapter 2:25, that the gift was promised to us by Jesus: "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." This promise refers back to the words of Jesus in John 10:27-29: "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." In these verses, Jesus promises His sheep (all believers) the gift of eternal life and states emphatically, "They shall never perish." He then declares that the reason for this security is not based on the merits of the sheep, but on His power as a Shepherd to protect them. As His sheep, we are not only kept safe in His strong hand, **15** but also in the hand of His Almighty, Omnipotent Father.

Paul reiterates this fact in Col. 3:3 when he states, "...and your life is hid with Christ in God."

There are some who may argue, "I know that Jesus said that I am safe in His Hand, and no man can pluck me out of His Hand, but what if I decide to **jump** out"? How foolish!

Can you loosen the grip of the Almighty's Hand on you? Are you stronger than God? If you are His child, one of His sheep, He will never let you go. That is His promise, and He never breaks a promise.

It should also be noted that eternal life is a free gift from God. To be more specific, it is a love-gift, as we previously learned from John 3:16. That love-gift was in the Person of His Son, Who was, and is, freely given to all who will receive Him as Savior.

God's free gift is also spoken of by the apostle Paul in Rom. 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The Greek word

which is translated “gift” is “charisma.” According to Zodhiates this word means “the result of grace; an undeserved benefit from God.” God’s gift of eternal life is therefore something that cannot be earned and something which we did nothing to deserve.

In Matt. 19:16, we read of a rich, young ruler who came to Jesus and asked Him, “...Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” Jesus answered him in V.17 by giving him an impossible task: “...keep the commandments.” The young man quickly replied that he had already done that, even as a child.

Jesus then told him to sell all of his goods and give to the poor and to follow Him. We read in V.22 that he refused to do that and “...went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” Through the commandment to sell all of his earthly goods, Jesus revealed what was hidden in the young man’s heart: money had become his god. He had already broken the first commandment, and therefore all of the Law: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3).

**16** Jesus was trying to show him that neither he, nor anyone else, is good enough to be able to keep the Law. The Law shows up sin and brings condemnation instead of life. There is nothing good that we need to do, or can do, to earn eternal life. The “good thing” (to die for our sins) has already been done. It was accomplished on the cross by Jesus. Eternal life is not associated with our works because it is a gift.

Can this gift ever be lost? Is it possible to shorten something that has been declared by God to be eternal? Eternal life is not “probational life.” In other words, it is not conditional. It begins the moment we are born again and never ends. How is this possible? The gift of eternal life which has been given to us by God is actually Jesus Himself, and He is eternal. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us, for He said in Matt. 28:20, “...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

In John 4:10, Jesus referred to Himself as the gift of God when He was speaking to the woman at the well in Samaria: “...If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give



me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." Then in V.14 He tells her, "...whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Drinking of the living water brings life eternal, for it is the life of Christ Himself. We drink the life of Jesus into us when we accept Him as Savior, and He dwells within our hearts eternally. Jesus clarified the source of the living water in John 7:37 when He cried out to all those who were thirsty and said, "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink."

Jesus is our source of life, so our new creation life is as eternal as He is. At the moment we are born again, we are freed from death and condemnation, for Jesus bore the condemnation for our sins on the cross. The promise of life eternal was given to us by Jesus in John 5:24: "Verily, verily [truly, truly] I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

17

Peter also declared in I Peter 1:23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." The word "incorruptible" means "immortal." It is therefore eternal. If we are born again by eternal seed, then our new life in Christ is eternal just as He is. Praise God for eternal life in Christ!

### **Exalt Him Everyone!**

**He's the God of Isaac and Jacob;**

**He's the God of Abraham.**

**He's the God of all creation;**

**He is the great "I AM."**

**Sing praise to God. sing praises;**

**Sing praises to our King.**

**Sing praise to God. sing praises.**

**O lift your voice and sing.**

**Dr. Vicky Moots**

# REFLECTIONS

... From the Editor

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me,...”

Psa. 103:1

David cried out “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!...” in Psalm 8, trying to induce all men to join him in rendering abject praise unto the LORD. However, his attention is turned inward in this opening text as he specifically addresses “...my soul...” with emphasis on that which is “...within me...”

The word “...bless...” implies “an act of adoration, praise, thanksgiving,” and the Psalmist’s declaration here puts forth the idea that sometimes this adoration must be kept both personal and private rather than being shared with others. David utters this statement or its equivalent four distinct times in this Psalm and the next. He first refers to “...all that is within me...”

**18** One glorious example of such a private experience is recorded in II Sam. 7 when God bequeathed the Davidic Covenant to this chosen vessel. This select man had expressed a desire to build a temple for the LORD but was told emphatically not to do so for, “...the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.” II Sam. 7:11 David’s response is found in his actions. “Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?” II Sam. 7:18 The remainder of this chapter is a record of David sitting alone expressing his own personal and private adoration directly unto The LORD.

Paul is another who could cry out, “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me,...” The account in II Cor. 12 is clear that he had a glorious experience of “...visions and revelations of the Lord...” when he was quite alone, but he did not even mention it to anyone else until fourteen years later. He then refused to even enlarge on it, for it was an experience just between himself and God.

David’s next exhortation to himself is, “Bless the LORD, ... and forget not all his benefits:” Psa. 103:2 A number of those benefits are then listed, beginning with “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; ... Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;...” Psa. 103:3-4 It must be

understood here that when David finally confessed his sin, regarding Bathsheba and Uriah, he was not alone, for Nathan was there having been sent by God to confront him with his transgressions. However, God's forgiveness became very personal to him, for the record in II Sam. 11-12 reveals that he was on trial before God for his very life. Thus, Psa. 51:4 asserts "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,..." None but God mattered at this juncture.

Psalm 103 ends with the third "Bless the LORD,.... O my soul," regaling the LORD for, ".... all his works in all places of his dominion:..." Psa. 103:22 These "...works..." would surely include all the marvelous provisions that God had rendered to him in the Davidic Covenant along with the great array of experiences he had had in his flight from Saul and other enemies from whom God had delivered him. God had revealed "...his dominion..." more than once, proving to David "...that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else." Isa. 45:6

Finally, David exhorts his soul to give thanks or, "Bless the LORD, O my soul....thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty." Psa. 104:1 The next 9 verses then reflect his own detailed personal knowledge of that greatness "...honour and majesty."

19

His reference to "...the waters..." in verse 6 which "...stood above the mountains..." are especially intriguing, for these waters are under God's direct control. The word "...they... or... them..." all refer to these same waters in Vs. 7-12. "At thy rebuke they (the waters) fled; at the voice of thy thunder they (waters) hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation,..."

The aforementioned "...waters..." can bring both blessing and adversity, but David seems to have kept such knowledge to himself, assuring his soul that they are all under God's direct control.

Public praise is marvelous, but private thanksgiving demonstrated by "Bless the LORD O my soul:..." is most assuredly priceless.

## ETERNAL GLORY!

Ray Quintana

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” II Cor. 4:17-18

In our future, we will see the body of sin and death destroyed, the soul made perfect, and fit to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. Paul says look at the unseen things. So, can we see ourselves as more than conquerors, crowned by the Hand of Christ, embraced in the Arms of Jesus, glorified with Him, and made to sit together with Him on His throne as the bride of the Lamb?

20 Peter plainly asserted, “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ, after ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” I Pet. 5:10 How can we understand eternal glory? It should be our sure vision. Paul saw a little of it for a short time, and confessed he heard things that were not lawful for a man to utter; Paul was a great master of language, yet for once he was overpowered; this silenced him. As for us, how can we describe this eternal glory, where even Paul breaks down? This eternal glory is the inheritance of the saints. Paul tells us that “eye hath not seen, neither hath ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” Our natural eyes have seen wonderful things. We have seen sunrises and sunsets, alpine glories, and ocean marvels. Yet nature cannot describe the supernatural glory which God has prepared for us. Our ears have heard sweet harmonies of music which thrill us! But there is no melody that can ever describe the glory which God has laid up for them that love Him. Then scripture says, “but he hath revealed it unto us by His Spirit.”

What is the destiny of the saints? Eternal glory! How should we conduct ourselves when our destiny is eternal glory? How should we live who are to live forever in the glory of the Most High? Our destiny is with Jesus Christ unto His eternal glory. What an astounding word, Glory! Think of glory for us who have deserved eternal shame!

David said in Psa. 73:24 “Thou shalt guide me with thy

counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.” He expected to be received into glory. Here we have the key to a counselor, the Holy Spirit by the Word of God. We must study the Word of God which will lead us into eternal glory. Then Psa. 84:11 declares: “The Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly?” Not only no good thing under the name of grace will God withhold from the upright, but no good thing under the head of glory. Our Lord Jesus has graciously promised, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.”

The Apostle Paul had human feelings. He was very sensitive. He had a very tender spirit, being sensitive to poverty, shame, and all those griefs which he bore for Christ’s sake. Yet how bravely he stuck to the work of the Gospel as he faced every danger. What supported such a noble man under his trials, and oppositions? He had desires which the whole world could not fulfill. How was it that when cast down, he was not destroyed, and when troubled, he was not distressed? What sustained him? He gives us the key. He counted his afflictions light because in his estimation, they were but for a moment. They were working out for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. He had the vision of eternal glory. We have been called to His eternal glory. The people of God having been predestinated, have been called with an effectual calling. But have we been called, so that we have obeyed the call, and have run after Him Who has drawn us? Now, our text says that He has “...called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus...” We are called to repentance, we are called to faith, we are called to holiness, we are called to perseverance, and all this that we may attain unto glory. I Thess. 2:12 “That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” This is why the Apostle Paul ministered the way that he did and why he poured everything that he had and everything he was. Paul wants our walk to reflect the message that they take in. This is really two-fold. Glory is something that actually surpasses the kingdom. God has called unto His kingdom and if a person is saved, he is of course a part of that kingdom. But “...and Glory...” reflects much more than that. This is more than just the casual kingdom. The Thessalonian saints had been called unto His kingdom, but also in addition to that, unto His glory. This is more than just being in heaven.

Believers, we are called to glory! Did you know that salvation itself is linked with glory? Paul, says in II Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the **salvation** which is in Christ Jesus with **eternal glory.**” These two things are together.

Then Paul says in Romans 9:23: “And that he might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.” This is the process which started at redemption and is going on in us every day in the work of sanctification. The Apostle Paul tells us to look at the things which are not seen. It is the internal work of the Lord, which is in a sense invisible. Sometimes there are things that are unseen in our lives because they exist in a blind spot, or we are not looking or paying attention.

22 Scientists have revealed some images from the James Webb telescope. They looked so far into outer space, they saw lights in existence when the earth and sun were formed. This telescope took 30 years and \$10 billion to build. We could have saved them a whole lot of money with Psa. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God;...” One of those scientists said, “the galaxies they are looking at now have always been in existence. They were not able to see them before without this telescope.” The Word of God is the most powerful telescope I know, and it gives us understanding, despite the things we see or do not see in the natural. The Hand of God is working on our behalf and His plan is to grow us up in Him. He will bless us and keep us in all things, to bring us into eternal glory with Himself. Our lives are filled with things we cannot see. Many things that exist with most people today put fear in their lives. They wonder, “Oh if this happens to me or my loved ones, what am I to do?” The Apostle Paul, as our example, glorified God by preaching the Gospel. It did not matter to him if people would say, “Paul, you will risk your life by preaching that Gospel. Paul if you tell such and such a truth in a certain place, you will be sure to lose their respect.” I know this happened to many of us when we gave out the truth. But let us be willing to lose anything, rather than miss pleasing God.

Paul said we are to be brought to glory. “For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Heb. 2:10 Our road is rough and plagued with many enemies; but there is a “...captain

of our salvation,..." Who is leading us through all the treacherous ways, and He will bring the "...many sons,..." where? Unto glory! Glory shall surely follow upon grace; for Christ our Lord, who has come into His glory, will bring the "...many sons..." to be with Him.

Paul also wrote "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:" Col. 1:16 Certain things we see with our natural eyes, but there are things we cannot see because God created them invisible. They are real, we just cannot see them. It took a team of 20,000 scientists, engineers and others, 30 years and \$10 billion to build the James Webb telescope to confirm Rom. 1:20. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" They looked through this telescope and saw galaxies shining, from when this world began. One of the scientists said he was speechless. He got just one glimpse of the awesome creation of God on display. What wonderful things God is doing internally in our very lives getting us ready for His soon coming. That's glorious! Most people today are basing their decisions on what they naturally see. But the eyes of faith through the lens of God's word should be our basis for everything. What is glory, if we can't see it? In the natural, it is understood to be fame, a great reputation, men's applause, in high places. Solomon's glory was a rare wisdom excelling all others: it was the glory of immense riches. The Lord said, in reference to "...the lilies..." that "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Lk. 12:27 Men today think glory is a position, or power, or conquest. It is things that make the ears tingle when they hear of them. All this is but a dim shadow of what God means by glory. The believing overcomer shall be wise; we shall shine as the stars for ever and ever. There shall be a glory about us, and we shall be known as a peculiar people, a royal priesthood. We will have the eternal glory of a purified character.

Isaiah seems to outline our purpose with these words. "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." Isa 43:7, Why were we created? It was for His glory! The brightest glory that really can come to anyone is the glory of character.

How is this character developed? God produces His character in the lives of believers by faith in Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit, by the Word of God. We need a constant diet God's Word. His glory among men is His goodness, His mercy, His justice, His truth and much more. God's Holy Spirit, when He has finished His work, will leave no trace of sin, no temptation shall touch us. There will be no relics of our past and fallen state. One day the devil himself will not be able to detect a fault in us. God is working on our behalf through the Holy Spirit by His Word. God's work in us will be finished by the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot always see it, but we feel it. He is preparing us for eternal glory!

24 In Roman days, men called it glory when valiant warriors returned from fields of blood with captives and spoil. The heroes would ride through the streets of Rome, enjoying their triumph. For a while they had all glory, and the city was glorious because of them. Glory among men means admiration and approval. It's man's glory when honored by the king or queen. To me, the most invaluable ingredient in true glory is Divine approval and having His character. It will come to pass when God says to me, "well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." That is the eternal glory I desire! Praise the Lord! One approving glance from the eyes of Jesus, one accepting word from the mouth of my Father will be glory enough for any one of us. This is ours as we follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. How? Through the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. But this is not all. We will have the glory of reflecting the glory of God. We will see the greatness of God's goodness, and mercy, and love by looking at the glorified saints. But much more, what will it be when we look into Jesus' Face? We shall be mirrors reflecting God; and in us shall His glory be revealed. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God. What glory this will be! We shall be connected with Jesus in everything. It is all because of the cross that Christ endured. And what is more, we live in Christ, we died in Him, we were buried in Him and rose in Him, and we shall ascend into heaven with Him forever eternally glorified. It will be said of us, "these are those whose nature the Son of God assumed!" The highest of all our glory, God Himself, will enjoy. He is our exceeding joy. This glory is for His chosen and it will



never come to an end. It is forever! Today our vision is being sharpened more and more as we study His Word. This glory is becoming more real than ever before. As the plant gets just a little water and the sun shines upon it, it grows, as do we.

Do not we see through the eyes of faith and faith comes only one way, through the Word of God. Some Christians are filled with worries because they are **not** looking through the right lens, the Word of God. Paul said the unseen is eternal, the seen is temporal. There are two ways to gain perspective. One, the natural way; letting our natural senses determine our outlook. Secondly, the supernatural way as seen in II Cor. 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight." So, what does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight? It is that we take God's Word and use it like a lens. Scientists think they have a lens strong enough to see back to the beginning of time. We know that the Word of God is a lens that gives us a clear perspective of everything that is going on. With the "supernatural lens" of God's Word, what we see with our natural eyes confirms and builds our faith. If we just see with our natural eyes, fears will fill us with the wrong view. When we look through the eyes of faith by the lens of God's Word, it confirms that God is in control. These scientists are looking back **25** at the beginning when the big bang occurred. We look through the lens of God's Word and know where the big bang occurred. "And God said, Let there be light:..." and Bang! "...there was light!" The Bible tells us all we need to know about the life we are living. If it is in the Book, we are to believe it, and then **behave** like we believe it.

Some people say they believe the Bible, but they do not behave like they believe it. As for the eternal things of heaven, they seem dim and unsubstantial to some. Now, it must not be so with us. The things eternal I must pursue, for we are called to His eternal glory in Christ. The scope of my soul's desire and life must be this Gospel, and eternity to follow! Again, our purpose is to glorify God. Before the earth was formed, God created angels. The purpose of the angels was to give God glory. The Bible tells us that one third of those angels refused to comply. They were deceived by another angel Lucifer who wanted the glory for himself and God cast them out of heaven. So, if people do not give God glory with their lives, I ask you, are they any better than the fallen angels? When we give God glory, we are reminding every fallen angel that they messed up!

Paul tells us in I Cor. 10:31 that "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." The subject here is food and drink. Why? Because that is the basic function of every human being. This is not really about diet, but is rather a reference to everything we do. It says whatever you do in this life, put God first! Give Him glory! Make Him the priority. This world is filled with deception. Just because certain things are legal in the world today does not mean the Lord approves them. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits." Prov. 16:2 Any fool can deceive himself by saying "Well it's legal." A wise man does not invent a method to drag his soul into delusion. It is only a little matter of neglect. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Neglect means "to be careless; make light of, be negligent, no regard." Don't neglect the word of God which will fix every problem we may have. Those eyes of fire shall shed a light into the darkest corners of our soul. If it be built on the sand; and, if it be "wood hay, stubble," God will make it real this day, that we may build upon the Rock, and we must use nothing but "...gold, silver, and precious stones,..." that our building may abide the fiery trials. In

**26** Paul's writings, we are to look for the things eternal. Long for the appearing of our Lord. Long for our translation to be with the Lord forever. Expect it! Watch for it! It is on the way! We may be much nearer than we think. Study the Word of God for, "...the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Pet. 5:10 He will settle us in the things of God. Just allow Him to do so.

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### ***THE UNIQUE CHRIST***

**Only one Child had a virgin birth!  
Only one Man knew no sin on earth!  
No other e'er healed the sick like He!  
None other could die so ransom me!  
None but God's Son could conquer life's foe!  
No one but Jesus could love me so!**

**Jean Wilson**

## GIVING THANKS ALWAYS

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph.5:20

This well known verse is the prelude to the daily duties of the child of God which are enumerated from Verse 21 onwards: a holy walk between husband and wife, between children and their parents, and between servants and masters. In this way it becomes clear that thankfulness is the foundation of a holy life. Just as soldiers march in time to music, so ought our hearts to walk in holiness to the music of thankfulness.

Even if we cannot always thank the Lord in words, we can nevertheless always have thankful hearts. However, it is good to express our thankfulness in words -- yet words alone are questionable thanks if they are not accompanied by deeds of thankfulness. The best expression of thankfulness is obedience towards the Lord. The angels do not only praise the Lord but also obey Him and are always ready to move at His command. It says of them in Hebrews 1:7, "Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire."

27

Therefore, when we fulfill a difficult duty or suffer and pray with suffering brethren it is a good expression of thankfulness to our God.

-- U. Senn M.D.

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\* The devil is easy to identify. He appears when you're terribly tired and makes a very reasonable request which you know you shouldn't grant.

\* Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God.

\* Hem your blessings with gratitude lest they unravel.

\* In the dictionary of true discipleship, you'll never find the word "retreat."

\* God's chastening is never cruel --- **it is corrective.**

# THE FIRST THANKSGIVING IN AMERICA

Thanksgiving Day is a legal holiday in the U. S., first celebrated in early colonial times in New England. The actual origin, however, is probably the harvest festivals that are traditional in many parts of the world. After the first harvest was completed by the Plymouth colonists in 1621, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer shared by all the colonists and neighboring Native Americans. In 1623, a day of fasting and prayer during a period of drought was changed to one of thanksgiving because the rain came during the prayers. Gradually the custom prevailed in New England of annually celebrating thanksgiving after the harvest. During the American Revolution, a yearly day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress.

28

In 1817, New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom and by the middle of the 19th century, many other states had done the same. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln appointed a day of thanksgiving, and since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, generally designating the fourth Thursday of November as a holiday. Thanksgiving is a statutory holiday in Canada, celebrated since 1957 on the second Monday in October. Observance of the day began in 1879.

(Reprint 1997)

*“It is a good thing to give thanks  
unto the LORD, and to  
sing praises unto thy name,  
O most High:”  
Psa. 92:1*

## **Salt**

This common household article has a multiple uses. It has been even employed as the coin of the realm in some countries, and in the South Sea Islands a tablespoon of salt for a peck of potatoes is the usual rate of exchange. It is a very valuable asset to these people.

And when we consider that only a very small percentage of the population of the earth are Christian, we see the significance of Jesus' words "Ye are the salt of the earth," but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith then shall it be salted?" God places a high value on a Salt Christian, that is on a man or woman whom God's grace has accomplished a life and character that is pronounced, whose presence is felt wherever he is found.

A Salt Christian's influence is great. He is corrective, purifying and preserving from contamination and defilement. He has a keen relish for the Word of God and causes others to enjoy the Scriptures. Ask yourself whether you are a Salt Christian!

Anon

29

## **GENTLENESS**

"Some of us are wanting in gentleness. We resist evil instead of turning the other cheek; we do not receive reproach with gentleness, no, nor even reproof. Nay, we are not able to bear contradiction with out the appearance, at least, of resentment. If we are reprov'd, though mildly, we do not take it well; we behave with more distance and reserve than we did before. If we are reprov'd or contradicted harshly we answer with harshness, with a loud voice, or with a sharp, surly manner. We speak sharply or roughly to our superiors. In short we have not what we call perfection. However let us hold fast what we have, and earnestly pray for what we have not."

—John Wesley

## A GREAT SECRET

E.L. Sexton

"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward." Eph. 3:1-2

When Paul wrote these words, he was shut up in a prison cell in Rome. God had to send this dear man to prison so that he might put into writing the Gospel which he preached everywhere. As we read his letters, we are impressed with the fact that they are the most powerful of all.

30 God knows the way that we take, and at every step, He holds His hand upon us. Though we may not yet realize it, He is making us go the suffering way so that His perfect will may be wrought out in our lives. In some sense, we, too, are prisoners of Jesus Christ. We are all shut up to Him. We have heard God call saying, "Come unto Me." We have gone unto Him; and He wants us to keep shut up to Him and yield ourselves whole-heartedly unto His will. You know that sometimes we long to be turned loose and run with this message of grace; but Pauline people are shut up to God. We can move only as He moves us. Sometimes we get into an ill humor because things are taking place that we think ought not, but God is having His way nevertheless. He is supreme. Who can do or say anything against Him? He is working deep down into the hidden parts of our being, rounding out this glorious new creation. "Behold, He taketh away, who can hinder Him? Who will say unto Him, What doest Thou?" - Job 9:12.

Now you have heard before that this word "dispensation" means "a setting in order, a housekeeping, an administration." "The dispensation of the grace of God" embraces this entire day or age, from the time when the word of grace first went forth to the Gentiles until the fullness of the Gentiles shall come in. Then we will pass out from man's day into "the Lord's day," and we will reign with Him through eternity. Paul was made the administrator of God's Word throughout this age. I do not mean that other Scriptures are unprofitable, for we find the grace of God from Genesis to Revelation. But what appeared only in shadow and type under the Old Covenant is now emblazoned in letters of fire; namely, that to "the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" are revealed - Eph. 3:8. God sovereignly gave to Paul the authority and power to dispense this wonderful Gospel of grace.

The law was given in grace to Israel to cause them to realize how unable they were to do the will of God. The law "was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." Gal. 3:19 That was grace. Likewise, until we really learn the grace of God, we try to use the law on ourselves and others. Instead of walking in the Spirit, we make a chalk line of law by which to walk. But, is it not wonderful when we recognize Christ as our ability to walk and live and move and shine to His eternal praise? That is the essential working of divine grace. Many people are trying to use the Old Testament as a club to drive their fellows into the work of God. It was not intended for that. The law was given to shut up man's mouth from boasting in himself, so that he might learn by perpetual failure the impossibility of saving himself. "He made known unto me the mystery; ... which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Eph. 3:3-5.

What is that mystery? The next verse tells us "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same Body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel." By faith in Jesus we become members of this wonderful Body which is called, in Ephesians 1, the Church. Paul alone tells us of this mystery, which is Jesus Christ in union with His people as one with Him gathered out of Jews and Gentiles. This Body is made up of the weak things of the world - "... not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." - I Cor. 1:26 31

God picks up some of the vilest and most useless in the natural, saves them by His grace, and uses them for His glory. He takes the beggar from the dunghill and sets him among princes. Thank God, He also can change the one who is strongest in himself and bring him down to the place of dependence upon God and make him an eternal blessing to the people of God. If any of us yield to Him, He effectually works in us. God's ministry in us is eternal.

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Eph. 3:8. There is none who feels his own weakness like a believer in Paul's Gospel. We cannot

climb up and get an understanding of these wonderful truths; but we find them at the feet of Jesus. We are not worthy to be called saints, nor children of God, by what we do; but our worthiness is in Christ. Paul was "less than the least of all saints," because he chose the place of uttermost dependence upon God. Brother, do you choose that place with him? I am glad that this is the greatest place, "For when I am weak, then am I strong" - II Corinthians 12:10.

"...the fellowship of the mystery..." Eph. 3:9 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs with the Jews in the benefits of the Gospel (see 3:6) is the meaning of "...the fellowship of the mystery..." This was hidden in God until it pleased Him to reveal it to the Apostle Paul. He was to make all men see this by proclaiming the glad tidings to all men. This has also a personal application. It is wonderful how close together God draws some of us, so that we have sweet fellowship in the Gospel. 'We enjoy it mutually. We suffer for it mutually. We shall be rewarded together forever. Because of the Gospel, we are destined to have fellowship with Jesus and with one another in the glory.

**32** "According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" - Eph. 3:11. Many people think that salvation was an afterthought with God; that when He found man ruined by Satan, He planned a way to save him. Oh, no. All God's movements are according to a perfected plan and program, which He purposed before time began. He purposed in Himself the mystery of His will, and works all things according to the counsel of His will. Eph. 1:9,11 Literally, according to the purpose of the ages, which He made in Christ Jesus, through the preaching of this wonderful Gospel, God is making all men see what is the fellowship of the Gospel. What He planned and purposed and kept hidden in Himself for many hundreds of years, He is now publishing far and near. Oh, what wonderful love, that He should give us an understanding of His will. Oh, that we might yield continually to the Holy Spirit, that we may understand God's will better. Wonderful grace!

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him." -Eph. 3:12. We do not have to come and beg, as though God were stingy. No, the riches of Christ are for us. God longs to give them to His children. His Son purchased them for us at infinite cost, even the pouring out of His holy life.



Therefore, the Father wants to give us abundantly the supply of every need that we may possibly have. Hence, let us not beg, but praise Him for what He has blessed us with already; for He "hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" - Eph. 1:3. It does not read that He is going to bless us, but that He has done it already. Let us reach out and fill our arms with His wealth. If we have ten thousand dollars in a bank and we know that the bank is good, we just go to the bank with confidence that we shall receive as much as we ask for. We ask in boldness, because our account book declares how much we have on deposit. We approach the heavenly Banker with a shine on our faces, believing that we shall receive, because we have all things on deposit to our credit in His bank "in Christ." "All are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" - I Cor. 3:22,23. Hallelujah!

The Life of Christ deposited in us is our reliable account book, thank God! And the faith of Christ, also a heavenly deposit, is our unlimited check book. Here I come, Lord, with a check for deliverance from indigestion. Here I am again, Lord, with a check for wisdom and unction to give out Thy Word. Oh Lord, I come with a large check --- patience and longsuffering under this drawn-out trial. Will the bank fail me? NEVER!

"Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory" - Eph. 3:13. Doubtless, the severest tribulation with the Apostle was that he was kept in prison so long. The need of spreading the good news was great, and he was handicapped. He was almost speechless in a godless prison. Yet God was responsible for His Word. Hence, Paul wrote to another from that same cell, saying, "The Word of God is not bound" - II Timothy 2:9. Nevertheless, no heavier burden could fall on him than imprisonment, he knowing that the churches needed his care.

Why was Paul a prisoner? "For you Gentiles." Oh, this breaks my heart. This makes me bow down. Oh, that dear man, who loved the will of God and understood the grace of God, had to be shut up behind iron bars for you and me. He suffered hunger, cold, and nakedness for our good. Privations and hardships, persecutions and ostracism, perils on land and sea, by day and by night, were his credentials --- all for your sake and mine.

Beloved, he never could have endured thus had not Christ been his life and if he had not entertained the hope of a sure and

eternal reward. I say too that it is only through God's marvelous grace that the brethren whom we know, as well as other grace ministers, can stand in the fight and endure the things that are said and done to them. It is wonderful that they do not care for the things of this world, that they are not moved by religious conditions; but they care only for the things of God and that Jesus might be glorified forever. Oh, how blessed to have the assurance that God knows that we seek nothing but His glory.

Truly, we are rich in Christ. He emptied Himself of all. He became poor for our sakes. He was born in a manger. He had not where to lay His head. He was friendless and defenseless. He was without reputation. He knew nothing but His Father's will. His Father's arm was His only strength. The Holy Spirit was His only power. Jesus Christ surrendered all, that we might become rich, that we might come into eternal fellowship with the Father and the Son, even as They have fellowship with each other.

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### *Thanksgiving*

*We thank Thee Lord, for sins forgiven,  
And for a life that's born from heaven,  
For guidance granted, needs spplied;  
Because Thy Son on Calvary died.*

*We thank Thee Lord for sovereign grace  
That marked us out as super-race,  
Before eternal times began,  
Or ere creation of first man.*

*We thank Thee Lord for all things new,  
And all Thy ways of comfort true.  
For these blessings we're full of praise,  
And we shall praise Thee endless days.*

*Mary M. Bodie*

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