

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

Guest Editorial

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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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*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of
yourselves: it is the gift of God."*

Ephesians 2:8

SAVED BY FAITH (Not by Feeling or Emotion)

So often you hear ones
comment that they just do not feel
that they are saved and that it
does not seem as if God is with
them. When they first met the
Lord at an altar of prayer, every-
thing was joyous, and they felt so
good. It was so easy to pray and
read the Bible. It was like being on
a cloud. Now that they have been
saved for a little while, those new-
born feelings have somewhat
subsided. This is a time when
Satan tries to force his way in and
overcome ones with doubts, fears,
and confusion.

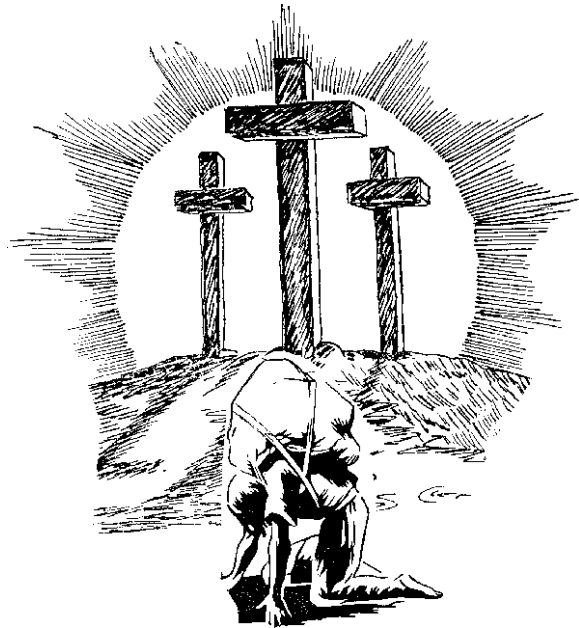
One of the problems some new
converts, and even some who
have been saved for a while, have
in this Christian walk is trying to
judge their salvation through
feelings. Dear reader, this is not a
good thing to do. Nowhere in the
Word of God will you find any-
thing to support such an idea as
this. You are saved by faith, not
by feelings or emotions. Yes, there
are feelings in salvation, but these
feelings should never be used as a
gauge to determine your salva-
tion. Feelings can go up or down;
emotions can fluctuate. One day
you may be sick and feel misera-
ble, but this is no indication
that you are not God's child. In
Galatians 3:11 we read, "The just
shall live by faith," and in 2 Co-
rinthians 5:7 we are informed that
"we walk by faith, not by sight."

It would be good for each one
of us to be reminded that the
Christian's pathway is not always
smooth. God allows each of us to
go through rough places once in a
while to test our faith. Many times
we will encounter difficult situa-
tions, and sometimes we may not
know which way to turn. If we are
not careful, Satan will bring con-
fusion and try to sow doubts in
our minds as to the reality of our
close relationship with God. Be
encouraged, for these times are
good for us. They present an
opportunity for growth in our
Christian lives and characters.
The purpose of trials is never to
cast one down, but rather to build
one up.

Remember, it is sin that
separates man from God. The
Bible tells us to try the spirits to
see if they are of God (1 John 4:1).
If God is working with you, then
move according to His direction.
On the other hand, if the devil is
just harassing you, then you need
to put him to flight in Jesus'
Name. You do not have to put up
with his gimmicks and tricks. Lift
up your head, lay aside your
needless worries, your unsup-
ported fears, and those feelings
that fluctuate, and put your full
trust and confidence in God, and
in Him alone!

[continued on page 26]

Getting Complete Deliverance



Brother Roger L. Decker

Drawing Back Into Perdition

Many people have made a start with the Lord, but they stopped short of complete deliverance. Others have turned back to the beggarly elements of this world because of persecution. Some people have rejected the thought of being different. Others become weary in the spiritual battle. Whatever the reasons might be for their shortcomings, it all comes down to individuals not completely selling out to Jesus Christ.

John 6:53-66 reads: "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink

indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

"Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But

there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

I am afraid that many have that same attitude. They have become offended. The words of Jesus are hard sayings instead of being a blessing to their souls. The Scripture says that "many of his disciples went back." The word *disciple* simply means "learner." They said, "This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" That means His words were offensive, or disagreeable. They were sayings that they could not bear. The doctrine that He delivered was opposed to their thinking, or opposed

to their prejudice. It seemed absurd; therefore, they rejected it. When they said, "Who can hear it?" in essence, they were saying, "Who can hear it patiently? Who can stay and listen to such doctrine or even believe it?"

The effect of this is stated in verse 66, which reads, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." The doctrines that Jesus taught were offensive to those who had not sold out to Him completely. Jesus had a way of separating the tares from the wheat. The doctrines become offensive to many people yet today. Jesus' doctrines were that He was superior to Moses, that God would save all whom He has chosen, and that the Father has to draw those who come to Him. Jesus went on to say that He was the Bread that came down from Heaven, and unless they partook of Him, they would have no life. Those doctrines were offensive to many of them. His doctrines have always been the most offensive that men have been called upon to believe. Many people have chosen to draw back into perdition rather than to trust in them.

The Key to Prospering With God

Mark 12:28-30 states: "And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." If you can obey that one commandment, the other ones will fall in line. However, that is where the hangup is for too many people.

Verses 31-33 continue: "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment

greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Look at the knowledge this scribe had. He lined right up with Jesus. Verse 34 reads, "And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question." Jesus said to him, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God." Why? He was carrying on conversation with the Door to the kingdom.

Consider the rich, young ruler. Mark 10:17-19 tells us: "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother [God help the young people not to get away from that one]."

Young person, you ought to honor your father and mother, not by honoring them with large funerals when they pass from this world, but by honoring them while they are living. Disobedience will cause you to stalemate in your Christian experience, and you will not prosper with God. That is a commandment that goes way back, and God has never changed His mind about it. Some children today actually tell off their parents. I had too much fear to do that when I was a child. Of course, today the courts of our land say the children have the right to sue their parents. Nevertheless, the Bible says to honor your father and mother.

Getting to the Heart of the Problem

Mark 10:20-21 reads: "And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor. . . ." Why did Jesus mention all of that? There was his hangup. Jesus went right to the heart of the problem. When you go to an altar of prayer, you can tell Christ anything, but you will never pray through until you are honest. The rich young man did not speak of covetousness, so Jesus did.

Consider the woman at the well, when Jesus told her to go and get her husband, but she had no husband. Jesus always brings out the truth. You must worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

Verses 21-22 continue: ". . . and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." His question was about how he might inherit eternal life, but he wound up leaving Jesus with sadness. He lacked one thing, and that was a heart change. He kept the legal aspects of the Law, but not the spiritual aspects. He could go along with the commandments, but he would not take the humble route of selling everything, taking up his cross, and following Jesus.

Why did Jesus tell the young man to sell all that he had? Because that was his hangup; that is what brought him sadness. Matthew said it just a little differently in Matthew 19:22, which reads, "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." That was his hangup. Jesus will bring one to a humble position before him. You must either humble yourself or go away sadly. This young man chose to go away sadly. The Bible says that he had great possessions.

Many others have stopped short of getting complete deliverance, yet they try to join churches; however, on the authority of God's Word, you cannot join a church. You can only be born into her. When one is saved, he or she becomes a member of God's church. Men say that you can join this church or that church, but that is not what the Word of God says. His Word says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13). When Christ was here on this earth, He had one body. Since He ascended back to Heaven, those who are born again represent the body of Christ and are one body.

People will do anything but get delivered from sin completely. Dear one, you will never get anywhere with Christ until you take full blame for your own sins, turn away from them, and get complete deliverance. Individuals might even go to an altar of prayer, but many times they stop short of getting completely delivered. You may ask, "How do you know?" It does not take long until the fruit will show up. They start missing services, and then they go back to things of the old life. Why? They came short of complete deliverance.

One in that condition becomes offended very easily. When a person gets lean in his soul, he starts to get critical, and then it is easy to find fault. That is a well-worn path. It seems to work with many people, but will it really work with God? He is the One whom people have to get by. Friend, if you are in that condition, God would like to bring you out of it.

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-8 states: "The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower

went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."

Jesus laid out the Parable of the Sower. The sower represents Christ in the morning-time church, and the Gospel of Saint Luke lets us know exactly what He was sowing. Luke tells us in Luke 8:11, "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." The different types of ground represent the hearts of all mankind. Each of us falls into one of these categories: the wayside ground, the stony ground, the thorny ground, or the good ground. Only one type of ground truly produces, and that is the good ground.

The wayside ground represents those who hear the Word of God, but the fowls (or false teachers or preachers) come and pick up the seed (the Word) and take individuals into confusion; then they lose out completely. Next, Jesus mentioned the stony ground, or those who have no depth. Such individuals do not dig deep, but they merely have surface religion. Jesus said they wither away. When persecutions and tribulations come because of their stand with the Word of God, they become offended.

Then Jesus spoke of the thorny ground, or a heart that is choked by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches. Jesus said they become unfruitful. The individual with this type of heart stops short of complete deliverance and fails to produce. Jesus let us know through the Word that we are to produce, or bring forth fruit. Too many people have allowed their

experience with God to wither and fade because they had no depth. One reason they had no depth is that one must dig deep. Friend, you have to dig deep, and you must get everything out of your life that is offensive.

Dig Deep

Too many people have surface religion. Serving God is not all rejoicing. The reality of it is this: there is a walk to walk, a talk to talk, and a life to live. You cannot do it if you have shallow religion. Those who have shallow religion seem to be hot for God for a time. Oh, they might praise God and turn the place upside down, so to speak, with their rejoicing; then they find that they have to face some trials to live for Christ. When they are out in the world, they shrink back and fall short.

Those who get saved still have to go back to their places of duty. It is not difficult to be saved among the saints, but you have to take that salvation into the factories, the shopping malls, the grocery stores, and other places. You cannot do it with shallow religion. Salvation is not for the worship services only; it is a way of life. You have to dig deep and get to the Solid Rock to have something to stand on.

Jesus said in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." This is the message that the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus with: to heal the brokenhearted, to deliver the captives, to recover the sight to the blind, and to set free those who have been bruised. All these things have a spiritual aspect and are caused by sin and the devil.

The devil is ever working to keep souls from enjoying the blessedness in serving Jesus Christ. Some people do not want to serve God

because they feel they would not have any fun. For some reason, they have the idea that one cannot have a good time serving God, but that is not true. The difference is that in serving God, the good time that one has is clean and the things one does are clean, yet one can still have good times.

The good times that one has in sin are short-lived. For example, the alcoholic might have a good time while he is drunk, but he has to become sober sometime. The Bible says, "Happy is the people whose God is the Lord." You can have wonderful times serving the Lord. Revivals are good times, listening to the songs of Zion and seeing God move upon the hearts of people. That brings a thrill to my soul. Serving Jesus Christ is a good life.

Some people serve God as though they are under bondage. They entertain the thought, "What would people think if I should quit?" Friend, you should not entertain the thought of turning back. You want to rebuke that thought quickly, because as soon as that passes through your mind, the devil will be right there to give you opportunities to do so. If just going to the church services were satisfactory, no doubt, millions of people would be saved, but that is not enough. The Bible lets you know it is Christ *in* you that gives you the hope of Glory.

"The Way That Seemeth Right"

Unless you are completely delivered from sin, you are lost. You might be on a path that you think is right, but even though it seems right, the end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." What is that way that seems right? The way that seems right is meeting conditions halfway and partial obedience.

Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh

them shall have mercy." Some merely meet this condition halfway. They confess and confess, but that is not where the victory comes. Confession is necessary, but you have to go a step further to obtain complete deliverance. Others hang on as long as they can in their own strength and even rejoice in the Word of God, but when persecution comes, they wither away.

After you confess your sins, you must forsake all sin, and then God will have mercy. Some do not have much earth for the seed to really go down and take root. They have surface religion, but when the sun gets hot, they become scorched and wither away.

Others obey just a little of the Scriptures. They rejoice in the singing, but they have no depth. Oh, they can talk a good talk, and they make it known. However, the truth is, the seed did not get right down into the heart to change the spirit and cleanse the soul; so they go about with a profession and surface religion.

In the Old Testament you can read of King Saul. He is a perfect example of one who had halfhearted service. He obeyed some of the Word, but he went only halfway. It seemed right to Him, but God was displeased with Saul, and he ended his life by committing suicide. The way seemed right, but the end was the way of death.

Saul made a good start: he was humble and felt unworthy when told that he had been chosen to be the king. We read in 1 Samuel 9:21, "And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?" Saul felt unworthy of such a high calling. He was humble and easily entreated, but his whole attitude changed and he became rebellious.

When Saul was little in his own sight, he felt unworthy. However, as time went on, he became only partially obedient. For the rest of his

life, he constantly got in trouble with God. He offered up a sacrifice, but that position belonged to the High Priest. Also, he failed to destroy all the Amalekites as God had instructed him to. Then he did not have the courage to stand up to Goliath. Saul became jealous of David, so he attempted to take his life. Although he had made such a great start, because of partial obedience and halfhearted service, he ended up taking his own life. James said in James 2:10, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

Throughout the Word of God, you can read of those who were guilty of partial obedience. Israel of old continually tried God and rebelled against His commandments while they were in the wilderness. Therefore, God sent pestilences and even fiery serpents among them for their rebellion, partial obedience, and halfhearted service. Many of them were not willing to go all the way with God.

Today many have put their brakes on and have not been completely delivered. Oh, they could be delivered, but they have some reserves in their lives. Friend, do you have some things that you are not willing to lay aside? Perhaps you do not want to make a complete break with sin. You may think, "I do not want others to think that I am a fanatic." If you want to know what a fanatic is, you could attend a ball game. You would see some sports fanatics there, but no one could get a peep out of them for Jesus Christ. Many will not even stand for what is right. In serving God there are no disappointments. You can have joy all day long.

Stopping Short of Complete Deliverance

I want you to consider some whom God spoke of in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul stood before Felix, the procreator of Judea. Felix had the power to let Paul live or give him a death sentence, but it

turned around the other way: Paul spoke the words of life. The Apostle Paul visited Jerusalem for the last time, and he was arrested there.

Acts 24:24-25 reads: "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

Felix sent for Paul. Historians state that he did so to please Drusilla, because she was a Jewish woman. After hearing Paul speak, Felix was convicted, but he turned down the gift of salvation. All the good moves that Felix made did not save him, because he did not go far enough. Felix was living in adultery with Drusilla at that time. Is it any wonder that he got under conviction? What did Paul reason with him concerning? He reasoned with him of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Felix took Drusilla, who was another king's wife, to work a scheme. She was a very beautiful woman, but he took her unlawfully and was living in adultery with her.

When Paul reasoned with Felix concerning righteousness, temper-

ance, and judgment to come, the Bible says Felix trembled, or shook. In other words, he was afraid, but he reasoned himself out of it. He then told Paul, "Go thy way for this time [we do not read that he ever called for Paul another time]; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (verse 25). That is not how salvation works. It is not when you call; it is when God calls that you must respond. No one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him. The moves that Felix made were in the right direction. You would have thought that he would have gone on and been saved, but he stopped short of complete deliverance.

In the Book of Acts you can also read of King Agrippa, who said to Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Being almost persuaded is not good enough when it comes to serving God. Serving God is not like playing horseshoes, where the closest one wins. No, you must serve Him either wholeheartedly or not at all. Perhaps you have felt the Spirit of God moving upon your soul and talking to your heart. Friend, do not stop short of complete deliverance. You need to follow what the leading of the Holy Spirit is telling you to do. You can trust God. He is not going to hurt you or embarrass you; He will help you. The Holy Spirit will bring you

to Christ for forgiveness, but do not stop short of being fully delivered.

The devil will tell you that you cannot live free from all sin, but he is a liar. Many people are living holy lives. The devil will also tell you, "You can't quit the cigarette habit. You might go on for a few hours or even a day, but you will never throw them all away." Again, I say, the devil is a liar. How often does he lie? One evangelist said, "Every time he opens his mouth." He dwells in lies.

Dear one, Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, but you must give up to Him completely. One who tries to serve the Lord halfheartedly is the most miserable person on earth. You might as well get all the way in and get complete deliverance. Do not be just a churchgoer, but go to church with complete deliverance. You will be so glad that you did and so glad that you did it right. You can please God. He is the One who will be the Judge of all the living one day.

As I bring the message to a close, I ask you, do you have any reserves in your life? If so, you need to lay down those reserves. God requires the same thing of everyone, and He wants to completely deliver you.

(Cassette C-5354E)

If you want to be DEFEATED, look back.

If you want to be DISTRACTED, look around.

If you want to be DISMAYED, look before.

If you want to be DELIVERED, look up.

If you want to be DELIGHTED, look to Christ.

Luke 19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

4 And he ran before, and climbed up

into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

Making Restitution



Brother Charles Ferguson

Before You Go Astray, Consider the End

Restitution is an essential part of the experience of salvation. As one goes through life as a sinner, he does many wrongful things that must be made right if he comes to Christ. God expects one to make amends and restore that which he can. You will find in the Old Testament Law that when a person took something that did not belong to him, he was required to restore it fourfold.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector,

and verse 2 of the Scripture text tells us that he was rich. The Roman Empire appointed certain individuals to collect taxes from the people. When those individuals collected taxes, they collected what was required from a person, and also an additional amount that they put in their own pockets. Therefore, tax collectors were not looked upon favorably. They were hated, and people did not trust them. After Zacchaeus went to see Christ, he said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if

I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." When a sinner comes face to face with the Lord and becomes a new creature, immediately he wants to make restitution for any wrongdoing that he can correct.

Dear one, as a sinner, no doubt, you have done some things that you wish you had not done. I know that was true in my life, and I am sure that it is true in yours. Young person, you need to pay close attention to the words of the Apostle Paul

when he instructed Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12, which reads, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." If you have a mind to stray from the Lord, let me implore you not to, because you may not come back. It is relatively easy to drift far away, but it is not easy to come back.

As a young man, I lived in Kentucky, but I left home at seventeen years of age to work in Detroit, Michigan. Later I left there and went far away to California. One spring day in 1943, I decided to go back home. I had only \$2.63 in my pocket, and I could not buy a bus ticket for that amount, so I decided that I was going to get home even if I had to walk the whole two thousand miles. My journey home was not a pleasant one, but I finally made it home in the summer of that year. My journey was long and rough, and I went through unpleasant experiences to get home.

It was relatively easy for me to get to California because I had the money in my pocket to buy a train ticket. However, coming back was a different story. This is equally true when one turns away from God and does wrong. It is relatively easy to turn away, but when you get far away and decide to come back, you will find that the road is not always easy. Sometimes it is difficult to get back. It is good to consider the end before you stray.

God Keeps a Record of Your Deeds

We read in 1 John 1:1-5: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we

unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

Notice that the last verse says "that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." God is light, and He keeps a record of your deeds. God has a record of what you do, and He is not forgetful. Whatever you sow in this life, you will reap.

Contrary to the teachings of most modern religious organizations today, God's people live holy. The Bible says that without holiness "no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). Dear one, you cannot skip over things and go on as if they never happened. God will bring them to your remembrance.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:22-23: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." What you do in this life, you must face on the Judgment Day.

Romans 14:11 states, ". . . every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" that Jesus is the Christ. Every deed that you do is on record, and God will not forget. Speaking of the Day of Judgment, Jesus said in John 5:29, "And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Each of us must face our deeds; so dear one, when you come to the Judgment, you need to have your life cleared up. God will forgive you for whatever you bring to Him in sincere repentance. Sin leaves scars on your life, and though the sin has been forgiven, the effects of those sins are not removed. May

God help you in a special way.

Some years ago Brother Emerson Wilson gave an account of a man who had stolen quite a large sum of money from his employer. He had purchased a plane ticket to go to a foreign country to avoid prosecution and planned never to return to the United States. However, for some reason, he hesitated while he was waiting for a flight from San Francisco to another country, and he called Brother Wilson from the airport. He said, "Brother Wilson, I am leaving the country never to return."

Brother Wilson asked him why, and he said, "I have stolen from my employer, and when he finds it out, I will be heading to prison. So I am leaving the country, never to return."

Brother Wilson said, "Friend, the best thing you can do is to change your ticket and come back, and then go see your employer and confess to him what you have done. Ask him to give you mercy." Because of his advice, the man changed his mind and came back and confessed.

Dear one, you can purchase an airplane ticket for wherever you want to go, but when you get there, God will be there too. If you go to the grave, God knows. He knows all about you, and He is keeping a record. You cannot hide from God or run from your own conscience. You may flee to the far side of China, yet your conscience will witness against you for your wrongdoing.

Keeping a Clear Conscience

I thank God for a tender conscience. People of all ages can have tender consciences. Having a tender conscience toward God enables you to hear God when He speaks to you, and then you can receive help in the time of need. It is a safeguard that God has provided to lead and guide you in this life so that you do not go astray.

Did Jesus not speak to Paul on the road to Damascus? In Acts 9:4

He said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Then He said in verse 5, ". . . it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Jesus was speaking of the pricks of his conscience. Saul, who was later named Paul, held the coats of those who stoned Stephen to death. I believe that when he looked upon the face of Stephen, it looked like the face of an angel. God began to convict Saul right then of his wrongdoing.

Having a clear conscience is essential for you to live for God; therefore, you ought to pay close attention to its prodding. When I was living in sin, I took some things from my employer. After I got saved, it was not long until those things came to my mind. To clear my conscience, I wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of the company and told him what I had done. I asked forgiveness and offered to make restitution for what I had taken. Thank God, the deed was forgiven. When you go into a store, you should always pay for things. Dear one, God demands restitution for the wrongs that you have done.

You may think, "I cannot make restitution," but I have never heard of a godly man who made restitution and set things straight that God did not show mercy toward him. A certain minister related that once he owed a man restitution. He had not seen the man for many years, and he did not even know if he would recognize him.

One day as he was walking down the street with people passing on every side, God said to him, "There is the man." He turned around and called to the man and said, "Are you Mister So-and-So?" He replied, "Yes, I am." The minister explained what he had done that was wrong and set it right. God directed the meeting of those two men, and the minister apologized and got the matter cleared up.

When Jesus comes into your heart, the wrongs must be made right, if possible. Restitution is not always possible, but whenever it is possible, you are obligated

to make matters right. God may show you mercy for a time, but sooner or later, you must take care of it. If you do not, it is outright disobedience to God's Word. Jesus said in John 14:23, "If a man love me, he will keep my words. . . ." If you love Him, you will keep His commandments.

Walk Uprightly

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and said in 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Young person, you are to walk uprightly and do that which is right so that your testimony will be right. Dear one, by the deeds that you do, you can either glorify and exalt God or put Him and the church to shame.

I often think of the tangled web that one weaves while living in sin. One can weave a web so tangled that it is very difficult to ever untangle. May God help you to make your paths straight, to walk uprightly, and to be all that God would have you to be. Some people have lived such tangled lives. Their trails are so crooked and they have cheated so many people that they could never go back and straighten it all out. However, God will forgive them if they repent and do their best to make amends for what they can do. What I am saying is this: you can live such a tangled life that if you come to Christ and get saved, it will be more difficult for you to get your past cleared up.

You need to live in such a way that you glorify God in all that you do. You should not play church. If you do, you cannot make Heaven your home. You must put your whole heart and soul into the service of God. Serving God is the most important thing that you can do. When I look at the religious world and consider their ways, I see such a terrible example of Christianity. It causes true Christianity to be looked upon with scorn. Because of the

carelessness and loose living in the modern religious world, true worshipers are often thought of as being fanatics. Regardless of what others may think, you ought to walk uprightly and make straight paths before God. When you stand before Him on Judgment Day, you will have to give an account of every deed that you have done. God has the record, and He will not forget things that you have done. If you live for God, you can leave a trail behind that others will say that you were truly a child of God.

Mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, young person, you need to live in such a way that people will know that you are a saint of God. The Church of God has a beautiful message, and to glorify God, you must live this message every day of your life. God will help you to live it if you have a desire to do so.

I have found Christ's yoke easy to bear. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; . . . For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

"He That Covereth His Sins Shall Not Prosper"

Jesus has walked this way before you, dear one, and made it possible for you to live for Him in this day in which we live. Titus 2:12 tells us, ". . . we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." If there was ever a time in the history of mankind that the church needed to shine, it is today. We are living in an evil world.

You need to beware of the dangers of the Internet. Great dangers are lurking there. It can be a great asset if it is used in the way it was intended. However, pornography will poison the mind of anyone who gazes upon it. It will make an impression upon your mind that you cannot get away from. If you dare to look upon it

willingly, you are putting yourself in very serious trouble. If you think you can do that and get by with it, you are sadly mistaken. You cannot get by with it. God will not tolerate it. May God help you to shun this evil. Also, television could be an asset if it were used in the right way. I do not have a television set. I have not had one since 1964, and I have no plans to get one.

Sin will take you deeper and deeper and will weave such a tangled web in your life that it will be very difficult to get loose from it. If God has spoken to you about something that is not right in your life, you need to heed His voice and get it taken care of before it is too late. Dear one, where it is possible for you to set your wrongs right, you need to do so.

Quite a few years ago a well-known syndicated radio commentator and newspaper columnist received a letter from a young woman. She wrote that when her husband was in the military service during World War II, he was stationed nearby, but she was

unfaithful to him and had a child by another man. When her husband came home, she told him that he had fathered the child. She said that after he got out of the service and the child was beginning to talk, every time the child called her husband daddy, she was convicted in her mind of her sin. She inquired, "I gave my heart to God and became a Christian. What must I do?" That man's answer was, "Do not do anything. God has forgiven you of your sin. You should forget it and go on as if it never happened." That man is guilty of the blood of that woman. You cannot cover your sins and prosper. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Would you want to have a pastor who fails to tell the truth? True pastors preach the Word of God straight. Sometimes people may find fault with a pastor when he tells how it really is. People may say he is too harsh or too dogmatic, but wouldn't you rather have a pastor

who is honest with you?

Men of God are just as human as you are, and sometimes they may not make the right decisions, but you should not find fault with them. A pastor who will tell you the truth is a man who loves your soul. One who does not declare the Truth is a man who is more interested in filling his wallet. I am determined, by the help of God, to preach the Truth, whether people like it or not.

Men who do not love your soul will not tell you the Truth. They are wolves in sheep clothing, just as Matthew 7:15 says. Many people have turned aside from the Truth. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body . . . one Spirit . . . one hope . . . One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all." There is still just one way, and regardless of what men say, you must walk in this way or you cannot make Heaven your home.

(Cassette C-5326M)

God The Greatest Lover
So Loved The Greatest Degree
The World The Greatest Company
That He Gave The Greatest Act
His ONLY Begotten SON The Greatest Gift
That Whosoever The Greatest Opportunity
Believeth The Greatest Simplicity
In HIM The Greatest Attraction
Should Not Perish The Greatest Promise
But The Greatest Difference
Have The Greatest Certainty
Eternal Life The Greatest Possession



My Personal Testimony

The reason I am writing my life story is because God has impressed upon my mind and heart to do it. My prayer is that someone will receive help and live a better life. I am writing this, too, because I feel the Lord would have me to show others what happens or can happen to a person who rejects God and goes out into sin.

My parents no doubt loved us in their way, but they did not show it when we started growing up. My parents did take us to church, but they were like a lot of people today. They would fight and fuss a lot. Mom would go to church, and Dad would not. Then Dad would go and Mom would not. Very few times did they go to church together.

When I was in the sixth grade, I had a teacher named Mr. Hutson. I thought there was no one else in the world like him. He read the Bible each morning and would pray. All of us would say the Lord's prayer and pledge to the flag. I had another English teacher whom I dearly loved. She made me feel like I was somebody. She helped me in so many ways. I thought as a young girl, "Oh, if only my parents would show me that kind of love and care. It would make me so happy." But they did not.

The first time I got saved was when I was in the seventh grade.

The pastor and his wife took an interest in me, prayed for me, and helped me. I would go to school and read the Bible in front of the class. I also sang songs. Some of the kids would make fun of me, but I did not care. However, when I backslid, the same kids came to me and asked what was wrong. They knew I had had something that was real.

I believe if I would have stayed true to the Lord, I would be on a mission field somewhere in the world. The house we lived in at this time had a high front porch, and under it was a big open space. I would pretend I was a nurse and missionary. I had a station made where other playmates would come and I would pretend to give them medicine and tell them about Jesus.

Young person, if you have a Christian home and parents who love you, listen to them, obey them, and do what God wants you to do. I could have made it with God's help, but I did not let Him. There was a lot of pressure from my friends, and since I did not have any help at home, I felt I could not make it.

I started getting into trouble when I was about fourteen. I became friends with a girl who smoked, drank, and chased boys. I did not have to do the things she did, but I thought it was fun and exciting. I remember when I took my first cigarette. I thought I was going to die. I got awfully sick, but after a while it got hold of me and I could not do without them.

Then I started drinking. I became acquainted with a person who was three times my age. I

would skip school and go with him. He bought the liquor. A friend and I hitchhiked to Cambridge to see some boys. Looking back, I can see how God had His hand on my life. I could have been killed.

Finally I decided I did not want to go to school anymore. I wish my parents would have stopped me, but they did not. I talked them into letting me do what I wanted. I started staying out late at night—sometimes all night. I started going to beer joints. I looked older than I was so they let me in. The ones I ran with were older, so they could get drinks for me with no problems.

You might be wondering if I ever thought about the time when I was saved. I surely did, but the devil had such a hold on me, I did not care about anything. I suppose I figured, "Why should I? My parents sure didn't show they cared—and no one else did either."

I left home at the age of sixteen. I got a job in a factory. I also got an apartment. I sure thought I was living. But it was not long until I thought differently. I would get my check and then spend it for clothes, drink, cigarettes, and some food. I would run out of money between paychecks. Then I met and married my husband. When my first son was about six months old, we started going to church. We both got saved. It was wonderful!

I cannot pinpoint the exact time when things started going wrong. Looking back I can see a few reasons thinks did not work out. First of all, we backslid, and after this things

started to get really bad. Although we backslid, we kept going to church and, like a lot of people, professed something we did not have. This did a lot of harm to our children. I blame myself a lot. If only I would have stayed true to the Lord, I would have saved myself a lot of heartache.

Years later things deteriorated drastically between my husband and me, and we were divorced. Following is a letter our daughter Debbie wrote to her teacher during this time:

Mr. Tuttle,

I'm sorry to have to take up your time, but I felt this was necessary. Since both you and I are quite busy throughout the day, I figured it would be better to write this in a letter rather than attempt to have a private conference. Now to get to the point, as you have noticed, my grades are really dropping. I know it is my own fault, and I am not just goofing off or not trying very hard. My parents are getting a divorce Thursday, and this is the worst thing that has ever happened to me. I would like for you to consider these things as much as possible. I will try to pull myself together, but until I do, could you please be a little lenient?

Debbie

This goes to show how your life can really get messed up when you go back on God. Seven spirits worse than before take over your life.

After the divorce I went crazy for about three or four years. Almost every weekend I would go to the bars. I would sometimes get so drunk that I hardly knew where I was. There was no excuse for my actions. If I would have stayed true to the Lord, He would have helped me to carry the burden, but I felt as if my world was gone. I just did not care. I was so hurt about everything. It was more than I could handle on my own.

I felt like my world was gone

and there was no hope for the future. I was seeking something to satisfy, but it only made me go deeper in sin. I was doing things for the time that made me feel good, but it was not a lasting fulfillment. Any time we turn from God and go out in the world, we can never be what we should be, no matter how hard we try.

Looking back on my life, I can see that the hand of God was protecting me even though I was far from Him. I thank the Lord every day for His mercy and grace.

I had so much hate and hurt in my heart that it was blinding me of almost everything that was good and right. I felt I was justified in this, but I was only hurting myself. The thing I regret most is that I failed God and turned my back on the only true source of help and peace.

There came a time when I came to myself, like the prodigal son. I had wasted my life and my reputation. From then until now I have changed. I have not always been a Christian during this time, but I never went back out into deep sin. About seven or eight years ago, the Lord did a work in my heart that has kept me. I have gotten pretty weak at times but never to the place of giving up. I thank the Lord for that! Everyone has areas that the devil works on, and Satan tries to discourage God's people. He knows we have the best thing this side of Heaven, and he does not like it.

Young person, it is so important to really get saved and never go out into sin. You will save yourself a lot of heartache and trouble. Regret is one of the worst things to deal with in life. I messed my life up. What I have written down is only part of my life of sin, but I thank God for His mercy and the fact that He gave me a chance to change. By the help and grace of God, I am going to live for Him until He calls me home.

May God help someone who reads this to be helped, to want to live a better life by seeing what sin will do to a person and also by seeing how God can change a sinful life. May God bless you!

When I came to Jesus, I had nothing to bring,

My substance I'd wasted on life's foolish things.

I wanted forgiveness and freedom from sin,

I bowed before the Savior, and I said to Him:

"I'll furnish the man, if You'll furnish the grace,

Let me take Your hand, let me look on Your face.

I'll do what You bid me, Your will I'll embrace.

I'll furnish the man, if You'll furnish the grace."

The Lord has never failed me, not even one time.

He's kept all His promises, I've tried to keep mine.

Alone, I can't make it, but God has a plan,

Unmerited favor for meritless man.

He'll furnish the grace, if you'll furnish the man,

Give Him your heart, He'll take your hand.

Do what He bids you, follow His plan,

He'll furnish the grace, if you'll furnish the man.

Sometimes I'm tested, sometimes I'm tried,

Sometimes it seems, something's broken inside.

But just when I feel I can't stand anymore,

He pours out His Spirit, my faith to restore.

"I'll furnish the grace, if you'll furnish the man,

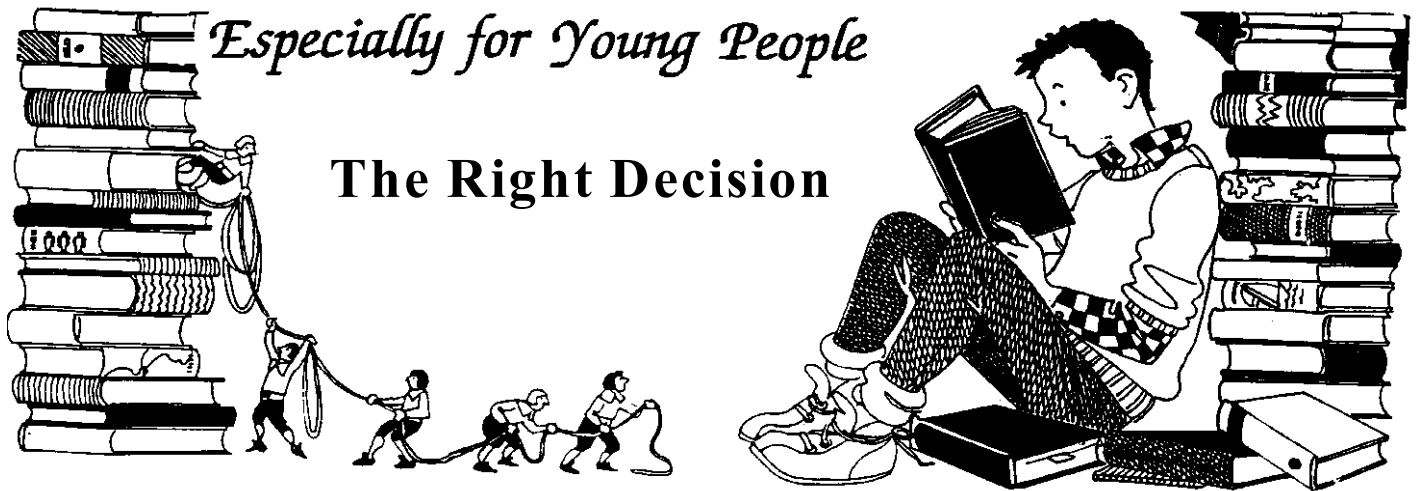
Give Me your heart, I'll take your hand.

Do what I bid you, follow My plan.

I'll furnish the grace, if you'll furnish the man."

Oh! He will furnish the grace if you will furnish the man.

Madeline Darr



Especially for Young People

The Right Decision

It was the beginning of vacation when Mr. Davis, a friend of my father, came to see us and asked to let me go home with him. I was much pleased with the thought of going out of town.

The journey was delightful, and when we reached Mr. Davis' house, everything looked as if I were going to have a fine time. Fred Davis, a boy about my own age, took me cordially by the hand, and all the family soon seemed like old friends.

"This is going to be a vacation worth having," I said to myself several times during the evening, as we all played games, told riddles, and laughed and chatted merrily.

At last, Mrs. Davis said it was almost bedtime. Then I expected family prayers, but we were very soon directed to our chambers. How strange it seemed to me, for I had never before been in a household without the family altar.

"Come," said Fred, "Mother said you and I are going to be bed fellows," and I followed him up two pair of stairs to a nice chamber that he called his room. He opened a drawer and showed me a box, a boat, knives, a powderhorn, and all his treasures, and he told me a world of new things about what the boys did there.

Then he undressed first and jumped into bed. I was much longer about it, for a new set of thoughts began to rise in my mind.

When my mother put my purse into my hand, just before the train

started, she said tenderly, in a low tone, "Remember, Robert, that you are a Christian boy."

I knew very well what that meant, and I had now just come to a point of time when her words were to be minded.

At home I was taught the duties of a Christian child; abroad I must not neglect them, and one of these was evening prayer. From a very little boy, I had been in the habit of kneeling and thanking the Lord for His mercies and seeking His protection and blessing.

"Why don't you come to bed, Robert?" cried Fred. "Why are you sitting there?"

I was afraid to pray and afraid not to pray. It seemed that I could not kneel down and pray before Fred. What would he say? Would he not laugh? The fear of Fred made me a coward. Yet I could not lie down on a prayerless bed. If I needed the protection of my Heavenly Father at home, how much more abroad!

I wished many wishes: that I had slept alone, that Fred would go to sleep, or something else; I hardly knew what. But Fred would not go to sleep.

Perhaps struggles like these take place in the bosom of every boy when he leaves home and begins to act for himself, and on his decision may depend his character for time, and for eternity. With me the struggle was severe.

At last, to Fred's cry, "Come, boy,

come to bed," I mustered courage to say, "I will kneel down and pray first; that is always my custom."

"Pray?" said Fred, turning himself over on his pillow and saying no more.

His propriety of conduct made me ashamed. Here I had long been afraid of him, and yet when he knew my wishes, he was quiet and left me to myself. How thankful I was that duty and conscience triumphed!

That settled my future course. It gave me strength for time to come. I believed that the decision of the "Christian boy," by God's blessing, made me a Christian man; for in after years, I was thrown amid trials and temptations which might have drawn me away from God and from virtue had it not been for my settled habit of secret prayer.

Let every boy who has pious parents, read and think about this. You have been trained in Christian duties and principles. When you go from home, do not leave them behind.

Carry them with you, and stand by them; then in weakness and temptation, by the help of God, they will stand by you.

Take your place like a man on the side of your God and Savior, of your father and mother's God and Savior.

It is by a failure to do this, that so many boys go astray and grow up to be young men dishonoring their parents, without hope and without God in the world.

Selected

The Hidden Manna



Brother Adam Wolf

An Unchangeable Priesthood

In these last days of the Gospel era, we need a real revival. Too many times we have not made clear the difference between revival and evangelism. Although they are closely linked together, *revival* is an experience of the church, and *evangelism* is an expression of the church.

Evan Roberts prayed and sought God's face for that old-fashioned Welsh revival. He said that whenever God is going to do a work, one of the first things that happens is that the saints of God fall under such a heavy burden in prayer because they want to see God send a change. The history books have recorded that when Evan Roberts lay prostrate on his face before God, He sent revival.

I believe we need revival today.

We need a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit, a renewing and an awakening. If there was ever a time when the alarm needed to be sounded in Zion, it is today. We need to be awake, vigilant, and sober, because the enemy is trying to devour us on every side. Some people say, "Certain things have just gone too far, and they can't be brought back." I want to tell you what a fellow once said who was in the business of restoring tractors. He said, "If there is so much as a shadow present, it can be restored." We have more than a shadow, and God wants to bring a great restoration in the evening time of the Gospel Day. He wants the Gospel sickle to be thrust in, and He wants to garner a people for Him in these last days.

In the Book of Hebrews, the writer was not writing to put

a difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The only things that changed were the ceremonies and the rituals. Although they laid aside the ceremonies and the rituals, the spiritual Truth that was promised was provided. The writer was comparing the Levitical priesthood to the Melchisedec priesthood, showing how the priesthood changed when Jesus Christ came and gave His life and that we now have an unchangeable priesthood.

What was known as the old heaven and the old earth (the old ceremonies, rituals, and ordinances and the worldly sanctuary), were replaced by a divine, eternal sanctuary. Now we have received an eternal priesthood. We have been given things that will never pass away. I am glad that Jesus Christ is

still walking in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. We do not have to worry about that place ever becoming vacant. He is still the Head of the church, and He is still all in all to the body of Christ.

The Hebrew writer gave a description of some things that pertained to the Old Testament worldly sanctuary. He wrote in Hebrews 9:1, "Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary." The service that was incorporated in that Old Testament was divine. Everything about its type and its shadow portrayed Jesus Christ. That is the reason Hebrews 13:8 states that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the same in the Old Testament and the New Testament, and He will be the same throughout eternity. Thank God, He never changes.

"He That Hath an Ear, Let Him Hear"

Hebrews 9:2-5 states: "For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the showbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the Ark of the Covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly."

Revelation 2:12-17 reads: "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou

hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

Revelation 11:19, speaking of when the seventh trumpet had sounded, says, "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake, and great hail."

I want you to notice that in the seventh-seal age, God's temple is an open temple. By the preaching of the Gospel, we make the way for those in darkness to come to the light. By the preaching of the Gospel and by holding the sound doctrines of Jesus Christ, we help others to see the way out of Babylon. Remember, Babylon is a spiritual condition that people get into. They become so confused in their walk that they do not know the left hand from the right hand, spiritually speaking.

I want to study with you concerning the hidden manna and our witness to the next generation. We are living in perilous times. There is trouble on every side, but thank God, we are not forsaken. We still have a lively hope in Christ Jesus the Lord. Whenever Israel went into battle and carried the ark, it signified the visible presence of the invisible God. Whenever wholesome, sound doctrine is being preached from the pulpit, that is an earmark of God that the ark of the covenant (or God's presence) is still

in the camp of the saints. When we preach sound doctrine with the right spirit, God will always bless it.

The ark was covered with pure gold, without and within, and the glory of God rested above the cherubims. John was put on the Isle of Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. The Bible says he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and he heard behind him a great voice as of a trumpet. He looked and saw Christ in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. There Christ was arrayed in His high priestly apparel, and He had a sharp, two-edged sword coming out of His mouth. He was willing and ready to supply all the needs of the church.

I thank God that Christ is still here for you and me. We need to realize that what God has given us is divine. We have a divine sanctuary and a divine High Priest. He will never leave us nor forsake us, but we must obey Him. He is blessing us and helping us to be the church.

"Ask for the Old Paths"

In the Old Testament the tabernacle had an outer court and two rooms called the holy place, or the holy of holies, and the most holy place, or the holiest of all. These are types of the dispensations of God throughout the Old Testament and into the New Testament. The outer court represented the Patriarchal age, before the Law of Moses was given. Abraham and the other patriarchs had altars, but they did not have a tabernacle, or a temple. The holy place was a type of the Law age, in which God had a tabernacle built. There Moses received the Law to give light to the people concerning how they should keep themselves separate from the world and from the world's religions.

Next was the most holy place, which typified the New Testament Dispensation. If you study it, you will find that there was no seat in the holy place, because there was no rest in the Law. The Law was a

schoolmaster to bring men and women to Christ, not just in the New Testament age, but that Law brought men and women to Christ in the Old Testament age as well. That is the reason Jeremiah said to seek the old paths wherein is the good way. What good way was he speaking of? He was speaking of the way of Christ, where you can find rest for your soul. Jeremiah 6:16 states, "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

As I already mentioned, the Law was a schoolmaster to bring people to Jesus Christ. Just as the Law brought people to Christ in the Old Testament, so it does today. It is a government, and it is a revelation to people to reveal their sinfulness. When one sees his sinfulness, he begins to seek a way out. The Law then points that person to Christ. It did this in the Old Testament age, and we know it did not fail its service. I repeat, the Law was a schoolmaster to bring men and women to Christ in the Old Testament age. God was with them, according to Acts, Chapter 7, in that Old Testament tabernacle. He was with Daniel down in Babylon. When the people obeyed what the Law said to do, there was life in the obedience to those commandments, just as there is today.

A Spiritual Declension

The candlesticks represent the light of Truth to every generation. In the Pergamos age, which was the third candlestick age, from A.D. 530 to A.D. 1530, there are things about that age that parallel some things in our age. That period is known as the Dark Ages. It was a time in medieval history when people had forsaken the Word of God. The Word of God had been misplaced by the masses.

God has been faithful to every generation. I want you to see that what happened in the Dark Ages

came about gradually. In the beginning of the Gospel Day, the woman was standing on the moon, clothed in the sun. She had full Gospel light, but an apostasy came. Men and women left the heights of Zion and walked gradually into an apostasy, a spiritual declension. They walked away from God, and because of that, untold multitudes of people went into the Dark Ages and never came back out to live for God. The apostolic doctrines and teachings were replaced by superstitions and traditions of men. The masses were not literate people, and because of that, they had to go to the priests to get understanding. Therefore, through their ignorance, the enemy got in. The priests kept from them the key of knowledge.

This should serve as a warning to us today. We must be careful and prayerful. The enemy is doing everything he can to try to deceive us. He can make something look so close to being right that you can become confused about what is right. The church was walking in the light of God and in the glory of Christ while the Apostles' doctrines were being fed to them. What happened? An apostasy took place. Eusebius, the Greek historian, tells us that around A.D. 270, traditions were replacing the Word of God. The people slowly lost sight of the truths and the principles to which they once adhered.

One thing that was lost was the humility and the equality among the ministry. I will tell you one thing: if a man cannot take the back seat, so to speak, and rejoice, he ought not to have the front seat. God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him. One ought to be just as willing to rejoice sitting in the back seat as in the front. Today there is a loss of humility and equality in the ministry, just as there was in that day. That is the reason we have experienced some things today. There are too many big I's and little you's. This thing is not about self; this is about Christ and about God's glory. Untold millions have laid down their

lives for the furtherance of the Gospel. One should not get up a miff tree because he does not get to preach, because someone did not like his message, or because someone called him a heretic. That is not the reason one preaches. He should preach for the glory of God, for the edification of the church, and for the salvation of sinners.

An Apostatizing Ministry

Prior to the Dark Ages, the morning-time glory was before them, but slowly and gradually, a ministry led them away. (God help the true ministry today to be faithful to their calling.) According to Revelation 6:1-2, when the first seal was opened, the rider on the white horse came forth with victory. It portrays a type of the church going forth under the new covenant. They went forth preaching that Christ had fulfilled everything He said He would do. God was blessing them, but it was not long until that apostatizing ministry began to teach the Word of God at a starvation rate.

We know very well that when Truth goes forth, persecution arises. That is the reason the second rider came forth in Revelation 6:3-4 riding on a red horse. What is that a picture of? Whenever the church came against Rome and preached against its idols, Rome fought back with persecution, and there was bloodshed. The church raised the sword of Truth, but Rome raised the sword of persecution.

Next, Revelation 6:5 speaks of a black horse, which symbolizes an apostatizing ministry. Roman Catholicism never had the Truth to give out at a starvation rate. An apostatizing ministry held just enough Truth over people to deceive them rather than to declare the full council of God. This ministry slowly led the people astray. That was how the Dark Ages came about.

In Revelation 6:5-6 John said: "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo

a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

These verses of Scripture show how the ministry dealt out the Word of God at a starvation rate: three measures of barley to one measure of wheat (or three measures of leaven to one measure of meal). Because of that, the church entered into a starvation period of time.

Though the Dark Ages were coming, and did come, the church fell under great persecution. Thank God, man can do nothing against the Truth but what it turns *for* the Truth. It was not Roman Catholicism that killed the two witnesses (the Word and the Spirit); Protestantism did that. The apostatizing ministry was dealing the Word out in one measure of wheat to three measures of barley. There was leaven in the meal. In other words, the traditions and the superstitions and the dogmas of men replaced the Word of God. Because of that, slowly and gradually, the church began to go into the Dark Ages, and that is when the next seal was opened.

Spiritual Death

Revelation 6:7-8 states: "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." John was talking about what he saw in Revelation 13:1-10 and in Revelation 13:11-18. He saw some "beasts." Paul said he warred against beasts at Ephesus. He was not fighting literal lions, tigers, and bears. Paul was fighting false teachers who were trying to tear down the work that he had planted. He wrestled

with spiritual "beasts."

I want you to notice that spiritual death came. It will still work that way in people's lives today. The moment the ministry tries to supplant the Word of God with men's ideas, or the authority of Christ with man rule, people will go into darkness. What happened to the equality of the ministry? It was lost because a bishopric took its place. They went from having God-called, God-pastored men over the flock to making the man who had the largest congregation the overseer of smaller congregations. Hence, the ecclesiastical hierarchy for the Roman Catholic Church was beginning.

Friend, it does not matter who has the largest congregation or the smallest congregation. What matters is that each pastor is God-called and God-sent and that they are servants to one another. Let glory be where God places it. Things do not just happen. There are courses of events that bring about happenings. Eusebius said the people fell away from the teachings of the Apostles about A.D. 270, and through persecution the church was scattered.

A famine was in the land because the ministry did not deal out the Word of God. Instead they dealt out the sayings and the traditions of men. The Word of God was slowly supplanted and tares appeared. Jesus told about the tares that were sowed among the wheat. We have seen that in our day. Nevertheless, God still has a church. He still has a people, and He still has ministers who will stand without fear or favor of men and lay judgment on wrong and spare not. God still has a people who will listen to Him.

All things work for the betterment of the Church of God. I do not know how God is going to do it, but I know He will. He has always done things according to Truth. That is what Elisha had to teach his young servant. He did not say, "What shall we do?" He said,

"How shall we do?" We know what we are going to do: we are going to obey God. However, how God is going to have us do it, we do not know.

An apostate ministry supplanted the Truth, and spiritual death came. They burned the Bibles, and what Bibles remained were translated into either Latin, Hebrew, or Aramaic. The only ones who knew how to read them were the educated, so guess who they had to go to for instruction? The people had to go to the Roman Catholic priests to supposedly hear from God, but they did not teach the people the Word of God. History shows us that they were taught superstitions and traditions and commandments of men. They were taught catechism in order to be part of the Roman Catholic system. It did not bring men and women to Christ; it kept them from finding Him.

The Time of Reformation

One day as I was reading about the history of the reformation, I read about when Martin Luther went into the library and was reading the forbidden Book that was chained to the pulpit. No one was supposed to read it. As he read it, something kept drawing him back there, and he wondered, "Why am I being drawn to it if it is the forbidden Book and nobody is supposed to read it?" As he went back there repeatedly, he read in the Roman letter that "the just shall live by faith." God kindled a flame in Martin Luther's heart that revealed a truth to him in the sixteenth century, thank God. After that, he nailed those ninety-five theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and took a visible stand.

Today many people do not truly see the church. They carry their Bibles, but they do not walk with Christ. We are in a time of specious apostasy. Just as the church had been hidden behind the ecclesiastical rubbish of the Roman Catholic Church for one thousand years

(from A.D. 530 to A.D. 1530), today the church is experiencing similar things. Thank God, our Bibles have not been burned, but the church that was once strong and visible several years ago is being replaced. The generation coming on has not seen what some older saints have seen. The blame is laid at the feet of the ministry. They bear the iniquity of the sanctuary. Like priest, like people. God help God-called pastors to love the Truth and to love Christ enough to be willing to lay down their lives for one another.

During the Dark Ages, the church had been hidden, and the two witnesses fed her hidden manna. At that time, some Christians were born in the catacombs and died there, without ever seeing the light of the sun. Many people suffered for the Truth that we are so privileged to have today. The light of Truth during the Dark Ages had eclipsed, and the church was hidden in obscurity. One historian wrote that the Church of the Living God resided within the hearts of only a few solitary, faithful saints. The Kingdom of God in its strength shows the church in its visibility.

Roman Catholicism was a politico-religious system controlling many things that happened for a thousand years. Thank God, when the Reformation came, light came, and people began to get the victory, but it cost the church: between fifty-five and sixty-five million Christians were martyred. I want to remind you that the Church of God only moves forward on her knees. The blood of the martyrs is the seedbed of the Church of God. If you are not willing to sacrifice all for her, you cannot be a part of her. On the other hand, you can be a part of her if you are willing to say, "It doesn't matter what it costs or what I have to do, Lord. I want to be a part of Your work, and I want to have a part with Your people." Friend, you may go through fiery trials, but there is going to be revelation given. There is going to be a Presence given, right in the fire that will keep you so that

you can be a part of the true Church of God.

The Faithfulness That God Requires

In Revelation 2:12 John wrote, "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges." When Christ goes to work on situations, His sword cuts both ways. It is a sharp, two-edged sword. When it goes to work on apostatizers, it has cutting power. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discern-er of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Paul said in Ephesians 6:17 that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Christ put the Word in Martin Luther's hands, and he began to blow the trumpet and sound an alarm against the Roman Catholic Church. He caused that beast to receive a wound by the sword, and its power was blighted temporarily.

The remnant that remained true to God in the Dark Ages were faithful, but it cost them. Today it still costs us as saints to be part of God's chosen, despised few. That is the reason Revelation 2:13 says, "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." This teaches that when we stand for Truth in an apostatizing age, when darkness is trying to come in, some people will lay down their lives for it. I do not know if you realize it, friend, but we may not be too far away from a day like that in America, where we might not have the freedom and the liberty to proclaim things that we did in days gone by.

I trust that you can see that God had a church in the Dark Ages that

stood the test of time, and Antipas was a part of her. He is a type to us in this hour of suffering that we are passing through. We must not get confused about the things that God has shown us to be Truth. Never leave the Truth. Antipas refused to bow down to the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic system. It cost him his head, but it did not cost him his soul.

This example teaches us the faithfulness that God requires. Why did those brethren lay down their lives? They did so because of the hidden manna. There is an experience that God gives each child of God that is worth more than this world could ever pile up in its treasures. The Christian experience is a walk with God that is a treasure beyond anything that you could ever find in this time world, and it will last longer than this time world. God had those faithful few back then who stood the test of time and kept His name. They refused to bow down and become defiled by a system of men, by its error and false doctrines. They refused to commit spiritual fornication. False religion tries to lure men and women to commit spiritual fornication. What is spiritual fornication? It is church joining. False religion says, "Come and join us!" Church of God, we are not to join a church. We are born into the Church of God. We hold that name faithfully. God put His name on the church as a point of identification.

The saints who lived during the Dark Ages refused the false doctrines of that day. They refused to commit spiritual fornication, and they held true His name. There was a remnant that kept the fire burning and held fast to sound doctrine. They were overcomers. Today we must be overcomers. We surely have many things to overcome, but thank God, we can do it by the grace of God. We can be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. We have some things to overcome to show men and women in this generation that God still has a people who

are willing to suffer for the cause of Christ.

What are you willing to lose for the cause of Christ? Some people do not like their reputation being ruined. Well, that might happen, but you can live it down, by God's grace. Some preacher may say, "I am afraid that if I preach this way, my ministry will be cut off and my denomination will put me out." It tests our love. I have been cut off, put out, shut down, and cast out. I have been given a good name and a bad name. I have been given the front seat and the back seat. I have been falsely accused and cussed at. All those things happened, but it does not change the message, and it does not change the law. It gives me an even greater reason to live for God. Those are earmarks that we are on God's side.

A Faithful Remnant

God has a faithful remnant today. Our cry is the same as it was under the sixth seal: unity, holiness, and oneness. That message has not changed, thank God! However, we must do more than preach it; we must practice it. Whatever the cost, Church of God, we must practice unity. If we are going to preach it, then we must practice it. If God sees that it is needful for one to sit down and take the back seat, then he ought to sit down and take the back seat. Too many times individuals are not willing to do that, and they fail God and disappoint the saints.

Unity, holiness, and oneness are the watchwords of the evening-time restoration. We ought to be faithful not only to God but also to one another. It does not matter whether or not you see everything I see or vice versa. What matters is that we have love one to another and that we do everything we can to help God's blessing to be upon our lives, even if it means laying down my ministry or your ministry.

We need strength in unity, love, and holiness. Holiness prepared the way for the evening-light message.

The message of sanctification, holiness, and oneness must be proclaimed. Why? Sanctification is your working out what God is showing you to obey, and holiness is your resting in it. Many ministers are afraid to preach on sanctification. We need the message of sanctification to know how to live for God and to be separate for His cause and His kingdom.

The Law of the Church

The hidden manna that God promised is given only to the overcomer. God has some things in this age that I believe He wants to give us, such as revival and restoration, but we are not going to receive it unless we are willing to practice it and preach it. We must be willing to go the second mile. Jesus took the blame for me. I am glad some saints took the blame for me. They were not looking out for their own cause. They wanted to see their brother receive help.

One brother used to sing a song that says, *"Somebody prayed for me. They had me on their mind, They sacrificed their time, They fell down on their knees and prayed for me. They had no doubt that God could bring me out, That He could change my life and set me free. Oh, I'm so glad that somebody prayed for me."*

Why is equality lost many times? It is lost because love is weak. Does your first love need to be renewed? We each should feel our unworthiness in the things of God, yet walk worthy of our vocation. The saints of old had a revelation from God that brought the church out of the Dark Ages and out of the cloudy day of Protestantism. There was something burning in the souls of those men and women that they could not let go. In this day and age, we are facing things that we need to overcome.

The Hebrew writer said that in the Ark of the Covenant was the Law. Many people do not like God's law, and some ministers do not like it. That is what happened in the

Dark Ages. It got to the place where some people who once liked God's law no longer liked it. There are laws in the church. The church has a government, but it is not an ecclesiastical hierarchy of men. The law of the Church of God is the Word of God. The One who enforces it is the Holy Ghost. If people are not willing to obey that Word, they are cutting themselves off from the Kingdom of God, or the Church of God, and from the blessings of God.

When God calls a ministry, He calls them to stay with His law. When I mention the law, I am not just talking about the Law of Moses; I am talking about the law of Truth. That law becomes a fence to the house, and then God sends ministers to execute it. Why did God have Moses put Aaron's rod, which budded, inside the ark? The Lord wanted that rod in there because not everyone who says he is called really is. Not everyone who can preach is God-called, otherwise there would not be false prophets. This shows us that the true ministry of God will exercise those things that brought the church into visibility, oneness, and unity.

A Witness for Coming Generations

In Numbers, Chapter 17, Moses had to prove which tribe was chosen for the priesthood. Each of the twelve tribes brought a rod to Moses, and he laid them out before the Lord. Aaron's rod was the only one that budded. When a person's ministry is bearing the fruit of reconciliation and the fruit of reaching out in fellowship, you had better beware of fighting against that.

The rod, or the Word, is what the church is measured by. Jesus said in Matthew 7:16, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." God also told Moses to place some manna in the ark. It was hidden manna because not everyone saw it. It was hidden in the holiest of all, secluded there as a witness for coming generations. We read in Joshua 5:12 that when

Israel went into the Promised Land, the manna ceased and they ate the old corn of the land. That is a type to us. One blessing of the overcomers was that they got to eat the fruit of the land of Canaan. You and I are able to appropriate into our lives the graces and the fruit of the Spirit.

The hidden manna was kept in a pot as a witness for the coming generations; it was preserved. I thank God that the Church of God, and the bread she gives to the nations are preserved by the power of God. My friend, you may try to shut down a man of God, but God will make sure he gets back up. How many times did that happen to Martin Luther, John Wycliff, and John Huss? When men thought they were silencing them, it only opened up the picture in a greater way.

When they went to burn John Huss in 1415, he said, "This day you roast a goose, but a hundred years from now God will raise up a swan that you will neither roast nor boil." Approximately one hundred years later, Martin Luther started teaching the students of Oberlin College in Germany that "The just shall live by faith." Thank God, that swan's message spread, and it has never been silenced.

The hidden manna was preserved inside the ark for generations so that Truth was preserved among people who loved it. The hidden manna was protected in the Ark of the Covenant in the holiest of all. It was there as a perfect witness to the coming generations of what God can do with people who obey Him. Likewise, we are blessed when we have Truth in our hearts. It has a preserving nature, a perfecting nature, and a protecting nature. It is able to keep us.

Life in Christ

Exodus 25:10-11 tells us: "And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And

thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about." This tells how the ark was built and overlaid with gold inside and outside. It teaches us how God requires each one in the Church of God to have His divine nature. Gold is a similitude of divine things, or costly things. God wants us to have holiness within and without, without which no man can see the Lord.

The Church of God has a standard of living, and it is holiness within and without. Also, she has a dress standard, but the dress standard is to protect your never-dying soul. Holiness preserves us in the blessings of God, and it perfects us according to Truth. In Second Peter 1:4 Peter said the saints have been made partakers of the divine nature. Why does God call His people out of Babylon? Because Babylon is not feeding people the Word of God that is able to transform them. In fact, it kills those who have been fed.

Thank God, in the Church of God you can have the whole roll, and it is still a sweet roll. This shows how God wants to fill our hearts and lives with His presence and perfect our walk with Him. He will supply all our needs. The inner life of real salvation and holiness is preserved by obedience to the Truth. My friend, if you have a weakness, Christ can make it strong. If there is a blight in your spiritual condition, you have no one to blame but yourself. He preserves the inner life, and it is a place of safety.

Saint, you are God's tabernacle, and when you have Christ in you, He gives you life in Him. The hidden manna is life in Him that is preserved by His power. You will go through things in your Christian experience that will test how much you love the Bread of Life. That is where the ministry comes in. Aaron's rod was in the ark because the ministry is to teach people how to give themselves to God so that they might be sanctified.

Every born-again Christian has

to deal with a fellow called self. The flesh wants to take back some territory. This is where the sanctification message comes in. You need God's grace to get victory over self just as you needed God's grace to get victory over sin. You cannot go in your own strength. You need God's help. At times, you will need to rededicate your life to God. There are many works of God's grace. Sometimes you will need to bow before God and say, "God, I can't go on anymore. It's not sin I'm dealing with; it is constitutions of my own makeup that I am not happy with: my moods and my disposition. I bring them to You. Change me, Lord, and make me what You want me to be."

Guard the Hidden Manna

It is the ministry's job to lead the church to the place where they will guard the hidden manna with everything they have. The Bible says the manna that fell in the wilderness tasted like wafers made with honey. Exodus 16:31 says, "And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey." When we go through hard times, may God help us not to lose the sweetness that produces brotherly love, kindness, and forgiveness.

Concerning forgiveness, some people have the idea that unless every detail about a situation is brought out, it can never be forgiven or dealt with. I want to help you when it comes to forgiveness. When Joseph's brothers had wronged him and went to Joseph, he simply forgave them. Not every little detail has to be thrashed over for forgiveness and love to take hold. Joseph's brothers never told him of the deception they worked.

Some people are not happy unless others know what happened to them. What about hiding some things under love? I am not talking about making excuses for wrongdoing; I am talking about repentant people who are coming God's way.

Love covers a multitude of sins. Let us keep God's testimony for the future generation. Friend, do you have the sweetness of brotherly kindness and holiness in your soul? Are you willing to do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

Jesus said in John 6:49, "Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness." In verse 48 He said, "I am that bread of life." The manna that came down from above was a type of Christ's incarnation. He came from above down to this earth, but that manna ceased. That was a type of His temporal life, and it ceased. Then they ate the old corn of the land. A corn stalk grows up from the earth. That was a type of Christ's Resurrection.

What does that do for us? God gives us that manna so that we can bring death to the old life. Once we become dead to self, He gives us resurrecting power through sanctification and holiness so that we can

walk in newness of life. The hidden manna is in your soul, Christian friend, and you can feast on it.

Thank God, we can draw off that hidden manna. Christ is there for you and me at the right hand of God. We can receive supernatural strength from that manna. It was given as a type of justification. You did not earn it. You have to obey the Truth. You have to study the Book and bring it into your life, and then God will bless you. Consecration causes you to bring forth fruit. You should not expect God to sanctify what you will not dedicate. God takes the manna and hides it in your heart, and you become a most holy place for Him.

I ask you, in closing, how much are you willing to suffer for the church's sake? How much personal loss are you willing to suffer for the church's sake and for the sinner's sake? Is that hidden manna in your heart or have worms bred in it and

caused it to no longer satisfy? When that occurs, it shows up in your talents: you will lose the joy of singing, the joy of preaching, and the joy of sacrifice. God will test you, and sometimes He will stretch you beyond measure. He wants to see if you are willing to lay your all on the altar.

I trust that God has helped you to see the critical age in which we are living. If there was ever a time for tenderheartedness and willingness, so that our fruit might remain to the coming generation, it is now. Christ said in Revelation 2:17, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

(Cassette C-5263E)

Daddy Had a Little Boy

*Daddy had a little boy,
His soul was white as snow;
He never went to Sunday school
'Cause Daddy wouldn't go.*

*He never heard the Word of God
That thrills the childish mind;
While other children went to class,
This child was left behind.*

*As he grew from babe to youth,
Dad saw to his dismay,
A soul that once was snowy white
Become a dingy gray.*

*Dad even started back to church
And Bible study too;
He begged the pastor, "Isn't there
A thing that you can do?"*



*The preacher tried and tried, and said,
"We're just too far behind;
I tried to tell you years ago,
But you would pay no mind."*

*And so another soul was lost,
That once was white as snow;
Sunday school would have helped,
But Daddy would not go.*

Selected

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them [that is where many people have problems].

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.



Brother Irwin Seshier

The Clutches of Sin

I am thankful that I do not have to walk in the paths of darkness any longer. It is a joy to know that with Christ is light, and light is Christ. There is no brighter light than that of Christ. It was not many years ago that I was walking in the paths of darkness, and I am sure you were too. I would not allow anyone to talk to me or instruct me. I thought I was my own boss. Then one day a still, small voice called me and said, "You can't make it on your own." That made me angrier, and I was

determined to prove that voice wrong, so I went deeper into sin. That was exactly what the enemy wanted me to do. The devil wants to try to get you to ignore that still, small voice until you can no longer hear its pleading, but God is faithful, and He will be true to your soul. To get help for your never-dying soul, you must heed that still, small voice. The more that voice dealt with me, trying to break down my old stony heart, the more I tried to ignore it. I thank God that He never gave up on me, and if you are saved, you can say the same thing. My desire is to

walk close to Him so that He will keep working with me. I want Him to guide and direct me each day, because I do not want to go back to sinful things. It is important to remember that nothing is worthwhile out in the world.

Do you remember the time when you heard His voice? You should not turn away from Him, but you need to get tuned into His voice. If you surrender your heart and life to God, He will help you. God is still in the saving business. He does not want to see men and women go their own way. There is help in the

Lord. The Holy Spirit could have easily given up on me, but He did not. I was living in disobedience, not only to God but also to my parents. Others tried to get me to straighten out, but sin has a drawing power, and it kept me in Satan's control. You cannot get out of sin any time you want to. You may try to do better once in a while, but until you give your heart and life to God, you cannot get free.

There is an allurements to sin, much like the Venus Flytrap plant is alluring to the fly. It has a sweet odor that emits from its leaves, and that odor attracts the insect to it. The Venus Flytrap has projections like spikes inside each leaf so that when a fly gets in there, the leaf folds shut quickly around it. One-tenth of a second is all it takes to trap the fly.

Have you ever thought of a plant as carnivorous? The Venus Flytrap is a carnivorous plant; in other words, it is a meat eater. It attracts and kills insects. It is a deadly plant to the insect, just as sin is deadly to the souls of men and women. Sin will wrap its tentacles around you until you feel that you cannot get free. Satan works to shut the door of sin on one quickly. He wants you to think there is no way out. At first, he will let you think that you can go and do anything you want to do. You may say, "I don't need anybody to tell me what to do." Friend, you need God to help you.

While inside the pod of the Venus Flytrap plant, the fly struggles to get free. Frantically, it moves around trying to get out of the leaves that snapped shut on it, but the more it struggles, the more the plant secretes juices to start the digestive process, and the fly becomes numb to everything around it. That is the way sin works. It will numb you to everything around you.

Sin is darkness, and the clutches of sin will keep you engulfed in darkness. The visual effects of billboard advertisements cause people to think that they can partake of sin and get by. That is how the devil

works to draw you into darkness. If you are not strong spiritually, sin will ensnare you and take you down.

The Deceptiveness of Sin

The billboards show you the glamorous side of sin, but they do not show the dark side. Advertisers know that if they were to show you the end results of the evil, you probably would never indulge. Therefore, they never reveal the harmful effects.

You might have people all around you who love and care for you, and you may attend revival after revival, but as long as you are living in sin, you are still in darkness. The devil will cause you to think that because you go to church, you are all right. That is the deceitfulness of sin. Simply going to church does not make you a saint of God, just as walking into a garage does not make you a mechanic. Sin is a destroyer of everything that is good. The devil does not want to see you do well spiritually. Sinner friend, please heed the warning. Again, sin is a destroyer of that which is good. James 1:15 reads, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

The effects of sin are not very pretty sights to see. When sin works on an individual, it is a sad situation. Dear one, sin wants to take you all the way down physically, mentally, financially, and especially spiritually. Sin will drain you in every way, and when it is finished, it brings death. The habits that you partake of in sin will bring not only physical death but also spiritual death. Then you will be lost forever, and you will wish that you had listened to those who tried to warn you and steer you away from sin's destruction, but it will be too late.

Darkness is a terrible thing, yet many people are in darkness and do not even realize it. They think that because they go to church, they are okay. That is a deception of sin's

darkness. Sinner friend, you do not have to walk down that dark path any longer. There is hope for your soul.

God wants to see you do well in your life. He does not want to see you wreck it. That is not why He created you. You were created to be one of His children and to serve Him. You should not go on in disobedience. The enemy wants you to believe there is no hope, but there is hope. Your hope is in Christ Jesus. He can change that hope into reality. You may say, "I've gone too far in sin." No, you have not! God can reach down into that pit and lift you up no matter how vile a sinner you are, but to get help, you must reach up and take hold of the lifeline that He is offering you. I have never read an account of an person who was drowning in a sea who refused to grab a life preserver when it was offered to him. They strive desperately to reach that life preserver. There is hope for your never-dying soul in Christ Jesus.

The many people who died when the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic had no hope of being rescued physically. Their hope was gone. Before that ship made her maiden voyage, one man said, "It is unsinkable. God Himself couldn't sink this ship!" What a terrible statement to make! All that had to happen was for an iceberg to tear into the side of the Titanic to cause it to sink.

Friend, you can have hope in your soul today. It is founded on the promises of God Himself. He made a way so that you do not have to live in sin any longer. If you get saved, you will wonder, "Why did I live that long in sin?" Salvation is joy unspeakable and full of glory! I have found it so!

Are You Looking for Good News?

Living for Jesus Christ is truly joy unspeakable. Every day brings something different. God can bless you and help you. He is your Rock and Comforter. He will be there for

you in every time of need. Being in the light is a joyous possession. I appreciate the light of God's Word, what the Lord has shown me, what He has brought me from, and what He will lead me to. Church, we have a hope. We have One who cares and wants to see us do well.

When Jesus Christ comes on the scene, the old devil has to flee. He cannot stay around while you are rejoicing in the light of God's Word. If you are discouraged or feeling down, there is encouragement in Christ Jesus. When the enemy comes to you and badgers you from every angle, you can say, "Lord, help me. I rebuke the devil in the name of Jesus Christ," and he will flee from you. You do not have to sit and take his harassment all the time. There is power in Jesus! He gives you His power through the Holy Spirit to fight the enemy.

The Prophet Isaiah penned in Isaiah 60:20, "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." He wrote in Isaiah 2:5, "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD."

Jesus said in John 12:36, "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." Saint, you need to let your light shine. You are the light of the world. God's people have something wonderful to offer the world today. Is your light as it should be? You cannot help anyone else around you if you reject light, or Truth.

First John 1:5 tells us, "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Sinner friend, you cannot find fault with God and His way. He is perfect, and He will be true to your soul. He will show you what you need to do and instruct you in how to do it. However, He will not tolerate disobedience to His Word. There is no error in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the Good News. I like to hear good news,

don't you? If the Internal Revenue Service were to call and say, "Mr. Seshier, there was a mistake on your taxes, so we're sending you a check for five hundred dollars," that would be good news! Should my mechanic call and say, "Mr. Seshier, we worked on your car, and the repair cost is three hundred dollars less than the estimate we gave you," that would be good news!

It is great to get good news about material things, but that cannot even compare to the Good News we have in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have to say, it is wonderful, glorious news! Sinner friend, what you need is to have Jesus Christ living in your soul. If you will surrender your life to Him, there is no way that you will want to go back into the darkness of this old world. You need to invite the Lord into your heart and let Him bathe your soul with His marvelous light.

Is Your Light Growing Dim?

Too many people entertain worldly thoughts of doing this and that. They need to quit entertaining such thoughts and move further up the ladder with Jesus Christ. Let Jesus Christ take that marvelous spotlight of His and shine it down into your heart and soul and show you what you need to lay aside in your life so that you can enjoy this wonderful life.

In this old, dark, sin-cursed world, we need the light every day. Many things come against the child of God. The world is waxing worse and worse. You need to stand up and let people know exactly how you stand. Without Christ we would be wandering in darkness. Sometimes that darkness is so thick that you can almost feel it, but when a ray of light comes in and dispels the darkness, you can say, "Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul. I see exactly what You want me to do." There should not be so many sitting around and having pity parties and saying, "Oh, I don't know if I can make it."

The true Church of God has the light, and that light must shine forth in you and me. It is not in the church building; it must be seen in you and me, child of God. Others should feel a difference when you walk on the job. Should friends or co-workers want to tell a smutty story, you ought to say, "I don't want to hear it." More than once people have asked me, "Do you want to hear a joke?" I say, "If it's not clean, I don't want to hear it." Being a child of God produces a difference that people can see and feel.

It is time to get things in order. Souls need to be saved and bodies need to be healed. You need to be a witness to others. There is a work to do. You need to have the Lord place a soul on your heart, and then work to see that dear one saved. You should not surmise this or that. You should get your own thinking out of the way and do what the Spirit of God says. Others need to have the seed of the Gospel planted in their hearts. Only God knows how soon time will run out and eternity will begin. We are going to be held responsible for the ones we failed to help.

Child of God, is that light shining as brightly down in your soul as it once was? Is the light of the Gospel illuminating your way? Are you as strong and dedicated to God now as you were when you first got saved? Does your soul continually cry out for more of Jesus and less of you? You cannot move up on the spiritual ladder if you keep putting self in the way. Remember, a little darkness will hinder the effectiveness of the light.

Many people have dust-to-dawn lights in front of their houses, and usually when one of those lights starts to go bad, it gradually becomes dimmer and dimmer before it goes out completely. Well, one night I kept looking at our light and did not realize that the light was about to go out until it actually went out.

Later we had a new one installed, and oh, how bright it was! As I thought about not realizing

how dim the light had become, I thought, "That is just how sin is." It will gradually dim your spiritual eyesight to the degree that, eventually, you will not see anything

wrong in anything. Do you want more light? Do you want to do more things for God? Do you want to be right where God wants you to be, yet you are not doing that? You

need to seek the Lord wholeheartedly.

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[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]

The Patriarch Job has been a great example to many throughout the ages. He was tried severely in many ways. He lost all his earthly possessions and his children. His body was sorely afflicted with boils from head to foot, and even his wife told him that he should "curse God, and die" (Job 2:9). He refused her suggestion. In all of Job's misfortune, financial reverses, and the affliction he suffered, he did not surrender or lose his faith in God. No doubt, many times things really looked dark and hopeless, yet he held fast to the hand of God. Regardless of his physical hardships, he believed that God would bring him through with victory. Job was willing to die trusting God. We read his words recorded in Job 13:15, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust

in him." Job's faith in God was firm and unmovable regardless of his feelings, his sufferings, or any opposition the devil hurled at him.


Dear reader, is there a question or a doubt regarding your experience with God? If so, you can go to Him in prayer and ask Him to reveal any shortcoming in your life that needs to be corrected. In Psalm 139:23-24 David penned these words: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." David said "Search me," and then he added "lead me." God does not want you to be in doubt and confusion regarding your soul's welfare. Do not allow your feelings to overly affect you. Remember, feelings can rise and fall due to circumstances. Known sin in

the heart is the thing that will separate you from God.

In Hebrews 4:3 we read, "For we which have believed do enter into rest. . . ." When real faith is exercised, rest comes to the soul and the mind. Satan's desire is to rob men and women of this rest God has given. He will do everything possible to mar it. He slyly uses feelings many times to misguide ones, thus hindering their peace and rest. Remember the old adage: "Peace is not a feeling, rather it is a knowledge." Knowledge that you have done the will of God in all things will bring peace to the heart and mind. You must strive to overcome all feelings of fear and doubt through faith in God.

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