
"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

A personal God (John 4:24)
A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)
Unity of God's people (John 17:21, Eph. 4)
Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13:1 Cor. 11:23, 34)
Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)
Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)
Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)
Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28; Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

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Guest Editorial

The Seraphims Part 1 of 2

Isaiah 6:1-4 reads: "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."

In this passage of Scripture text, the great Messianic Prophet Isaiah received a vision that reveals many great and precious truths. We want to focus on verse 2 where the sacred writer declared, "Above it stood the seraphims . . ." In considering what verse 2 denotes as the seraphims, several questions came to mind, such as: What are these seraphims? Are they angelic beings or what type of beings are they? Do the Scriptures speak of them elsewhere? What is their purpose? and What do they do?

Sad to say, there is much confusion and many misconceptions about these beings that the Prophet called seraphims. The Apostle Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 14:33 that "God is not the author of confusion." Jesus taught in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." What does Truth free you from? Well, it is not sin, because 1 John 1:7 says, ". . . the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The blood is not what makes us free in the instance that Jesus was speaking of in

John's Gospel, because He said "the truth shall make you free." Truth frees us from falsity; it frees us from false teachings and religious error.

As we examine this Scripture, I trust that God will help you to have a heart and mind open to Truth and that you are willing to lay down religious teachings or traditions contrary to the sound teachings of God's eternal Word. Many times we embrace ideas from Babylonian heritage that we never stop to examine until we hear the Truth.

Our lesson text commences in Isaiah 6:1 with the words, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw . . ." Why did he say that? To give a reference in time, or a historical perspective, yet it goes far deeper than that. This text, as with all Scripture, has divine significance. In Proverbs 30:5 the Wise Man said, "Every word of God is pure," teaching us there is divine design and intent and Truth incorporated in every word within the sacred Scriptures. This case is no exception.

King Uzziah was the eleventh king of Judah. He came to the throne at the tender age of sixteen and reigned fifty-two years. History tells us he reigned from B.C. 809 to B.C. 758. To substantiate this, 2 Chronicles 26:3 declares, "Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem."

During Uzziah's reign, the people enjoyed great peace and prosperity. Verse 5 says, "And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper." (I might digress to say this is still a good formula to follow today, and it will still have the same effect in our day, because God's Word is timeless and immutable.) When Isaiah wrote, "In the year that king Uzziah died . . .," he was letting us know that an era had ended and a new time had commenced.

At the death of Uzziah, Israel was given up to hardness of heart.

[continued on page 25]

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

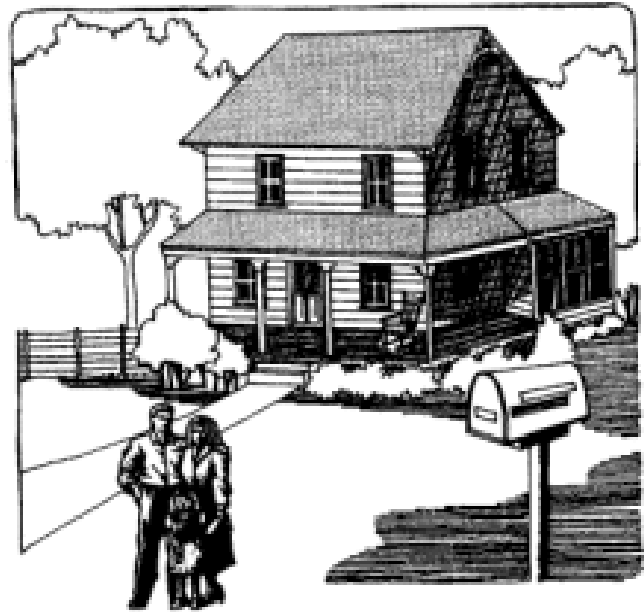
30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The Home



Brother Roger L. Decker

"They Shall Be One Flesh"

The devil is making mockery of too many homes. There are too many marriages today that God did not join together. God joined together a man and a woman who were both holy, without sin. Genesis 2:21-24 reads: "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman,

because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man lead his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." This was the first marriage instituted in the Bible. They were clean and holy, but even so they were still in for a battle.

In Genesis 3:1 came the introduction of the serpent: "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" In a short time, the devil came on the scene, and he was out to destroy the holiness and the sanctity of the home;

he was working to destroy that which God had joined together.

Today the devil is still working to destroy the peace and harmony that come about from a man and woman serving God in the home. First Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Although Christians put their trust and confidence in God, they should not be careless. Peter was saying that we should be self-controlled and alert. Too many homes have become sloppy and let down on the Bible standard, and the devil is having a heyday. No home

is immune to the devil working to destroy it. You may say, "Well, we really love each other." That is wonderful, and you should have love in a marriage, but that is not enough. You must keep the presence of God in your home, and you must work to do that. God joined Adam and Eve in the beginning, but they allowed sin in their home.

Young man, young woman, if you are thinking of matrimony, you need to make sure that you pray for the right companion. Do not just look for someone with good looks or an outstanding personality. You need to seek God's counsel, because that is someone you are going to live with for the rest of your life. Proverbs 17:1 states, "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife." The Proverb writer said that a dry morsel and quietness are better than having a house full of everything you want with strife.

The Relationship Between the Husband and the Wife

The basis of a home is love. The Apostle Paul mentioned the word *love* three times when he spoke of the relationship between the husband and the wife. Colossians 3:19 says, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." This love that Paul wrote about is similar to how Christ loves the church and similar to how a man loves his own body. It takes true love to keep bitterness out of a marriage. The man is the head of the house, and he has a great responsibility. God gave him the right by creation to direct and govern the home. Genesis 3:16 reads, "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule [or govern] over thee." In other words, the husband has authority over the wife.

God has commanded that the man love his wife. If any man should love his wife, the Christian man

ought to, because the love of God is the highest form of love there is, and it dwell dwells within him. The saved man not only has human love but also God's love down in his heart. That man should love his wife even more than men of the world love their wives.

Consider the love of God. Christ, our Savior, left His abode with God in eternity and came to earth as a servant. That kind of love is sacrificial; it is a love that we do not deserve. When He saved us, it was not because we were deserving but because of His unmerited love for us. It is God's nature to love; He is love. He was not bound to love a world that hated Him, but He did.

The husband is commanded to love his wife. He should be able to say to his wife, "I will always love you, in sickness and in health, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, till death do us part." Moreover, when he says that, he ought to mean it. If you are planning to marry shortly, you need to pay close attention to the marriage vows. You must say those vows not only to each other in front of the preacher but also to God.

Love should grow stronger, not weaker, as the years go by. Someone may ask, "What should I do when my wife gets old and wrinkled?" Just remember that you are getting old and wrinkled too.

I once read a story that goes well with this message. It reveals the reaction of a husband to his wife's colds during the first seven years of their marriage. Now, remember, love should get stronger, but in too many cases it does not.

The first year his wife caught a cold, he said to her: "Ah, Sugar Dumpling, I'm really worried about my baby girl. You've had a bad sniffle, and there's no telling about those things, with all of the strep throat that's going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general checkup and a good rest. Now, I know the food there is lousy, but I'll be bringing your meals in from your favorite restaurant. I've

got it all arranged with the floor superintendent." He loved her much that first year, but things changed.

The second year she caught a cold again. The husband said: "Listen, Darling, I don't like the sound of that cough. I've called Doc Miller and asked him to rush over here. Now, you go to bed like a good girl."

The third year rolled around, and where she caught a cold he said: "Maybe you had better lie down, Honey. There's nothing like rest when you feel bad. I'll bring you something. Do we have any canned soup?"

The fourth year his love for her was diminishing, and he said: "Now, look, Dear, be sensible. After you have fed the kids, washed the dishes, and finished vacuuming the floors, you'd better lie down."

The fifth year, she again caught a cold, and he merely asked, "Why don't you take something?"

The sixth year when she became ill, he said, "I wish you would gargle or something instead of just sitting around all evening barking like a seal!"

The seventh year finally came, and wouldn't you know it, she caught a cold again, and he complained: "Would you stop your sneezing? Are you trying to give me pneumonia?" This is a picture of declining love.

The Husband Is to Care for His Wife

Not only is the love of God sacrificial but also purifying. Ephesians 5:26 says, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." Jesus wants His church to be clean. Marriage also involves purification. The husband should do everything in his power to help the wife maintain holiness, virtue, and purity. He should not do anything that would provoke her to sin or cause her to be tempted with someone else.

The love of Christ is also caring. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth

for you." The same is true in marriage. The husband should care for his wife. There are ways that God has ordained for the husband to take care of the wife. He should be her provider, her protector, and her preserver.

The Word of God has something to say about a man who will not work and provide for his own. First Timothy 5:8 states, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." What is an infidel? A nonbeliever. In God's eyes such a man is worse than a nonbeliever. Now, He was not talking about someone who cannot work. He was speaking of one who will not work and provide for his own. Also, there is a difference between trying to get work and trying to get out of work.

The husband should provide a place to live, clothes, groceries, and spending money. He should not make the wife feel as if she is a beggar. A man should not take a young woman to be his wife unless he can provide for her. Where in the Word of God does it state that the wife is supposed to go out and support the family; that is the husband's job. He should also provide a place to worship in Truth and be the example of that worship.

The wife is not a slave, a maid, or a whipping post. She is not someone on whom you vent your anger. However, she is to be in submission to her husband, not with fear, as one who gets yelled at whenever she makes a mistake. She should not have to give account for every move she makes. The husband should have confidence in her that she wants what is best for the home.

Love is caring. It is not love when the husband says, "Do this. Do that. Fix me this. What's the matter with you anyhow?" Love is caring for each other. How? As Christ cares for the church. Love is unbreakable. Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." You cannot sepa-

rate Christ and the church nor a godly husband and his wife. When a man leaves his mother and father, he severs ties and starts his own home. To cleave is to glue something together. That is just how strong this love is. The bonding together is unbreakable.

The man should be the leader. A man is normally stronger, so he can work doing jobs that are more strenuous. Generally, the man is superior in wisdom and knowledge. Normally the man can handle crises better. I believe that is the reason God would rather have a man serve as President of the United States than a woman. Also, I believe that is the reason God would rather have men in combat than women and would rather have men flying combat planes and operating machine guns than women. Men can handle crucial situations better, and men have greater strength.

The wife is the weaker vessel, but she should not take advantage of that. Some homes are completely out of the will of God, and when they are out of the will of God, both the husband and the wife struggle fervently to stay saved. When a home is out of the will of God, it is not a good atmosphere for living holy or raising children.

Some families suffer abuse of every kind. God forbid that someone who professes to be a saint of God would lose his temper and abuse his wife by hitting her. In some homes there is mental abuse. The woman can abuse her husband mentally and wear him down. This is not always one-sided. Not all marriages are made in Heaven.

Getting the Right Companion

God can bring saved couples together. They do not need someone to set them up. God brought the first woman to the first man. If you pray about getting the right companion, God will reveal to you who that special person is. God can talk to the one who needs a wife. You should pray that God will send the right one

along. You should not try to set someone up with one whom you think he or she should marry. People need to get back to letting God bring the marriages together. It worked that way in the beginning. Genesis 2:22 says, "And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." God can still bring the woman to the man.

God can arrange for couples to meet, and He can arrange for them to fall in love. I do not believe there needs to be a third person involved, because that third person may try to set someone up with one whom he or she thinks that person should marry instead of the one he or she really needs. I repeat, God is still able to bring a couple together. What God has joined (not people), let no man put asunder.

God brought the woman to the man. He made the woman holy and brought her to a holy man. Too often others who mean well try to prearrange marriages. There are many advisers for marriage. Someone may say, "I feel that they would make a good couple." Then what is wrong with talking to God about it? God can talk to them about it. The number one concern for a saved brother or sister when choosing a companion is this: Is that person spiritual? In the first marriage that God put together, they both were holy. That is the kind of marriage that God puts together.

Being a Submissive Wife

Colossians 3:18 instructs, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." Now, it is not fit to compromise, to overstep your convictions, or to stay home from the church services because the husband wants you to stay home. Though the wife is to submit to her own husband, she still has One higher to whom she must submit, and that is the Lord. Acts 5:29 tells us, "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." I have seen situations where the wife

has compromised to win her husband, but when she did that, she lost her husband and the Lord. It is the duty of the husband and the wife to be at the house of God together.

The wife should make herself look attractive for her companion. She should fix her hair attractively. Once in a while, she should wear a pretty dress and prepare him a nice candlelight dinner. There is nothing wrong with that. He is her husband. A wife should not go around unkempt and dressed sloppily all the time, and she should be clean.

Abraham is called the "father of the faithful," and Sarah is called the "mother of the submissive." First Peter 3:6 reads, "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement."

The duty of the wife is to keep the house clean, to keep the children clean, and to be a helpmeet for the husband. The wife is to raise children, and that is a full-time job. It is not up to a nursery school or a childcare center to raise your children. These places would be put out of business if the wives would get back in the homes. I do not believe that God is pleased with mothers dropping their children off someplace and then going out to work on a construction crew or somewhere else. No, they need to get back in the home, and they need to take their children home with them. Then more places could hire men to go out and support their families. That is the Word of God, and it will work. Again, raising children is a full-time job, and it is a great responsibility. The wife is not free to go here and there as she once did.

The Way to Have Harmony in the Home

Many homes are in trouble and in a sad state of disarray because some are out of the will of God. If your home is in disarray because one is out of the will of God, God will give grace to the one who is not out

of the will of God, as long as that one does what is right according to the Word of God. If both the husband and the wife need to come clean and come to Christ, He knows more about putting a home together than all the books written on the subject. The devil is bidding high for homes. Remember that he is subtle and crafty.

If you need help in your home, the first step is to be honest. You may say, "I wouldn't admit to anyone that my home is out of order." You do not have to admit it to just anyone, but you need to tell God. You do not need to confess to a man somewhere. You need to straighten it out with God, and He will put your home back together. Too many couples struggle when just a little talk with Jesus would make things right.

In the beginning, in Genesis, Chapter 3, one of the first moves the devil made was to attack the home and get it out of line. First, he got the woman away from the husband and began to work on her, then she committed sin, and then her husband committed sin. There went the harmony of the home. Our Scripture lesson says in verses 24-27: "Therefore as the church is subject unto

Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be, holy and without blemish."

It is time for people to get back to the blessed, old Bible. If the Bible were in homes today as it ought to be (I do not mean just laid on the coffee table with dust on it, but I mean read and obeyed), the devil could be kept out of homes in a greater way. The enemy is working as never before to separate, divide, and knock homes out of harmony. Why? If homes are out of harmony, it affects worship in the house of God and people's burden for others. How can you carry a burden for others when you are concerned about your own home? I trust that if you have a need, you will be honest and take it to Jesus Christ. You will be so glad that you did, and you will be much happier.

(Cassette C-4066E)

A DEDICATION PRAYER FOR PARENTS

O GOD, WE THANK THEE THAT THOU HAS GIVEN US THIS CHILD. HELP US TO BE FIT FOR THIS GREAT PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY WHICH HAS COME TO US. HELP US TEACH HIM AND TO TRAIN HIM AS WE OUGHT. HELP US TO BRING HIM TO THEE, NOT ONLY BY OUR WORDS BUT ALSO BY OUR EXAMPLE. HELP US TO GIVE HIM A HOME THAT HE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND JOY. HELP US TO LIVE SO THAT SOME DAY HE WILL THANK YOU FOR EVERY TIME HE REMEMBERS HIS PARENTS. HELP US TO BRING HIM UP SO THAT AT THE LAST IT SHALL BE SEEN THAT WE HAVE NOT FAILED IN THE TRUST WHICH THOU HAST PLACED IN US. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Matthew 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Our Responsibility as Christians



Brother Charlie Green

Are You at Ease in Zion?

As the people of God, we are not saved just to go to Heaven, but we are saved and placed in the body of Christ to do service for the Master. Sometimes a child of God can get bogged down with the everyday cares of life while the world is lost and going to hell. It is as though they are flying down a hillside of fresh snow on a toboggan sled, and the further it goes, the faster it goes.

We, as Christians, know the world is lost, and we rub elbows every day with those who are lost. Yet, it seems that nothing is said or done to turn them away from the fast ride they are on. Unless they turn and get hold of God, they are going to be lost forever. In this message I

want to challenge and remind you of your responsibility as a child of God. God wants you to be reminded of the reason you are here and why the Church of God was established. It is God's will that everyone comes to repentance. God put great value upon a soul. He loved every one of us when we were unlovable. When we were yet in sin, He loved us so much that He gave the best Heaven had to make a way for our redemption.

Brother, sister, you need to be reminded of the value that God places on a soul so that you can understand your responsibility before God. Joel 2:1 says, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain." In the Old Testament, why was the trumpet

blown? It was to warn the people that an enemy was approaching. The man of God stood on the wall and gave orders for a man to blow the trumpet, saying, "An enemy is approaching!"

Child of God, the enemy of souls is working as never before to get God's people to run after the pleasures of this world. Saint, you need to buckle down in a greater way and realize that your salvation does not hinge on the work required to make your congregation functional. Your salvation does not depend on the physical work that you do for the Lord.

The church is symbolic of a mother bringing forth children. I thank God for the people who have been brought into God's Kingdom, but I

do not believe that God is satisfied as long as there is one lost soul in the world. His Holy Spirit is pleading for lost souls to come to Jesus in repentance. As a child of God, you have been made an ambassador of Christ. How can you sit still and be at ease in Zion when you see a world lost in sin, heading for an everlasting hell? Amos 6:1 says, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." In other words, woe to those who are asleep to their responsibilities as children of God.

It alarms me that we are losing so many young people to the world who were raised in the Church of God, and it stirs God's heart. What is the cause? The responsibility of our children's souls lays at our own doors, and we have no excuse. We cannot put that responsibility on someone else. We surely cannot blame God. Who can point a finger at God? Who can say that God has failed? The Scripture says, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." Again, to be at ease in Zion means to be asleep to your responsibilities as a child of God.

As a child of God, you have to stay in obedience to Jesus Christ and the Word that God has revealed to you. If you ever win souls, you must be in obedience to God. You cannot win souls if you are in partial obedience. Also, it requires wisdom to win souls. James lets you know what wisdom is. Godly wisdom is not sensual wisdom, but it comes down from above. The influence of that wisdom will cause you to be effective in the soul-winning business for God. Your soul-winning efforts have to be backed by a life committed to God.

We all need to hear what God has to say. God help us to be challenged and stirred as never before! Many people are religious, yet they are bound with sin. Child of God, if you are not careful, the spirit that emanates from their lives will affect you. You can become indifferent to the will of the Father. His will is that all men come to repentance, and that is where a Christian comes in. Why do you think He saved you? Why do you think He put you in the church

and called you to be a witness for Him? One of the first messages that Jesus preached was, "Repent and follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." That lets you know that when Jesus called you to be saved, He called you to be a servant to others.

In Revelation 3:1-2 Jesus said: "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

Christ's Commission to the Church

Our Scripture text reads in verses 16-20: "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. [Keep in mind that this was the last message Jesus spoke before He ascended into the heavens. This was for not only the eleven disciples but also everyone who would follow after them.] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . ." This is a command, or a commission. Once you come through the experience of salvation and become a disciple of Christ, that same command is given to you. This commission applies not only to the preacher and the Sunday school teacher but also to each one who has been brought through the blood of Christ. When you come through the experience of salvation, you inherit the same characteristics and the same sensitivity toward souls that Christ has.

As far as the battle of Armaged-

don is concerned, or the battle of Truth against error, I believe that we are in the hottest battle that the Church of God has ever been in. Some preachers tell the people that everyone sins and that they cannot help but sin. If that were true, why did Jesus Christ come and die? If that message were true, then Jesus Christ went to the Cross and died a cruel death in vain. On the contrary, He did not die in vain. Matthew, Chapter 1, lets you know that the Holy Ghost told Mary, "You are going to have a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." It does not say that He would save them in their sins or leave them in their sins.

What Jesus told those early disciples in our Scripture text, He is telling you today. When you come to Him in repentance, you must turn away from everything in your life that is wrong. When a man preaches that he lives in sin, he is letting people know that he has never come to Jesus. Jesus is not a liar. What did He say to the woman who was caught in adultery? He said, "Go and sin no more." Now, if that were impossible, then Jesus would not have said that. You may ask, "How do you know?" I know because of my own experience, and many others can also testify that Jesus delivered them from sin.

In our Scripture text Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Jesus Christ gave that commission. I pray that you can see a greater vision of why you are here and what your responsibilities are.

May God help people to feel and recognize their responsibility. That would do away with the little cliques, the schisms, and the hard feelings between those who claim to be God's people. If people will get a real vision of why God saved them and why He instituted the beautiful

Church of the Living God, it would do away with much of what is going on today. Your prayer should be, "Lord, give me Your love for souls so that I can see the lost multitudes and weep over them as You wept. Help me to see the tragic plight of souls in sin and to love them so much that I lay aside things so that I might win them for You."

God help people to get beyond just going through a form of prayer. If you earnestly pray for the lost, it will cause you to do something. If you love souls and pray in the right way, God will place a soul burden on your heart that will cause you to lie awake in your bed. A true soul burden will also take away your appetite. We need a true vision of how the enemy has dear ones bound in sin. They are restless and want someone to come and show them love. My prayer is, "God, help me to love souls, to pray for them, and to bring in the wandering. Give me a heart that has an even greater concern for souls."

The Fruit of the Righteous

The responsibility of God's children has always been to do the will of the Heavenly Father. When you get saved, your life is no longer your own and you no longer direct your own steps. Your every action should be motivated through the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 61:1 gives a picture of this very thing. It says, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, [Friend, are you broken-hearted? Are you bound in sin? The Holy Spirit is doing His best to bind up your wounds and bind up your broken heart.] to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." In the Bible you can read of the man on the island of Gadara who was so bound with evil spirits that no man could tame him. He lived in the tombs, but when Jesus came by, He released the chains that bound him.

He opened the prison door and let him go free.

The Scripture says that he walked around in the tombs as a naked man, but once Jesus set him free, he was fully clothed. He wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go back to his home. I have often wondered what that man's family thought when he went home. It is no different today. When someone who was bound in the prison house of sin weeps his way into an experience of salvation and gains the victory, no doubt at first his family cannot believe their eyes. He once was lost and out of his mind, but after Jesus came by, he was fully clothed and in his right mind. What a homecoming they had! I believe that the angels in Heaven rejoice every time a soul is saved from sin.

Child of God, you can touch the heart of the sinner. You can be the key from God's heart to the human heart that needs help. Isaiah 61:2-3 states: "[He anointed me] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness...."

Proverbs 11:30 says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Another translation says, "Where right living bears its fruit, a tree of life grows up." Your living affects the lost and dying world around you. Child of God, you are a tree of righteousness planted unto the Lord. If you are wise concerning the commandments of God and walk on the highway of holiness, you will affect others.

You are responsible for your influence—for how you walk and how you act. The way you live before the world determines the outcome of your influence. How you live determines whether you are a tree of righteousness that will become the tree of life that grows in the hearts of unsaved men and women. Your life is

not your own. Every day you are influencing someone, whether it is in business, at school, or in a teacher-parent conference. May God help you not to speak, act, or do anything that would hurt the influence of the Gospel.

Letting Your Light Shine

The end of Isaiah 61:3 says, "That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." The Lord is glorified when His people live right. When you act right, your influence causes others to see the light of Christ. When light shines out from your heart and draws men and women to Christ, you are glorifying God. Your life can glorify God, and so can the life that you affected. Matthew 5:14-16 says: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; [A light is put on a candlestick to dispel the darkness. This is what Jesus was relating here. One way to put a light under a bushel is by walking contrary to God's will.] and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father...."

For everything you accomplish in this life, the glory needs to go to God. As a Christian, you are just a vessel that God has chosen to work through for His glory. This is an area where people get into much trouble. You need to be careful of passing out praise to others, because some cannot handle that, and they will become lifted up in their own eyes. Anything done in the Church of God is to bring glory to God.

The Proverbial writer said the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. Daniel 12:3 states, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." What does being wise really mean? One can have earthly

wisdom and go to college and get a degree. However, if you are not doing what Daniel said, then you are unwise. Those who live godly and reverently before the all-seeing eye of God are wise. God looks on the heart and the motive, but man looks on the outward man. The wise man is one who obeys the commandments of God.

Psalm 126:5 tells us, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." How long has it been since you have wept over a soul? Verse 6 says, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed [the precious seed of the Gospel that radiates from the lives of God's people], shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Also, where there is no real burden, the people perish. You cannot have a soul burden unless you have a burden for the work of God. Unless you have a burden to get behind the work of God and the man of God with all your heart, God will not give you a soul burden. A songwriter penned, "Lord, lead me to some soul today. Oh, teach me, Lord, just what to say. Friends of mine are lost in sin and cannot find their way. Few there are who seem to care and few there are who pray. Melt my heart and fill my life. Give me one soul today."

The Ministry of Reconciliation

In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." From the very beginning Jesus made it clear that when one follows Him in real salvation, He makes him a fisher of men. In other words, He will give that one a soul burden. A genuine soul burden will take away your sleep, cause you to sow in tears, and cause you to miss a meal or two. Without that kind of soul burden, you are in no shape to be a fisher of men. Jesus said in John 4:34, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me."

We read in 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." Sinner friend, God is presenting an opportunity for you to receive help. Acts 17:30 tells us, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

Second Corinthians 5:17-18 reads: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us [to the people who have been brought through the blood of Jesus to a real experience of salvation] the ministry of reconciliation." What does reconciliation mean? Our job as the Church of God is to be the link from the throne of God to this lost world to reconcile people to Jesus Christ. Dear friend, I pray that you will be challenged to feel your responsibility in a greater way than ever before. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world."

Saint, it is your duty by the way you live, the way you act, and the way you talk to go out into the world and dispel the darkness that has so saturated the world. We have a sin-sick society. Unless the church can get people to turn to Jesus Christ, there is not much hope for them. We read in 1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." Darkness is sin. So, one cannot be saved and live in darkness. How can you be in light and still practice sin? You cannot do it.

Revelation 1:5-6 says: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father." When you have a genuine, born-again experience through the blood of Christ, you have turned

away from sin. God makes you a new creature, old things (those things of sin) are passed away, and you become a new creature in Christ. Revelation tells us that He makes us kings and priests unto God. A king's place in life is to reign, and God gives us the power to reign over sin. We are priests unto God in that we are servants to the people and ambassadors of Christ; in other words, we represent Christ to the people.

We have an awesome responsibility and a very important duty to perform. We are not redeemed just to enjoy our experience of salvation. We can only maintain our joy of salvation if we share it with others. God is a rewarder, and He knows how much you are sharing. The more you share Jesus Christ with others, the more joy you have. It brings great joy when you share the Gospel with someone, and that person weeps his way to repentance. Who reaps the joy? Only those who sowed in tears will reap in joy. People who did no sowing in tears for that soul do not reap the joy. You only get out of it what you put into it; do not be deceived. In John 17:18 Jesus, praying to His Father, said, "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." He said in Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." The law of God is this: if there is no sowing, there is no sharing in the reaping of joy. Friend, are you spiritually asleep? You may not be totally asleep, but are you at ease? There is great danger in being at ease.

Child of God, you need to check yourself. How many tears have you sown this week? How many telephone calls to encourage or invite people to church have you made this week? How much lying awake praying for souls have you done? These are fair questions. You are supposed to walk in the Spirit. If you are not careful, you will slack off, allow yourself to sleep spiritually, and be content with your condition.

Consider Your Ways

Haggai 1:2-4 states: "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built. Then came the word of the LORD [Thank God for the Word of the Lord. God will always stir His men to bring the Word to stir His people when He sees the enemy coming into the ranks and working on them] by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?" What house was he talking about? Haggai 2:3 says, "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now [speaking of the house of God, the household of faith]?"

Haggai 1:5 says, "Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways." That is what God wants you to do. This message is to challenge your heart to consider your ways. This message is not to condemn but to help.

Verses 6-9 tell us: "Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts [He repeated the same statement from verse 5]; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every an unto his own house." The Col, through the Prophet Haggai, was speaking to people who said it was not time to build the Lord's house. Soul winning is building up the house of God. The house of God was established when Jesus purchased it with His own blood. We are just building it up. Whenever a soul is born into the Kingdom of God, that puts another stone in the

wall.

Those people spoken of by the Prophet Haggai were so at ease and so taken up with the cares and the pleasures of this life that they said it was not time to build. However, God spoke through Haggai and told them to consider their ways. He told them twice. There is a lesson for all of us in this Scripture. Friend, you may reject the warnings of God, but do not forget, that is not the end of it. Just as God spoke to those people, He is asking you to consider your ways. Haggai 1:10 states, "Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit." A spiritual drought will hit your soul if you reject the message God is sending you, and He will send a drought just as He did there. Verse 11 states, "And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands." If you reject the wooing of God's Spirit upon your heart, God will send a spiritual drought upon you and let you work yourself to death. You may lay up money, but it will be in bags with holes. God will see that all your work is lost in the end because of your rejection of Him.

Carrying the Good News of the Gospel to Others

When the roll is called up yonder, I want to be rewarded in accordance with what I have done. A song says, "Don't let me leave behind an unfinished task." I am concerned that God is going to find many people short when it comes to their carrying a real soul burden. If God saw that the value of a soul was worth the death of His Son, then you ought to take this business of soul winning very seriously and soberly. Dear one, if you are living in sin, in the sight of God, your soul is worth more than this whole world. Your mind cannot even take in how much this

world is worth in monetary value. Yet, that is how much value God places on one soul.

We read in Matthew 9:35, "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." Jesus was the busiest man on earth, going about doing good, yet He had compassion. God's Word is full of examples of men who were used mightily in the soul winning business.

Matthew 9:36 tells us that Jesus looked on the people with compassion because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. In a sense, every born-again man, woman, or child is a shepherd to this lost world. It is an awesome responsibility to carry the good news of the Gospel to people so they can enjoy the experience of salvation. Verse 37 says, "Then saith he [Jesus] unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." What is Jesus seeing today when He looks for laborers? As you mingle with people in the world, do you have the compassion that Jesus wants you to have? Do you see the fields white unto harvest? You need to lift up your heads, arise, and get busy at the task of building up the Kingdom of God. The Bible admonishes us to seek the better gifts, and this is one of the best! There is no greater thrill to the Christian than to work with a soul and see that soul freed from the bondage of sin, and then to see that person sit under a God-called pastor and be brought into a knowledge of Truth. That is absolutely beautiful!

Friend, what is God seeing in your heart? You need to do more than pray that God will send laborers into the field. It needs to be a little more personal. Praying for your brother to go is easy. You need to start praying that He will send you: "Here am I, Lord, send me." Is that your prayer? We live in a world full of sin, and people need Jesus. For people to find Jesus, God's people

need to pray, visit people, and let them feel their love and compassion. Sinners need to feel the love of Christ shining forth from the hearts and lives of God's people. You may ask, "How can you love a sinner?" Well, didn't Jesus love you? Within the heart of every born-again Christian is a love for the lost of this world. According to the Scripture, God is commanding His people to go and be witnesses, which will cause men to glorify God in coming to the light.

Ambassadors of Christ

Saint, do you need a greater sensitivity in looking on the fields that are ready to be harvested? Looking on a neglected field when the harvest is past is sad. You can see all the wasted vegetables lying in the field. It is the same in the harvest of souls. Seeing the harvest ready to come forth but lacking the laborer is sad. The reaping of souls at harvest-time is lost when many are at ease in Zion. I pray that God will stir you and challenge your heart. Jesus commanded His followers to go out and compel the lost to come in. Yet, at the same time we must attend to our own households. God has ordained that the mother and the father be godly examples in the home.

Parents have the greatest influence on their little children. Little ones look up to their mother and father, and that is the way it is supposed to be. In their little minds their mother and father are the greatest people they know. So, when daddy does something, they think it must be all right. This is where people are getting in trouble. When a man of God stands in the pulpit and preaches concerning how we are to act and how we are to live, we need to listen. There is a saying that says, "As the home goes, so goes the church." Little ones follow what they see going on in the home. If children see Mom and Dad walking contrary to what the Bible teaches, the children are going to follow their parents and the way they act in the home. There may be an exception, but this

is true in most cases.

My mind goes to a family where the mother was saved and living for God, but her husband was unsaved. One night he went to a revival meeting, and the preacher laid the Gospel out straight. He uncovered every ungodly thing that man was doing. When he left, he was angry, but a few nights later he came back to church and went to the altar.

Later someone asked him, "What caused you to get saved? Was it the preaching?" He said, "That was some of the reason," but he went on to explain that he was a farmer and had to get up at five-thirty each morning to milk the cows. His little boy got up to go with him to the barn. One morning as the little boy was following his dad, he hollered, "Dad, wait a minute! You're taking too big of steps, and you're walking crooked. I can't follow you."

God used those words to shake him. He thought, "My little son is walking in my footsteps." He began to realize that his little son was walking in the influence of his life. Mother, Father, you have an awesome

responsibility to make sure that you are walking straight in the home, because your little ones are following you. God sees whether you are praying and reading the Bible, and He sees how you treat one another in the home. When the preacher sounds the alarm, it should stir up your mind to think, "Here is a man of God preaching one way, but my home is not that way." Too many come to church, raise their hand, and testify, yet in the home it is a different story. These are some reasons that people lose their young people to the world.

As ambassadors of Christ, we are ministers of reconciliation, and the call is going out, "Who will make a commitment?" You need to say as Isaiah did, "Here am I; send me." Will you make a commitment as Paul said, "What would You have me to do, Lord?" I challenge you to recognize in a greater way your responsibility as a child of God. We are getting close to the end of time. There is no time to allow yourself to let down or to be at ease in Zion.

(Cassette C-2881M)

Rules for Growing Christians

Don't neglect your prayer time. It is the breath of the soul.

Don't neglect your Bible. It is the sword of conquest, your hammer for construction, and your guiding light.

Don't neglect your mind. It is your channel for reaching up to the very thoughts of God.

Don't neglect your reputation. It is the gold with which you will meet the demands of a complex civilization.

Don't neglect your influence. It will point other people to the Living God whom you serve.

The Shoemaker and the Little White Shoes

I wrote down the following story from memory. It was related by someone in an audience where I was present.

One morning during a crusade a drunkard's wife came to my door. She carried in her arms a baby who was six weeks old. Her pale, pinched face was sad to see, and she told me this sad story:

"My husband is drinking himself to death; he is lost to all human feelings. Our rent is unpaid, and we are liable to be put out into the streets. Also, there is no food in the house for me and the children.

"He has a good trade, but his earnings all go into the saloon on the corner near us. He is becoming more and more abusive. We seem to be on the verge of ruin. How can I, feeble as I am, with a babe in my arms, earn bread for myself and my children?"

Quick as a thought the question came to me, and I asked, "Why not have this husband of yours converted?"

"But," she answered hopelessly, "oh, there is no hope of such a thing. He cares for nothing but strong drink."

"I'll come and see him this afternoon," said I. "He'll insult you," she replied.

"No matter," said I, "my Savior was insulted, and the servant is not above his Lord."

That very afternoon I called at the little tenement house. The husband was at work at his trade in a back room, and his little girl was sent to tell him that a lady wished to see him. The child, however, soon returned with the message, "My pa says he won't see anyone."

But I sent him a message proving that I was in earnest. I said, "Go back and tell your pa that a lady wishes to see him on very important business, and she must see him, if she has to stay till after supper."

I knew very well there was nothing in the house to eat. A moment afterward a poor, bloated, besotted wreck of a man stood before me.

"What do you want?" he demanded as he, came shuffling into the room.

"Please be seated," I answered, pointing to a vacant chair at the other end of the table where I was sitting and proceeded to make known my errand.

He listened attentively for a moment, then broke out violently: "Do you think I am a fool? I drink when I please, and I let it alone when I please. I'm not going to resign my

personal liberty."

"Do you think you can stop drinking?"

"Yes, I could if I wanted to."

"On the contrary, I think you are a slave to the rum shop down on the corner."

"No, I ain't any such thing."

"I think, too, that you love the saloon keeper's daughter better than you love your own little girl."

"No, I don't either."

"Well, let us see about that. When I passed the saloon keeper's house, I saw his little girl coming down the steps, and she had on white shoes and a white dress with a blue sash. Your money helps to buy them. I came here, and your little girl, more beautiful than she, has on a faded, ragged dress, and her feet are bare."

"That's so, madam."

"And you love the saloon keeper's wife better than you do your own wife. When I passed the saloon keeper's house, I saw his wife come out with the little girl, and she was dressed in silks and laces and a carriage waited for her. Your money helped to buy the silks and laces, and the horses and carriage. I came here and found your wife in a faded calico gown, doing her work. If she goes anywhere, she must walk."

"You speak the truth, madam."

"You love the saloon keeper better than you do yourself. You say you can keep from drinking if you choose, but you helped the saloon keeper to build himself a fine brick house, and you live in this poor, tumbled-down old house yourself."

"I never saw it in that light before."

Then holding out his hand, that shook like an aspen leaf, he continued, "You speak the truth, madam; I am a slave."

"Do you see that hand? I've got a piece of work to finish, and I must have a mug of beer to steady my nerves, or I cannot do it, but tomorrow, if you call, I will comply with your request."

"That's a temptation of the devil."

[continued on page 15]



Especially for Young People

A Letter of Warning



There are many things about which I wish to warn the young people. I pray that God will anoint my efforts that souls may be enlightened and learn how to detect Satan's snares and pitfalls and be able to escape instead of winding up in prison as I have.

Young person, I know that even now seducing spirits are telling you "You will never wind up in prison." Believe me, I can hardly believe it myself! However, here I am, facing life in prison!

Until a short time ago, I had never hurt anyone in my entire life. I had always tried to be peaceable and friendly. I have never hit another person with my fist. So, how is it that I am in prison for murder? Please read closely and hear what I have to say.

It happened one step at a time. It started with one beer! It started with one dance! It started by watching murder on TV and in the movie theaters.

Young person, beware of seducing spirits. These spirits impress one's mind and give certain feelings in order to accomplish their desired end! The worldly love songs, the enticing movies, the suggestive dances, the appealing attire of sparkling rings, necklaces, and alluring clothes all tempt and appeal to the flesh. And do not forget, "easy" money. These spirits whisper, "Just a little won't hurt." Listen to me! Satan has only one purpose in mind—that is to bring you into his bondage and destroy you completely in the end! There is no

peace in these things. Their end is death, death to the soul and death in eternity's world.

Dear one, there is pleasure in sin for a season, but that season is so short, and the agony in the end is so great!

"Smoking and drinking is cool," many say, but all it will do is paralyze one's brain, dull reality, and disarm one's ability to make intelligent decisions. When I think of some of the things that I have done while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, I shudder. Some things are so horrible that I cannot write about them. But I can tell you this: the spirits that promote the things I have mentioned take one deeper and deeper and bind one tighter and tighter each step he takes.

The pleasure that Satan provides will have to be paid for in the end. He will begin to use you on the people you love most. The examples you set will be followed by innocent souls because you make it look so great! After Satan has caused you to become involved in deeper sin, he begins to force you to work for him. He will hold back the good feelings until you must drink or smoke more and more. Your chase for pleasure will begin to interfere with the time to work for "honest" money. As you commit worse sins, your conscience will make you feel badly, so you drink or smoke more, and on and on it goes. The fun seems to be gone.

Then hate sets in—hate for the ones who have done you wrong. The only pleasure that seems to be

available now is the thought of sweet revenge. You find yourself being hard to get along with, and sometimes you harass those you love.

Then Satan says, "Kill yourself! You're no good!" and he closes in to finish you off. It is only through God's mercy that I'm alive today. Many times I have contemplated suicide, but God's Word would come to mind and I would refrain.

I reached the place that I drank almost every day and was drunk almost every weekend. I also cheated several people out of their money and told many lies to sell cars. I took advantage of people who trusted me. Instead of one beer and dancing all night, it took a quart of hard liquor, and I did not care about dancing anymore. An evil spirit would take control of me, and I would find myself thinking of killing someone who had offended me. At times I waited and watched for the opportunity. Then Satan set me up.

A man that used to work for me pulled a gun on me and threatened to kill me three different times. The fun times were over now. Satan wanted destruction and death. So, I bought a gun. Then one night about 6:30 p.m. I started drinking whiskey and coke, half and half. By 10:00 p.m. I was so drunk I could hardly drive. I went to a club to listen to music and try to have some fun.

A man I didn't even know began to harass me. He followed me outside, and I pulled my gun. I tried to do what I had seen in a movie one time, but it did not work. The next thing I knew,

the man was on the ground, and I was holding a gun that had been fired six times. I don't even remember pulling the trigger! I have never had any training with a pistol and have only fired one a few times in all my forty years, but every bullet hit the man! What happened? Did Satan take control of me in my drunken stupor, or had my brain been programmed by watching murder on TV and in the

movies? I may never know. But one thing is sure—the stranger is dead, and I am spending life in prison for murder.

It all started from one beer and a little worldly entertainment—one step at a time.

Dear one, I pray that you will take heed and flee from seducing spirits that try to make one believe there is no harm in a little beer and a little

worldly music. It leads to hell—one step at a time! Please, look to Jesus and follow His every Word. Jesus is the Word of God, and He will lead you to peace, joy, contentment, and happiness, not only in this world but also in the world to come.

Selected

[The Shoemaker—continued from page 13]
You are a slave and cannot help it. But I do want to tell you this: there is One who can break your chains and set you free. Christ can make you free, if you'll submit to Him and let Him break the chains of sin and the appetite that bind you."

"It's been many a long year since I prayed."

"No matter; the sooner you begin, the better for you."

He threw himself at once upon his knees, and while I prayed, I heard him sobbing out his cry to God.

His wife knelt beside me and followed me in earnest prayer. The words were simple and broken with sobs, but somehow they went straight up from a crushed heart to God, and the poor man began to cry in earnest for mercy.

"O God! break these chains that are burning into my soul! Pity me, and pity my wife and children and break the chains that are dragging me down to hell. O God! be merciful to me a sinner!"

And thus out of the depths he cried to God, and He heard him and had compassion upon him and broke every chain and lifted every burden. He arose a free and redeemed man.

A family altar was established; the comforts of life were soon secured—for he had a good trade and two weeks after this scene his little girl came to my husband's Sunday school with white shoes, a

white dress, and a blue sash on it as a token that her father's money no longer went into the saloon keeper's till.

However, what struck me most of all was that it took less than two hours of my time to be an ambassador for Christ in

declaring the terms of Heaven's great treaty, whereby a soul was saved from death, a multitude of sins were covered, and a home was restored to purity and peace.

F. E. W.

Pure Love For Christ

A former communist, now a Christian, said, "I gave 50% of my income to the communist work. After I became a Christian, it was a long time before anyone suggested I give 10% of my gross income to the cause of Christ. When they did, it was only apologetically, saying that I probably could not, but if I could, it would be the right thing to do."

"When I was a communist, I was expected to give all my time after working hours to handing out literature and other work. When I volunteer time for the church, people talk about how earnest and zealous I am."

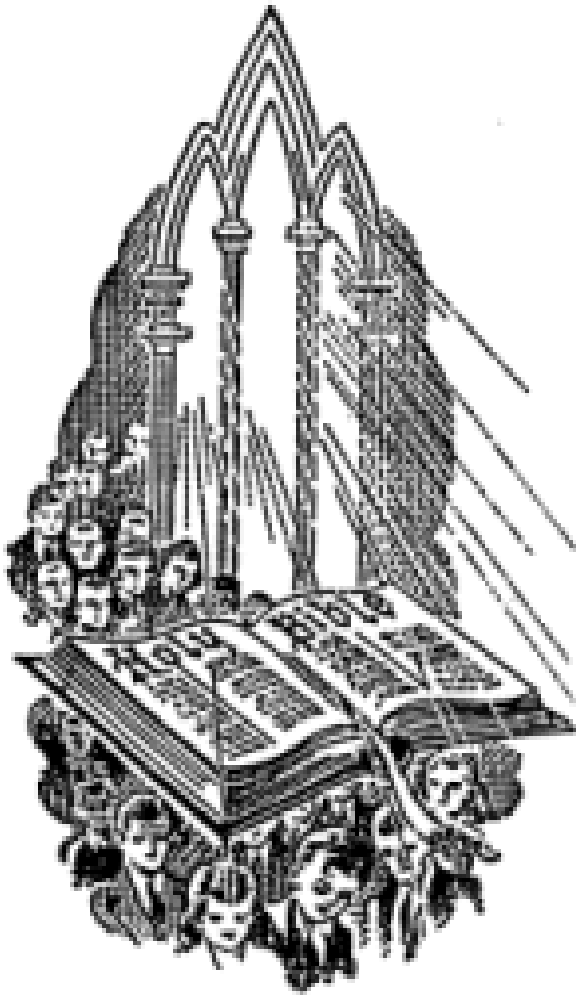
An atheist said, "If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences our destiny in another, then religion to me would mean everything. I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as folly, and earthly thought and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness.

"I would labor in the cause. I would take no thought for the morrow but for eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for Heaven worth a lifetime of suffering. Earthly consequences would never stay my hand nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone and upon the immortal souls around—soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would work with all other church people and try to share their load. I would go forth into the world and preach it in season and out of season and my title would be: "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

To believe that Christ will return—that is FAITH. To expect to meet Him—that is HOPE. To invite another to meet Him—that is LOVE!

Proverbs 23:10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.



God Has a Separate People

Brother Daniel Webster

Walking Within the Bounds of God's Word

The devil wants us all to think we have plenty of time. As I look back on my life, I realize that time is traveling very quickly, and there is not much time left. No matter how long you live, it will be just a short space compared with eternity.

Many winds of doctrine are around today, and many people claim to have Truth. You can know who has the Truth and what the Truth really is by the Word of God. I am glad that God is not a God of

confusion. He will direct you into His precious Truth. Even when you are completely ignorant of what to do, where to go, or what to say, God will be there to help you if you. Listen to Him.

I am not a fisherman, but I understand that some have sophisticated equipment on their boats. They can key in information, and it will lead them back to where they were previously located when they get out to the middle of the lake. I am glad that a guiding force can direct us, as Christians, and we can know exactly where we are and

where we are going. You do not have to hope that you are going to Heaven, but you can know that you are. I am thankful for that.

The landmarks, those identifying objects or boundaries, let us know where we are. A physical boundary, such as a fence, controls where you go. God's Word has boundaries to direct and mold your life in the way that is pleasing to God. You do not need to guess whether you are going to make Heaven your home. You can know that you are Heaven bound because you are lining up with the boundaries in the Word of God. You

can find liberty, blessings, assurance, and peace only by walking within the bounds of God's Word.

A landmark is an object that marks one's course and serves as a guide. I am glad that God's Word is a guide to us. The Scriptures guide us in every way. The Word of God is light, and God's light has always dispelled darkness. Light cannot mix with darkness. That is a good type to understand, because God's people are in the light, and they cannot mix with darkness. If you want to stay saved, some separations must take place in your life. You want to avoid darkness. Once you get saved, you have no desire to get close to darkness.

Literal darkness can almost feel cold. At times it seems to take the life right out of you. Spiritual darkness is that way. If you get involved in the darkness of sin, it will drain the spiritual life out of you and consume you. Therefore, you must separate yourself from darkness. Just as God made a distinction between light and darkness, God's people are a separate people. Jesus said we are in the world, but we are not of the world. The fads and fashions of the world no longer have us bound. God's Word and His Spirit guide us, and we do what He wants us to do.

You Cannot Serve Two Masters

Paul recorded these words to give a better understanding of God's will in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [absolutely none] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? [none] or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [Discussing God with people who do not believe in God is difficult. They just look at you as though you were speaking some strange language.] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and

walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Second Corinthians 7:1 continues, "Having therefore (these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

God has a people who are separate from sin and unbelievers. His people cannot have fellowship with unbelievers. What fellowship is there? There is none. Our fellowship is in God and with other saints. When Paul wrote, "Wherefore come out from among them . . .," he was not saying that if your wife or your husband is unsaved, you should leave or tell him or her to move out. No, he was telling you to separate from the things he mentioned in the text. God cannot use you and work with you if you mix with the world and the things of the world.

The actions of many who claim to be God's people tell us they want to mix and mingle with the world while they try to have fellowship with God. Paul made it plain in these verses that this is impossible. No one can mingle and mix with the things of the world and still enjoy fellowship with God; the one will rob from the other. Jesus said you cannot serve two masters. You will either love the one and hate the other or hate the one and love the other. To be saved and to stay saved, one cannot embrace the world and the things that are in the world. You must embrace Christ and forsake the things of the world and do that which He would have you to do. I would much rather serve Christ and enjoy sweet fellowship with God than to be a friend of the world and lose my soul.

Worldly people have a different way of looking at friendship. If you have something they want, they will

be your friends; however, if you lose or let loose of whatever they want, then you will find out who your real friends are. God's people are different. When they love and care for you, they are not concerned about what you have. Their desire is to help you to grow and prosper spiritually. When you lose worldly friends, you should not weep about it, because God has a better family for you to enjoy. The sweet fellowship of God's people is far greater. God's people have a far more wonderful friendship to offer.

Forsaking the World

Before getting saved, I was wrapped up in rock'n'roll music and all the things involved with it. Right after I got saved, out of habit I listened to that music, but it was not long until God said, "What is the matter with you? Why are you listening to this garbage?" I used to love it, but suddenly I had no desire to listen to that garbage, because I wanted to be spiritual. The secret to being separate is turning away from this world. Some things that you enjoyed when you were in sin may not seem bad to you after you get saved, but if they rob you of your spirituality, you must abstain from those things. Do you want to be spiritual or entertain yourself with the things of this world?

Many people today are abandoning the thought of forsaking the world. They want the world and Christ, but they cannot have both. When you leave this world, you cannot take anything with you. I am glad that I am free, and this world has no charms for me. I have no desire to follow the fads and fashions of this world.

There is a beat to this world's music that will drain you of your spiritual life, whether it is rock music, country music, or Christian rock. The devil composed it all to rob people of their souls. These kinds of music cause people to become absorbed in the beat, the music, and the lyrics. Much of the so-called

Christian music has the same beat and rhythm that rock music has. If you did not listen to the words, you would never know that they label it Christian music, because all you hear is the "thump, thump, thump" of the beat. Does it inspire your soul? No! That is what you need to consider. Listening to worldly music is such a deadly thing to your soul, but people make many excuses for listening to it. You need to guard what you listen to.

Too many young people say they want Jesus, but the devil has convinced them that they can have Jesus and a little bit of the world too. On the contrary, that will not work. You must choose one or the other. You need to ask yourself the question, "Is this really helping my spiritual life?" I have abandoned many things over the years, not because those things were evil, but the questions that came to me were, "Is this worth losing my soul over? Is it worth losing even a little bit of spirituality or zeal?" That is what is important to consider;

When I got saved, I was sick of sin. Thank God, when Jesus moved in, He immediately set me free and opened my eyes; then I realized how blind I really was. My vision was dimmer than I thought it was. The point is, you do not realize how spiritually blind you are until the Lord opens your eyes. The world will rob your soul. The Apostle Paul told us to be a separate people, people who separate from unbelief. We cannot have fellowship with Babylon. Nothing in Babylon will ever benefit us. False prophets will lie to you and try to convince you that you can make Heaven your home and yet be a sinner.

A Peculiar Treasure Unto God

First Peter 2:9 states, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." The Lord has a peculiar

people whom He purchased with His own blood. The Bible tells us that we are not our own. We have been bought with a price. To please God, we must do what God wants us to do. Peter said, "Ye are a chosen generation." God has chosen us to be a royal priesthood and holy nation.

Holiness is separation from sin. There is no sin in holiness, and there are no holy sinners. You are either a sinner or a saint. Also, there is no such thing as being a good Christian or a bad Christian; either you are a Christian or you are not a Christian. As a holy nation, we are to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. If you have been called out of darkness, why would you want to embrace it?

There are many ordinances and practices in the Old Testament that we do not do today. For instance, we do not kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on things as they once did. Yet, the principles, or the types, behind those practices contain very important lessons for us. In Exodus 19:5-6. Moses recorded these words: "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." Similar words were recorded by Peter in the New Testament. God told His people that if they would obey His Word and keep His covenant, they would be a peculiar treasure unto Him.

The world is God's, but He has a special people in whom He delights. They are that peculiar treasure, and they obey Him and keep the covenant that He has established for His people. That covenant is the New Testament. It was sealed and settled through the blood of Jesus Christ so we can enjoy this precious covenant.

What makes us a separate people? Is it because we look different and act different? In Exodus 33:15-16 Moses recorded these

outstanding words: "And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." What made them a separate people? God was with them. That is what makes us a separate people yet today—God is with us and also in us; He lives in our hearts.

Dig Deeper Into the Things of God

We should not want to mix and mingle a little cold with the hot fire of God in our souls. What happens when you mix something cold with something hot? It becomes lukewarm. As a Christian, you do not want to mingle with the things of this world. You should keep this separation in your life. You should not live in such a way that when others look upon your life, they cannot tell that you are a child of God. People should be able to look at you and say, "That person is a child of God." God leads us in the way of modesty. When one is truly modest, he has no desire to make a show of himself in any way. The last thing on that person's mind is attracting attention.

One who has the Spirit of God should not do things just to be noticed. When one testifies, he should testify to glorify God and to tell others of the wonderful things that God has done. When one preaches the Word of God, he should not do it to say, "Look how spiritual and how smart I am" or "Look at all the knowledge God has given me." He should preach to help and benefit others.

I cannot explain the blessing and the thrill I find in looking into God's Word with a desire to feed souls. Hours can go by quickly while I study the Word of God. It is not a hardship to preach God's Word. It is a blessing, and it seems that God

always takes away the fear of people. I certainly do not do it to be recognized or applauded. I have no desire for that. God's men are only interested in helping individuals gain a better experience with God.

The spirit of this world will try to convince you that you can embrace this world and live for Christ at the same time, but you cannot do both. You must separate yourself from the world or you will be drawn away. You cannot have both Christ and the world and expect to make Heaven your home. That is very dangerous. The closer you get to the world, the easier it is to be overtaken by the things of this world. Therefore, you need to dig deeper in the things of God and draw closer to Him.

Too many young people are not really interested in letting loose of the world. They want to be worldly enough that they do not look too peculiar to the world. The Lord has always had a separate people who have been distinctly His and who have abided by His Word. He still has people who abide by His Word. The only people who live that way are God's people, the Church of the Living God. God has a separate people who will not mix with the world.

Things That Rob You of Spirituality

You need to consider your soul and guard what you listen to. One writer wrote that the mind is like a computer. In other words, what you put in is what comes out. The more you pump the things of the world into your mind, the more worldly you will become. You need to consider that if you are tempted to listen to worldly music or anything else that is ungodly, because it will rob you of your soul; then instead of singing praises to God as His Word tells you to do, you will find yourself singing worldly melodies. Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." If

you find yourself singing worldly songs, something has gotten hold of you. You should be singing praises to the Lord. After I got saved, I wanted nothing to do with the songs of the world. Rock'n'roll is still the same deadly music it has always been, and it will still rob you of your spiritual life.

The devil is so sneaky. He knows that you will shun certain things, so he modifies them to make them look different. Then, if you are not careful, you will take hold of it. For example, today most radio stations do not play hard rock. It offends many people, so they play "soft rock" instead. Nevertheless, the same spirit motivates it. The same devil converted it to try to get people to accept it. He just softens it a little by calling it "soft rock" or "the oldies." Some people think it is all right to listen to "the oldies," but those songs are still the same ungodly rock'n'roll, no matter how old they are. That kind of music is creeping in, getting hold of people's hearts, and destroying their souls. When they pray, all they can think of is what they have been listening to all day. How can you hear the voice of God when you have been pumping your mind full of worldly music? We are commanded to be separate from this world and the things of the world.

I am not too concerned with the fashions of this world. Why do designers change the fashions? So they can sell more clothes. The saints of God should not follow the fashions of this world. Often women are more concerned about the fashions of this world than men are. You need to watch that you do not get wrapped up in making sure that you keep up with all the latest styles. Being a separate people will save you a fortune. You will have much more to give God and more for your own family in other ways if you are not bound by the fads and fashions of this world.

Jude 1:18-19 says: "How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be

they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Many people who claim to be God's people are sensual; in other words, they follow after the flesh. Jude warns us that these people are different from God's people. They are not a people whom God uses. What caused those people to become sensual? They walked after their own ungodly lusts, so they do not have the Spirit of God. If you follow the Holy Spirit, you will not follow the things of the world. God's Spirit will not force you to do anything. He cares for you, so He will be faithful to let you know when something is not right, but He gives you a choice.

The Need for Separation

The need for separation is twofold: first, it will keep you pure in this life; second, if you remain faithful, one of these days you will take your happy flight from this world. However, it will not be a happy flight for all people. Whether we leave this world collectively or one at a time, the time will come when each of us will have to lay down the robe of flesh and leave the world behind. The less this world attracts you, the easier your departure will be.

I am convinced that when it comes time to die, if a person is content with God's will, he or she will be glad to lay it all down and leave it. Nothing is wrong with owning things in this life, but you should not let those things own you. You should not allow your affections to be centered on those things to the degree that you cannot do what God wants you to do.

God's people are free from the bondage of this world, and we walk with God. That is what makes us separate. God is in us. That is a mystery to the world. The world does not understand why we live as we do, but it is because Christ is in us. Colossians 1:27 says, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ

in you, the hope of glory." I am glad that Christ is not merely walking alongside me, but 13e is in me. That is what makes us such a peculiar people. He dwells in our hearts.

If you embrace the things of this world, God will be a gentleman and just back off and let you have your way. The next time you turn on a radio or a compact disc player to listen to worldly music, you need to ask yourself, "Is this helping my soul or am I pushing God out of my life?"

How much do you think about God during a day's time? How much do you meditate on the Word of God? Do you consider Him at all in the things you get involved in or do you just live your life, and then at the end of your day say a little prayer, go to sleep, and wake up the next morning and start over? If you really worship God, He ought to be in your thoughts often. You should consider Him in your work and in everything you do. Also, you should always look for an opportunity to witness to others, not just in words but in deeds, and even in a smile. You should always consider these thoughts: "How can I glorify God in a greater way today? What can I do for the Lord?" Then when problems come, He should be the first One you call on, not the last. When you need help in some way, you can say, "God, I need You right now." He will be there if you allow Him to be in your everyday life.

Many people attend the worship services on Sundays and Wednesday nights and during revival services, and then they forget about Him the rest of the time. That is not the way God wants them to be. God wants people to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth and with their whole being every day. There is no place where you should turn God off for a little while and say, "Just go away, God, and I will call on You again when I need You." No, you must worship Him all day long, every day if you intend to keep the victory. If you are not careful, you will let the devil fool you and cause you to become wrapped up in things that will

hinder you spiritually. Remember this: what was Truth twenty years ago and even fifty years ago is still Truth today.

You cannot mingle with the world and things of the world and still enjoy spiritual life. The devil will rob you of spirituality by getting you to dwell on the garbage in the world. You need to consider the thought that God has a separate people who will not be bound by the things of this world. As God's people, we refuse to let this world take hold of us. You need to take a stand and say, "I am not going to listen to that. I am not going to be involved in it any longer." It may cost you worldly friendships, but God will bless you, strengthen you, and help you in a wonderful way.

Identifying Marks of God's People

Our Scripture text says to remove not the old landmark; however, people are doing just that today forgetting all about what God's Word says. God said, "This is the way," yet they say, "That's not important." On the contrary, it is important. Every boundary that God has placed is for the benefit of souls. It is not to put us in bondage but to guide us and let us know where we are. If you were to put up a landmark, it would not be to prevent one from going to the other side, but to let one know where he is. God is not going to put up a wall and say, "You can't go there"; but He is going to put up a landmark and say, "If you go on that side, you are no longer Mine."

The wonderful thing is that God will give you a choice. He sets the boundary in place and says, "This is the way." There are wonderful types of this in old Israel. He set the boundaries in place for each tribe. He gave them all boundaries and you can read about how the boundaries were set. Each of their boundaries was identified so they knew where their land was and what they possessed.

Today God sets the boundary

and says, "This is the way. If you are going to be My child, you must walk this way." These boundaries will contain you and help you to know that you are truly His child. You can know that you are His child because you know where the boundary is and you have stayed inside the boundary.

Often people get so wrapped up in the things of this world that it robs their souls of the praises of God. If you no longer have praise for God, then Peter said you are no longer His. I repeat, God's people are a peculiar people, and we are to show forth His praises.

There are identifying marks that identify God's people, and identifying marks in the Scriptures to let you know whether you are hearing the right message. If you study the Word of God, you will find that God has a way of letting you know whether you are hearing Truth. The Word of God teaches holiness, and holiness is a separation from the world and the sin of this world. When one is free from sin, he is holy and he is a peculiar treasure unto God. If you are confused and do not know whether or not you are hearing Truth, check to see if the message you are hearing teaches you that you must be holy. You must be holy to please God. One is not holy if he mixes the things of the world into his life.

One songwriter wrote, "Heaven or hell you are choosing, fixing and sealing your fate." Serving God is truly your decision. God sets the boundary, but the decision to serve Him is up to you. On which side do you want to be? Do you want to live for God or pursue your own interests and let your emotions be thrilled by this song or that fashion or something else? These things work on the flesh. God can give you power to bring the flesh under control so that you can be what God wants you to be. Won't you allow the Lord to have His way in your life?

(Cassette C-4063E)

Isaiah 12:1 And in that day thou shall say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.



Be

Encouraged

Brother Robert Mullen

These Latter Days of Time

The enemy picks on older people and young people to keep us from serving God. He is an accuser of the brethren. When we are doing the will of God, he will accuse us of putting on a show or of trying to further another cause. I am glad that we do not have to listen to him. God makes every provision for us to hear and understand His voice, and He makes provision for us to go to Heaven. If you do not understand the first time He speaks to you, He will speak to you again. He is very kind in that way.

We need discernment that comes from God. If you are a child of God, you need spiritual food. The message is still, "Come out of her, my people." There is only one church, and she is

on fire for God. He is the head of the church. All kinds of spirits are out in the world, so we must have ears to hear what the Spirit says, and we need someone whom God has anointed to speak the Word of God. There are too many "hallelujah" preachers who are falling around on the floor. God has something better than the cults. I am glad that I can hear His voice. God wants you to hear the Truth and obey it.

I am glad that God has everything in order; he has everything under control. We are living in perilous times, but you can still make it to Heaven even in these last days. You can make it through the battle of Armageddon. You can meet the battles and win with Jesus at your side. He is the great Captain of our salvation. He knows the battle

is hot, but He has more grace. You might have to lose your life. Many people lose things because of serving God. Living for God is not always an easy way.

I have pastored people for many years, and it is a full-time, strenuous job. I believe that in these latter days of time, it is becoming more strenuous than it has ever been. The devil has polished up his devices, and he is setting them out for people to partake of. Nevertheless, God still has a church, and He is the head of it. I am one follower who believes in God with all my heart.

My wife and I have had some strain and stress. My wife has lost her eyesight, and I have had some trouble with mine. However, I can see just as clear or clearer spiritually because of the hard things that have

come my way. This world is bidding high for souls. Lights are flashing and many voices are speaking to draw people away from Truth. The god of this world wants you to love the world and the things of the world. He tries to make God's way look dull and unattractive so that you will not want much to do with it. Nevertheless, God is still up to date, and the church is still beautiful. Holiness becomes the house of God.

A great thing takes place when God makes a sinner holy. When you become a new creature, He will be with you all the days of your life. He said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5). That is the good news of the Gospel. Some folks nowadays say, "Oh, I don't have that kind of light." If you walk in the light, you will get the right kind of light, and your vision will not become blurred or dimmed. I have been in the Church of God since the Lord saved me. Though she has gone through hard places, she always comes through with shining colors. I am satisfied with what God has made. Friend, are you satisfied with Jesus?

The Lord Is Ever Near

We need Jesus as our physician. God said He is the One who heals us. He is the best doctor in the world. He never makes a mistake, and He never takes out something that should not have been removed. He gives you only one pill to swallow, and that is the "Gos-pill." If you swallow that, it will help you to sleep peacefully, and it will take away the "worry bug." Worrying will kill you. You need to trust in the Living God. I have cast all my troubles on Jesus throughout the years, and He has been a great help.

Feelings of anger, jealousy, envy, and wanting your own way will cause you trouble mentally and physically. Sin is bad in every way. There is joy in the Lord. Have you found that joy? That is the kind to have. The devil makes many promises, but he lies and he does not

care about you. He has a host working for him, but God still has saints who will be faithful until the end. Praise God forever!

I do not like to see apostasy. God has made rules for the church concerning how we ought to behave in the Church of God. God calls ministers. He never told me to go to college to learn how to preach, but He told me to get busy and preach the Word of God. One night in Colorado, when I had been saved for only a little while, He called me to preach His Gospel. I love to pastor people. Though some can get naughty with the pastor and still profess to be saints, pastoring is still one of the most rewarding jobs, if God has called you. God will say, "You stay right in there and obey Me, whether the people like you or not and whether they say amen or not. That is My business. You just preach the Truth." That takes much strain off the preacher. As pastors, we want people to like us, but if they do not, we must preach the Gospel so God favors what we are doing. When God smiles upon us, it is all right.

In my Father's house, He has a holy people, and He is coming for His church. God will not forget us; He will not be too busy somewhere else. He is God, and He is bigger than our minds can comprehend. Glory hallelujah! Praise the Lord forever!

When you get in a tight place and the devil is tormenting you, the Bible says to praise the Lord. It is such a good thing to praise the Lord. When we praise the Lord, it causes the devil to flee. He does not want us to praise Him. The Lord is worthy of praise, honor, and glory. He has the whole world in His hands. He has control over my life, and He is my protector. He stays with me every day. He does not go away on a journey, but He is ever near. You can get good service any time you ask Him for something. He loves to answer prayer, just as you love to have your children come and ask you for things. A good habit to get into is to ask the Lord to supply all

your needs. The Bible says that God shall supply all your needs.

A More Excellent Way

The devil is a liar. He will try to seduce you and draw you away from God. God created you to serve Him, and that is your rightful place in this world. God has a big work for each of us to do, and it is a noble work. You could lay up money, own property, get a new car, and acquire many other worldly possessions, but nothing can make you happier than to have God in your heart every day. He leads us beside still waters and places us in green pastures for His name's sake. God gives His people the very best. He is our helper, and we can take everything to Him in prayer.

I have a good wife. We have learned to help each other, and we have enjoyed our lives together. I do not want to trade her. God knows all about your home life, and He has orders. If people would behave themselves and obey God, they would have much less trouble in the home. Living in a home and not getting along with your companion is awful.

You ought to be friendly with your pastor, but not everyone is. Many stay away from church and talk about their pastor in the wrong way. It is the devil's business to get you to dislike the man of God, criticize him, and find fault with him. You may think that he is too young or too old, that he has too many children or not enough, or that he is too thrifty or too extravagant. You can find fault with anyone if you look hard enough.

We have a friend in Jesus who is greater than all others. He said, "Keep your eyes on Me, love your enemies, and love your neighbor, even if he is nasty. Do not show any evil toward him in your heart." Living in peace is much easier than living in turmoil. The devil stirs up turmoil. You may be calm and collected and enjoy the peace of God, but the devil will come along and

upset your disposition if he can. Having the grace of God is wonderful. What does the grace of God do for you? It will keep you from wanting to seek revenge. I have learned that since I have been a Christian. The more I love people, the better it is for everyone. Love is better for you, your neighbors, your pastor, your wife, and your children. Some people cannot get along with anyone. The sinful life is a life of turmoil and tribulation.

We are living in the end time, and the battle is hot and raging. In some places it seems that the work of the devil is displayed tremendously. You need the grace of God to go through trials and hard places. The grace of God will do things for you that nothing else will do.

The Bible is like a road map. By reading it, you will receive better instruction than you can get from any psychologist. I recommend God above psychology. God is so far ahead of the intelligence of this old world. The world is far away from the Truth. True knowledge is in our Heavenly Father. We are His children. He teaches us the way of holiness, which is a more excellent way, and He tells us what to do. You may think you know what to do, but it is good to pray and ask God to direct your steps. You need the map that God puts before you every day. It beats any other way of planning.

The Giver of All Good Gifts

The church is in God's hands. The whole world, even the tiny baby, is in His hands. God is a specialist, and He is a perfectionist. He knows how to help you, how to make you happy, and how to help you get along with your neighbors, your pastor, your wife, your children, and others.

I enjoy fishing and gardening, but God told me, "You are doing a little too much. You need to cut back. Don't plant so much garden or raise so many rabbits. You need to give more time to Me." God's work is the greatest. It is better than raising

animals and having money in the bank. God's work gives you treasures in Heaven. God made each of us a little different and gave us various gifts to be used for His glory. We are much happier when we do what God wants us to do. It is a greater thrill when God blesses you than when you have a fish on the line. I enjoy working in the garden and giving what I raise to others to enjoy. However, serving God and seeing the work of God grow has a much greater reward.

We are supposed to love one another as Christians and work together. The doctrine of the Church of God is that God's people are one. The enemy of souls wants to divide God's people. When you get in God's church, you will not want any schism. Some people ask, "Which church is right? Who is right? and What is right?" They need a vision of God's divine church in action. The Church of God preaches the whole Word of God and prays for the sick.

If we are going to see people redeemed and well in body, we need to pray for one another. This helps the Gospel message to reach out. Healing is part of God's plan. We need miracles; however, too many times people get healed and receive help but forget to return—and give God the glory. Jesus said in Luke 17:17, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" If God heals you of cancer or some other disease, you owe Him something.

God is the giver of all good gifts, and you ought to use your body and your talents for His glory. The Church of God stresses using your talents for God. Women have their place, and men have their place. The Bible tells preachers how to act. It also tells us how to act in the home. It tells the husband what to do. No wonder we have so much trouble in the world. People are not obeying God's laws. We should pray for our leaders, because they need prayer. Fathers and mothers who are raising children also need prayer. When a little child is sick, the father and mother need to lay their hands on

that child and pray, and God will come to the rescue. Often we have prayed for people and their fevers have gone down immediately.

God has health for His people. He wants us to be strong and knowledgeable of the things of God, and He wants to teach us the right way. Friend, God is interested in you. He does not want you to be deceived. Being deceived is an awful thing, especially in matters concerning your soul.

When I was a child, I was always skeptical of Santa Claus. He did not look real to me. Thank God, God is real; He is not a fake. When I went to an altar of prayer, I wanted to know God. Well, the fire of His Holy Spirit fell and it is still falling upon me. It is a far better thing to happen to you than to get drunk. I would much rather be filled with the Holy Spirit.

God Is Always on Time

It is good for your soul to know that God has anointing for people. Every worship service is something fresh and new. God has new circumstances, new things to do, and great things happen that you never dreamed would happen. Living for God is exciting, and sometimes humorous. God has everything we need in the church. He looked ahead when He made it and said, "It is good." He made the sun and the moon, and the light of the sun has never burned out. It is such a powerful thing. God also makes the seasons. Once the snow quits, we have springtime and then summer. Isn't it wonderful that God never forgets? He knows just what we need.

Some people like the snow, and others like the rain or the dry weather, but God can please us all. We should be happy with whatever He sends us. We need to count our blessings. If you think what you have is bad, God can show you something worse. You could be bedfast. You may pity yourself because you have pain in your leg, but some fellows have no legs at all.

One of these days, God is going

to call us home, and He will give us exactly what is coming to us. We all have battles and trials, but we must be faithful to God. Be encouraged; do not be discouraged. Sometimes you can become discouraged when God is blessing you, because you may not see the blessings. God is really good to all of us. You may question, "Why didn't He do this?" or "Why didn't He do that differently?" We do not always know the answers to many of life's questions, but God works for our good.

God is still in the healing business. We lay hands on the sick and pray for them, but often healing does not occur instantly. God healed my ear once while I was riding in an airplane. I had been prayed for before then, but as I was riding along, all at once I was healed.

God does business on time, and He is never too late. Young lady, young man, do not become alarmed. You will get a companion if you trust God. God knows when the time is right and what companion you need. He will help you to get the right one.

I believe God gave me the right one. She might not have been right for someone else, but she was the right one for me. She feels the same way about me. That makes it better than if I were to live with someone who wished she had a better one or a different one. God has the very best for those who leave the choice to Him. I knew when I was converted, I knew when God called me to preach, and I knew when God gave me a wife in Oregon. I knew He did not want me to take a wife from back East where I was. God has a time and a place. He is never too late or too early; He is always on time. You should do things God's way; that is the best way, and it works. May the Lord help you.

A Wonderful God

Under the sixth seal, God used many brethren to a great extent. Some had the gifts of healing and others had the gift of evangelism. I knew Brother Susag and other

mighty men of God. They were men of prayer, men whom the Holy Spirit could lead, and I appreciated them.

In the movement, others came along and organized it. They had money drives and spirituality died, and I got spiritually hungry. They wanted to tell me what to do and what to preach instead allowing God to direct me. I do not say any of this disrespectfully, but I was looking for something better. When I heard Brother Emerson Wilson preach, the Holy Ghost said, "That is the right message." I love the message of the Church of God. If the devil should cause twice as much division as he has, I would still say the Church of God is the one, because that is what God showed me.

False doctrine is a bad thing. You need to be careful. If God has written Truth upon your heart and mind by the Holy Spirit, you will not be soon shaken. Look at the beautiful interpretation of the Book of Revelation. How much power do you think God has? How quickly can Almighty God help you? He is alive, healthy, awake, and knowledgeable. He does not have to learn any more, but we need to learn more about Him. There is one God, so you do not need to miss it.

We have a wonderful God whom man cannot destroy. He does not get old and feeble; He is ever new, He is life, and He is the giver of life, the Creator. He is the beginning and the end. He said, "I am Alpha and Omega." There is none else beside Him. There is no room for discouragement because He is a great, big, wonderful God.

Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Christ is our redeemer. Eternal life is through Christ. He is great! He knows all things. As we get older, we start forgetting, but God does not forget. He remembers everything. He can talk to you about things that

happened a long time ago and bring it to your mind.

May the Lord bless His Truth. We have a good road map to follow. We need to follow Christ, and then we will end up in Heaven. Let us be faithful to God. You can make it to Heaven by the grace of God. Every time someone speaks well of me, I like it; but it is not I, it is God. If we have any good at all, it is something God has done for us. May God bless your heart is my prayer.

(Cassette C-4152A)

Thanksgiving Street

A story has been told of two Christian men at a meeting. One of them got up to speak, and most of what he said stressed the difficult conditions in which he lived. After he had sat down, the other man arose to his feet and said 'I hear that our brother who has just spoken lives on Grumbling Street. I lived there myself for a time and never enjoyed good health. The air was bad, the houses were bad, and the water was bad. The birds never came and sang in the street, and I was gloomy and sad every day.

'Then I moved to Thanksgiving Street. Ever since, I have had good health, and so has my family. The air is good, the water is good, and the houses are good. The sun shines all day, the birds are always singing, and I am as happy as I can be. I recommend our brother to move. There are plenty of houses to rent on Thanksgiving Street.'

Are we grateful enough for the amazing gift whereby we have been enabled to become the sons of God? How can we show our gratitude? First, let us love the Lord our God with all our hearts and minds; next, we must love our neighbors as ourselves!

Selected

[Guest Editorial-continued from page 2]

As a kingdom and country, they were given to devastation and annihilation by the imperial power of the world. Jerome, the famed church historian, observed "that the year of Uzziali's death should be the year in which Romulus was born and only a short time after the death of Uzziah that Rome was founded. The national glory of Israel died out with King Uzziah and has never been revived." It was against this backdrop that our text took place, and the picture was a dismal one. It was a time of national sadness and gloom, with only dark bodings looming on the horizon.

The Lord in His graciousness turned the scene, and Isaiah said in Isaiah 6:1-2: ". . . I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne Above it stood the 'seraphims" Isaiah looked down through the prophetic telescope of time and saw a bright and brilliant day, the Gospel day, when the Lord would be high and lifted up in His people. Many scholars refer to the Isaiah account as the "Gospel of Isaiah," because it is so riddled with Messianic prophecy and looks to the day in which you and I live.

When Isaiah "saw the LORD sitting upon a throne," this was in the form of a vision, or a spiritual revelation. He did not literally see God. We know this because of what the Lord told Moses in Exodus 33:20 when he asked that he might see God. He said, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall be no man see me, and live." Also, nine hundred years subsequent to the writings of Isaiah, the Apostle John wrote in 1 John 4:12a, "No man hath seen God at any time."

We find in Isaiah 6:2 the beings denoted as seraphims, and they had six wings. Ezekiel's account portrays the same beings, but he revealed a different aspect and different attributes, which we do not have ample space to deal with. Ezekiel 1:1 states, "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of

Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God." Again, the writer did not see God personified, but he was merely saying that the visions were of divine origin, or that God was the originator of them.

In Revelation, Chapter 4, these same creatures are portrayed. John wrote in verse 8, "And the four beasts [the Greek says 'living creatures'] had each of them six wings." Revelation 9:17 gives us insight to the language employed in the Revelation as well as prophecy: "And thus I saw the horses in the vision." What Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John received were spiritual visions.

Visions and dreams have a different nature than literal occurrences. When Pharaoh had his dream, he saw things representative of a famine used in a symbolic nature. Visions and dreams have a nature that is not literal but symbolic, to convey truths to us.

Again, Isaiah 6:1 states, ". . . I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne." The Hebrew word here for Lord is not the common word Jehovah but the word Adonai, which means "for greater reverence," and it literally means "the Lord of all." We see several things in this text that are familiar in other Scripture passages, and , it begins to give us insight into what we are seeing.

Verse 2 says, "Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings" Verse 3 says, "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy" We see a very similar vision in Revelation 4:2, which reads, "And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne [just like Isaiah saw]."

Verses 6-8 read: "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts [the Greek says 'living creatures'] full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was

like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty."

Notice the similarities between Isaiah's writings and John's writings here. We can throw out the thought of this having anything to do with the eternal realm, because the eternal realm does not have day or night. This is something for here and now, while time yet stands. Verse 8 says they each had six wings, and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy. In the Revelation John saw almost the identical representations that Isaiah saw.

Isaiah penned in Isaiah 6:2, "Above it stood the seraphims" What are these? Are they angelic beings as many suppose? The word *seraphims* is mentioned only twice in the entire Bible: in Isaiah 6:2 and Isaiah 6:6. As with all Hebrew names, there is a divine significance to this term. The actual Hebrew word is seraph, and literally means "burning," from the root meaning "to set on fire."

The same Hebrew word is used in Numbers 21:6-8: "And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent [the same Hebrew word as used in Isaiah and translated seraphims], and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live." The fiery serpent on the pole was not an angelic being, and neither are these seraphims in our text. Strong's Concordance tells us these seraphims are symbolic. Let us see what they represent.

The word *seraphims*, or the Hebrew word seraph means "burning." Who is to be burning? In Luke 12:35 Jesus said, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning." Who was he addressing? Verse 22 states, "And he said unto his disciples" Who are to have their lights burning? The disciples, or

those who are committed to the discipline of Jesus Christ in their lives.

The word *disciple* is from the Latin word *discipulus*, which comes from the same root that the English word discipline comes from. True disciples are those committed to observing and adorning the discipline of Jesus Christ in their lives. In Luke 12:49 Jesus said, "I am come to send fire [another rendering says 'to set the world on fire']" He set it on fire on the Day of Pentecost when those cloven tongues like as of fire came down and they all were filled with the Holy Ghost. The disciples, or the saints, were lit and became burning. The seraphims are the saints, not some supposed angelic beings.

Jesus said in Luke 12:49, "I am come to send fire on the earth." When did He send that fire and to whom was it sent? Acts 2:3-4 says: "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Fire represents the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit came into the hearts and lives there on that day, set them on fire, gave them new life, and made them living creatures.

Isaiah was in an era of time when there was rank apostasy. God said in Isaiah 1:11, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full [another rendering says, 'I have had enough']" God had had enough of their religious performance without reality. They were still doing the things He had commanded in the Mosaic Law, but those things had lost meaning and reality and had become a form of godliness so repulsive that God had had enough of it, and He said in Isaiah 1:15, "I will hide mine eyes from you."

In our Scripture text, as in much of Isaiah's writings, the Lord turned the Prophet to a brighter day when

the Lord would be high and lifted up (He is only high and lifted up when the people of God lift Him up). The fiery, brass serpent that Moses put on a pole as a type of Christ. Jesus said, "And I, if I [like that brazen serpent in the wilderness] be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). Today God has men with a message that will lift up Jesus Christ, and it will still heal and bring life to mankind.

Though this day spoken of in our text was a dark hour in Hebrew history, the Bible tells us "at evening time it shall be light" (Zechariah 14:7). The church will never go out of visible view again. The enemy wants us to feel how dark and dismal it is, but this is a glorious time! This is the day of Revelation.

Remember that the word *seraphims* in Isaiah 6:2 is the same Hebrew word used in Numbers 21:6 for the fiery, brazen serpent that was set upon a pole. What is the picture? In John 3:14 Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." How was the serpent lifted up in Numbers? It was lifted in obedience to God's Word. God's man acted on God's Word and erected a pole. Just as God used human instrumentality in that day, so He does in this day. Who are the ones set on fire? It is a picture of the saints. God has a man who hears the Word, preaches it, and then the people take on the message and become the ones set on fire, and they lift up Jesus Christ. When they lift up Jesus Christ, a lost and dying world can be healed and live because they can see the burning ones.

How is Christ lifted up? His body (the church) is lifted from a dead state in trespasses and sins and raised up to sit together with Him in heavenly places. When others look on the saints and see the burning in their lives, that draws them to Jesus Christ. I repeat, the seraphims are not angelic beings but saints. In Part 2

we will consider these seraphims' description and attributes. We will answer questions such as, How many seraphims are there? Where else are these beings depicted? Why do these creatures have wings? and What do their wings portray?

Brother Earl R. Borders



Does Christ Live Here?

A new pastor had come to the village and called at a certain cottage. When the husband came home from his work the wife said, "The new pastor called today."

"What did he say?" asked the man.

"Oh," she answered, "he asked, 'Does Christ live here?' and I didn't know what to say."

The man's face flushed. "Why didn't you tell him that we were respectable people," he said.

"Well," she answered, "I might have said that; only that isn't what he asked me."

"Then why," continued the husband, "didn't you tell him that we say our prayers and read our Bibles?"

The wife replied, "But he didn't ask me that."

The man grew more vexed. "Why," he continued, "didn't you say that we were always at church?"

The poor woman broke down; "He didn't ask that either; he asked only, 'Does Christ live here?'"

This man and woman pondered for many days what the new pastor meant by his question. After they learned what he meant, their lives changed; little by little they grew to expect Christ, not dead, but gloriously alive. Through great love and through a willingness to be surprised by the mystery of His radiance, they knew Him. He did indeed live there!

Selected

Edith

A group of young children in London were feeling the cold one winter's day, and, seeing a church, they thought that they would go inside to keep themselves warm. Now, many churches in the old days were heated by a large round stove at the back of the building, and it was one of these churches in which the children sheltered. But to their surprise and horror, scarcely had they entered and reached the stove, than a service started. The children edged behind the stove and tried to keep out of sight.

After a hymn and prayer, the minister read the lesson, in which came the words, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."

As he was reading, God was speaking to the heart of one of these children, a little girl of eight years old. After the short service was over, she went up to the minister and said, "Please, sir, I didn't know my name came in the Bible."

"And what is your name, little girl?" asked the minister.

"Edith, sir," she replied.

"No, Edith does not come in the Bible," she said.

"Oh, yes, sir," she replied, "you read this afternoon, that this Man receiveth sinners, and Edith with them."

You see, she had her hearing wrong, but she had her theology right, for He still receives every Edith, Mary, Tom, Henry, and indeed everyone who will come as a sinner to the Savior.



Selected

Radio Log



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	7:35 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Akron, Ohio	WHK-FM 98.1	Sunday	2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Cleveland, Ohio	WHK-AM 1420	Sunday	2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Anderson, Indiana	WQME-FM 98.7	Sunday	7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Little Rock, Arkansas	KMLT-AM 760	Sunday	5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Rochelle, Georgia	WQIL-FM 101.3	Sunday	7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Gaffney, South Carolina	WAGI-FM 105.3	Monday	8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
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