

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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in Newark, Ohio 43055.

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

This periodical carries no subscription price; however, it is partially maintained through the gifts and offerings of its readers, with the balance of the expenses being paid by the local congregation.

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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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Website: www.godsacres.org

Vol. 35 May 2005 No. 5

Guest Editorial

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. . . . And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

1 Timothy 6:6,8

State of Contentment

Being truly contented is one of the greatest treasures a person can possess in this life. Seemingly everywhere you look today, people are discontented. They are so unhappy with life in general that nothing ever seems to go right for them. They have many trials and hard places, and it looks as if their situations will never change or get better.

As a child of God, if you are not careful, you will allow problems and misfortunes that come your way cause you to complain and murmur. Trials, disappointments, persecutions, and distresses come to everyone. Do not let these things rob you! Jesus said in John 16:33, ". . . in me ye might have peace [this peace brings contentment and quietness]. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Because He overcame, you, too, can be an overcomer!

Discontentment breeds unbelief, therefore leading one to sin. Surely, you can recall how God so miraculously delivered the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. God performed many mighty and wonderful miracles for them, and He kept the promises that He made to them. Yet whenever He led the Israelites into hard places to prove them, they became discour-

aged with the way. Soon they began to murmur and complain against God and against Moses. One time their discontentment and murmuring stirred His anger to the degree that He sent fiery serpents to bite them; thus, many were destroyed.

Times of trial and periods of affliction will come to all. A financial reverse or loss could come your way, but this is not a time to become discontented with God for the road He is allowing you to travel. Always remember that God has everything under control. He has a plan and a purpose for you to attain in each hard place that you go through. Romans 8:28 brings much encouragement to us as the Apostle Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." In Hebrews 13:5 we read this beautiful promise: ". . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Contentment is not something that is sent down from Heaven as a special gift, nor is it laziness where you do not care what happens. It is a state of mind and a condition of the heart. It is not dependent upon situations or circumstances. Being content is a lesson all must learn. The secret of

[continued on page 16]

Psalm 112:1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4 Unto the upright there ariseth

light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

5 A good man showeth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

10 The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.



Having Your Heart Fixed

Brother Roger L. Decker

The Benefits of Being a God-Fearing Man

As we look at this Psalm, it is very simple in its structure. The Psalmist set forth the benefits of fearing God and serving Him. He spoke of the genealogy of such a man in verse 2 and of his wealth and righteousness in verse 3. He let us know that light would shine upon his path in verse 4, and in verse 5 he spoke of how God helps guide his affairs in life. In verses 6-8 he spoke of how the God-fearing man stands unafraid and settled. Lastly, he let us know that the God-fearing man would be the object of envy by the wicked in verses 9-10.

I want to focus on verse 7, which reads, "He shall not be afraid of evil

tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." The word *fixed* means his heart is set. It also means that his heart is unchanging; it is preset and predetermined. In other words, his heart is settled before the affliction or the trial ever comes. All those benefits that you read about come upon a God-fearing man because his heart is settled. May God help your spiritual heart to be fixed and settled.

Too many times people do not have their hearts fixed. They do not keep serving God long enough to reap the good things from the Lord. Child of God, no doubt, when you came to the Lord, you were burdened down with sin. God did a wonderful job: He washed you, sanctified you, gave you a new heart

and a new Spirit, and you began a new life.

The Bible says in Galatians 6:7-8: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." We are reaping one or the other. There is no third reaping in there; it is either corruption or life everlasting. It is sad that some people start to serve God but then give up after a short time. They think they can handle things themselves or they get discouraged because things have not changed right away, so they quit. The Psalmist let you know there are some benefits in being God-fearing

and in having your heart fixed, settled, and determined.

Friend, you are deceived if you think you can escape reaping what you sow. That is the great deception of sin. People would not mess around with sin so much if they thought they were going to reap what they have sown. It is just like robbing a bank: the thief thinks he has such a clever plan that he believes he will get away with it. Maybe a few never get caught by the authorities; however, when one commits sin, he is not merely dealing with federal authorities, but he is dealing with God. He knows all about it. He saw the person before it happened, when it happened, and after it happened. The Psalmist said his heart was fixed; it was settled.

Daniel's Commitment to God

We read in Daniel 1:1-8: "In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand [I want you to notice that the Lord gave the king of Judah into the enemy's hand; the Lord was on the side of the enemy], with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

"And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand

before the king. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

"But Daniel purposed in his heart [his heart was fixed, settled, or preset; he settled it first before anything was worked out] that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Daniel was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Daniel was elevated to high rank in the Babylonian and Persian kingdoms, but in Daniel 1:7 the Babylonians sought to remove all traces of Daniel's nationality and religion; therefore, they changed his name to Belteshazzar.

Daniel was taken from Judah to Babylon in his early youth at the battle of Chemosh in B. C. 605. The Scriptures do not indicate his precise age. He was trained in the arts and letters and in wisdom in the Babylonian capital. Eventually Daniel rose to high rank among the Babylonian men of wisdom. He was active throughout the long reign of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel was in Babylon when Cyrus the Persian captured Babylon, and he became a high government official during the reign of Cyrus. He also served during his old age in the reign of Darius, and probably celebrated his one hundredth birthday during his reign. At an early age, Daniel demonstrated great depths of knowledge, wisdom, and leadership. Throughout his entire life, he demonstrated an unshakable faith in God.

It took boldness and courage to resist the temptations and the threats that confronted him repeatedly. His heart was fixed; it was settled that he was not going to be defiled by

Babylon or any other foreign country. He was not going to bow down to their gods or worship them. Because of Daniel's commitment to God, throughout his lifetime God remained faithful to him.

The Kingdom of God

In 2 Chronicles 15:1-2 you can read: "And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

God will not turn away from you, but if you make the first move of departure, He will forsake you. Daniel remained true to God, even in the heat of the battle. He gave Daniel great interpretations and remembrance of dreams. God used Daniel in a special way under each of those kings.

Daniel was a real messenger for God. It was through Daniel's visions and his interpretations of dreams that we can see clearly the Kingdom of God and know exactly the time when the kingdom was set up. Daniel 2:44 states, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom. . . ." This does not mean that the Kingdom of God was set up each day of those four kings. What it is saying is this: when those literal kingdoms ruled the world, in the days of those kings, God set up a spiritual kingdom, one that would not be left to another, or one that would not be overthrown by another. This kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom.

Today some people are yet looking for the Kingdom of God. Jesus let you know quite simply that in order to enter the Kingdom of God, all you have to do is repent, and the kingdom is yours. One reason that people have a difficult time seeing His kingdom today is that they think that when the Kingdom of God comes, all enemies will

be put down. Friend, you will miss it if that is what you think. The enemies are put down now; they are put down in your life when you enter the Kingdom of God. When you are translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light, all enemies are put down in your life.

You do not have to give in or be subdued by the enemy. You can have victory down in your soul. That is what is so wonderful about salvation! You can serve God right in the midst of trials, chaos, and calamity. The Kingdom of God cannot be overthrown. Another king cannot overthrow our King, Jesus Christ. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; it is a powerful kingdom.

Daniel received visions of this kingdom. The visions that he received give us a pinpointed time when God set up His kingdom and a precise time for calculating the years concerning the seventy weeks in Daniel, Chapter 9. There Daniel laid out before us those things that would be affected by the kingdom when it came: there would be an end to sacrifices, all law sacrifices would come to an end, and there would be only one sacrifice for sin—Jesus Christ.

"Daniel Purposed in His Heart"

God used Daniel, but the temptations that came upon him were severe. Yet, Daniel 1:8 says, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

The kings of that day did not have much tolerance. I want you to keep that in mind. Daniel's request put the prince of the eunuchs in a terrible spot, but God moved and gave Daniel favor with Him. When people refused the orders of one of those kings, what were some of the outcomes? They ended up in a fiery

furnace, a den of lions, or some other fate. One did not turn down a king's request without severe consequences. Some kings were very cruel. If a servant did not follow orders exactly, he died. Once a king signed a decree, it became law.

Daniel had it settled before he even talked to the prince of the eunuchs that regardless of the outcome, he would not defile himself with the king's meat or his wine. The only way this could be accomplished was for God to move on that situation. The king's meat and wine were nothing but the best.

Daniel made quite a statement when he refused to eat the king's meat or drink his wine. Daniel 1:9 says, "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs." With Daniel's stand he gained the favor of God.

Standing Against Wrong

I want you to read about another faithful young man in the Book of Genesis. Joseph was a servant in Potiphar's house, and God blessed all that he did. However, he was cast into prison due to false accusations by Potiphar's wife. Even in prison, God was with him. Genesis 39:21 says, "But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

Saint, when you stand against wrong, God will be there to protect you and turn the situation for good. He will not forget about you when you are in a tight spot. You need to serve God in the good times as well as the bad times. You should serve Him when you are not having financial difficulties, when you are well, and when things are going well for you. It is a dangerous time when things are going well; then people have a tendency to lean to their own understanding. They do not need God as they did when things were not going as well.

Both Daniel and Joseph served God all the time, whether in trouble

or out of trouble. Why was God with Joseph? I want you to read the account of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Genesis 39:1-14 reads: "And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

"And Joseph found grace [or mercy] in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured [according to commentators, he was a very handsome young man].

"And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

"And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business [he was not there to flirt with temptation; he was there to do business]; and there was none of the men

of the house there within [that was a perfect opportunity; no witnesses but God]. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

"And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house." In the verses following verse 14 you can read about the lies that Potiphar's wife told and about Joseph being cast into prison. To Joseph, committing adultery was not just wickedness, but great wickedness. Joseph had it settled in his heart that he was not going to defile himself, and Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. Daniel thought that to partake of the king's meat and wine would make him unclean.

Had God not intervened on behalf of Joseph and Daniel, they would have been executed. It was not just Joseph's intelligence or Daniel's wisdom that got them out of trouble; God intervened because they purposed in their hearts that they were going to serve Him regardless of the outcome. They did not look at the outcome first. Daniel did not know if his request was going to be approved or denied, but he had it settled in his heart. The prince of the eunuchs could have turned on Daniel, but God gave him favor. In prison God gave Joseph favor as well. Their hearts were fixed. They were ready to pay the price, whatever the outcome. Their main desire was to remain clean and holy and to please God.

Determined to Walk With God

In Genesis 5:21-24 you can read of another who purposed in his heart to please God. "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with

God: and he was not; for God took him." Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. His name is a Hebrew word that means "to instruct, to initiate, and to dedicate."

By Enoch's conduct, it is apparent that he was instructed early in life concerning the things of God. He initiated the worship of his Maker and was dedicated to His service. He set himself to walk with God. He had it settled, and he was determined to live for God. There was evil back in those days. Evil did not just begin to occur today. It has been in existence since it was loosed in the world.

Enoch walked with God, yet he had no church to attend and no pastor or spiritual brethren to call upon. Consider the circumstances that Enoch was placed in. He was a patriarch, a king, a priest, and the prophet of a large family. He had to minister justice to the family, perform rites and ceremonies of worship, and teach by precept and example. He had to teach the way of Truth and righteousness. Also, Enoch was a married man. He had a family of his own to care for. He walked with God for three hundred years and begat sons and daughters.

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." What does this tell us? What can you derive from this Old Testament patriarch? It is possible to live so that you do not offend God. Enoch did it. It is possible not to commit sin against Him and to have the testimony that you are pleasing in the sight of Him who searches the heart. If it was possible then, it is possible now, because God, Christ, and faith all work the same way. Read the testimony of the Apostle Paul written to the church at Thessalonika in 1 Thessalonians 2:10. Paul said, "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe."

Trusting in the Lord

In Psalm 112 we see some attributes of a man whose heart was fixed. Three things really stand out to me when speaking of a man whose heart is set. Verse 6 reads, "Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." He shall not be moved forever. He will be fixed, stable, and prosperous. He will not be a wanderer, driven from place to place. He shall have a permanent home and a steady reputation. He will have a constant influence. His heart is fixed and settled.

Should a man whose heart is fixed have severe losses (and that could happen to a righteous man; Job lost everything, and he was righteous) or have his reputation blemished or stained, he would remain steadfast. He would not be moved.

Again, we read in verse 7 of our Scripture lesson, "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." What was the Psalmist saying? He will not be afraid of bad news, reverses, or losses. Consider the Patriarch Job. He was not afraid of the loss of his property or his home. Whether a righteous man's losses come by disaster of flood or famine or war, his heart fully confides in God, and he commits all that he has to God's hand. Job said in the latter part of Job 1:21, "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." His heart was fixed. A righteous man does not serve God for a week and then, because of a little trial, fall by the wayside. His heart is fixed and settled. He will serve God regardless of conditions. The man whose heart is fixed feels assured that all will be well. Nothing can calm the nerves and the mind as trust in God.

Verse 8 of the Scripture text says, "His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies." In other words, his heart is upheld. What does that show you? It shows you that there is

a Higher Power supporting it. He has a strength beyond his own strength. He has nothing to fear. He will certainly overcome his foes. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 28:7, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

All efforts of the enemy to destroy him are in vain because he calmly trusts in the Lord. His heart is established. Psalm 18:3 reads, "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

Is Your Heart Fixed and Settled?

God is pleased with the life that is settled and fixed. Some people seem to vary where they stand spiritually from week to week. Are they on fire for God? Who knows? Some people's hearts are not settled. Too many things are tugging at their hearts, and their hearts are not fixed.

In our Scripture lesson God blessed everything about the righ-

teous man. He gave him light to guide the affairs of his life, helped him not to be moved, helped him not to be afraid, and gave him riches. God gave those things to a man whose heart was fixed, not to one who was up and down in his experience with God.

Today we are in the day of the Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Godhead. In this message you read of Old Testament patriarchs who were determined and had it settled. The three Hebrew children would rather have faced the fiery furnace than to be disobedient. Daniel would much rather have faced the den of lions than to have disobeyed God. Also, he served notice when he was first taken captive that he had purposed and settled in his heart that he would serve God.

Too many people do not have it settled. It would not take much to draw them aside or turn them away. Joseph turned down what a worldly man would term an excellent opportunity. He was in the house alone with a woman that was undoubtedly beautiful. Those Pha-

raohs and captains married beautiful women. Although she was a beautiful woman, in essence, Joseph said, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God? I am above all of that. I don't have to stoop down to that degree to please the flesh." Joseph had it fixed and settled that he would be faithful to God.

Dear one, you are not going to make it to Heaven unless you get your heart settled. You cannot play religion with God. Serving God is not just religion; it is salvation. Our world is full of religion, but not too many have real salvation. The first words out of Daniel's mouth were that he did not want to partake of the king's meat or his wine. He would not defile himself. When it came time to march before the king, Daniel's appearance was better than all the others. Why? God was with Daniel because his heart was fixed and settled. Also, Enoch walked with God. Dear one, you have the same opportunity today to walk with God.

(Cassette 5355E)

John Byers's Prevailing Prayer

Maggie, an Irish girl of about twenty years, burned herself by lighting the morning fire with kerosene. Dr. Benjamin, the leader of the infidel club, was called, who bound her up in cotton and oil.

A neighbor sent for John Byers, an old Scotch shoemaker, to pray with her. As he came into the house, the doctor was coming out and ordered him away, saying that he did not want any praying done about any of his patients. But Brother Byers paid him no heed, and taking the girl's hand, asked her, "Maggie, are you in great pain?"

"Oh, awful, sir!" was her answer.

"Well, we will ask God to take it away," he said. Falling upon his knees at her bedside, paying no more attention to the room full of women that stood about than if they had been so many flies, he asked the Lord to take all the pain away so that he could talk to her about her soul. Very soon he got the perfect assurance that his prayer was heard. So he arose and said, "Do you feel any pain now, Maggie?"

"No, sir, it has all gone away."

Then he presented a Savior to her mind, as dying for dying Maggie, so that she, by believing on Him, might live forever, and soon she accepted Him as her Redeemer.

After a little while she opened her eyes, and looking around, said to the women, "Don't you hear it?"

"No, we don't hear anything, Maggie," they replied.

"Oh, I have never heard such singing before! and the music! I can't tell you how fine it is." And then she lay, listening—till starting up, she sat up in bed, and pointing upward, said, "Don't you see them? Oh, how beautiful they are! What are they?"

"They are the angels, coming to take you home, Maggie," said Brother Byers. Then she laid back again on her pillow perfectly quiet, as if fearing to lose sight of the beautiful vision.

Brother Byers turned to go home, but had not gotten a hundred steps from the house, when one of the women called out to him, "She's gone, sir."

However, the case of the doctor lay heavily on John Byers's mind, and that night, he did not go to bed until he had made the case a subject of earnest prayer and had received the assurance that he should be converted. Seeing the doctor a few days after that, he told him of his answer to prayer for him, but the doctor laughed at the idea of such a fool getting any such promise from the Maker of the universe.

The next fall the doctor went to Florida for his health, and within two months, the news came back that Dr. Benjamin had knelt at a mourner's bench and was converted. The next spring he died, rejoicing in the faith.

1 Corinthians 12:18 *But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

19 *And if they were all one member, where were the body?*

20 *But now are they many members, yet but one body.*

21 *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

22 *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more*

feeble, are necessary:

23 *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*

24 *For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:*

25 *That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for*

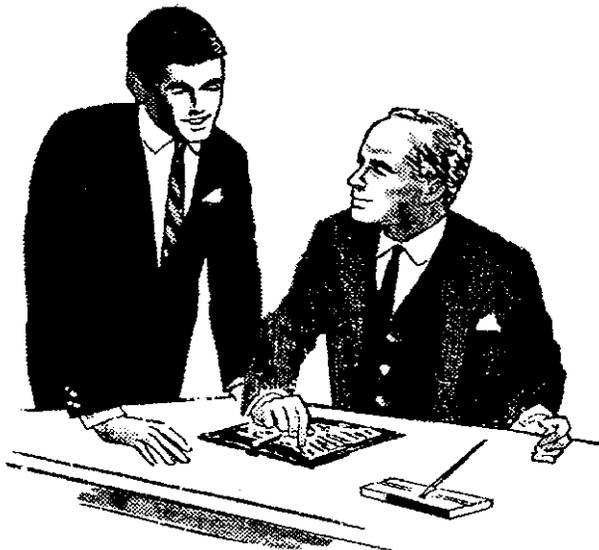
another.

26 *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*

27 *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

28 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

The Gift of Helps



Brother C. H. Dickerson

"Neglect Not the Gift That Is in Thee"

As we look at this text of Scripture, we see that God has set the members in the church, or in the body, as it pleases Him. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:8 that God gave gifts to men. He has given gifts to all who have ever gotten saved, and He gives the grace to fulfill each calling. All the different gifts have been placed in the body to make the body of Christ function properly.

God never saved anyone to sit idly, but He has given each member a work to do. Over the years I have learned that it is not hard to find someone to preach, sing, teach a Sunday school class, or lead the choir. On the other hand, when the pastor wants someone to be a helper, often people do not want to fulfill that post.

Paul admonished Timothy along this line and instructed him not to neglect the gift that God had given him, implying that if he had,

he would have opened the door to a seducing spirit. Paul stated in 1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly [in other words, the Spirit speaks clearly and definitely], that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." It would be good to read down through all those verses, but for now I want you to read verse 14 where Paul said, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on

of the hands of the presbytery."

Paul wrote to Timothy and let him know that when God saved him, He gave him a gift, and he told him not to neglect the gift that God gave him. Paul went on to tell him in verse 15, "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

When Paul wrote to Timothy at that time, God was calling Timothy to the ministry. Paul told him to first meditate upon those things, and then to give himself wholly to them. I want to look at that from this standpoint: when God saves an individual, He gives that person a gift. One might have a gift for playing an instrument or for singing. Others have the gift of preaching or the gift of teaching. Paul named other gifts as well in our text of Scripture.

Doing More for God

The Apostle Paul told Timothy to first meditate upon the gift that God had given him so that he could see a way to profit himself even better than he was. Saint, that is exactly what God wants you to do. He wants you to meditate upon the gift He has given you so that you can do a better job and do more for Him than you are doing. Paul instructed Timothy to give himself wholly to that gift. My friend, God wants you to give yourself wholly to the work that He has called you to do. Next, Paul let Timothy know why: so that his profiting would appear to everyone.

If you do what God wants you to do, meditate upon the gift that He has given you, and give yourself wholly to it, you will grow in the things of God. Also, people will see that you are growing in the things of God. They will see that you are doing more for God, and that is what God wants you to do.

In 1 Timothy 4:16 Paul went on to tell Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." Paul let Timothy

know that God had called him and had given him a gift, and he told him not to neglect that gift and to do it from his heart. In other words, whether you sing a song, preach, or help, you should put your heart into it so that a work can be done for God and so that the church might be edified.

Verse 18 of our text of Scripture tells us, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." Each member has been called to have an active part in the body.

Many times people think that because they are nothing more than helpers, they are free to attend or not to attend the house of God. One may say, "I am not a Sunday school teacher, a preacher, or a singer, so people won't miss me whether I attend the services or stay home." My friend, if that is what you think, you are 100 percent wrong. When God made you a helper, you became just as responsible for being there as the man who stands behind the pulpit. When the Son of Man makes you free, you are free to serve God, but you are not free to do anything you want to do. This freedom has been taken advantage of today.

Paul used the physical body in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, to illustrate the value and the attributes of the spiritual body. Consider the way God designed the hand. He made a place for the hand, and that is the only place it fits in the body. Also, consider how God designed the foot, the eye, and the ear. Each member of the physical body fits in the body only where God has placed it, and each one can only do the work that God has designed it to do. When God places members in the spiritual body, He places them in the body as He sees fit. My friend, that is the only place where you can do the work that God has called you to do.

"The Way of Holiness"

The Scripture teaches us that we all are faced with the same requirement. God has called each of us and

requires the same of all of us. He requires each member of the body of Christ to be holy. Every person who is saved is on the same highway, the highway of holiness. Also, each member must get in the same way: through the Door. Jesus said in John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." If you did not come through the Door, then you are not on this highway.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 35:8, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." He let us know that on this highway, it is so clear that the wayfaring, though fools, would not err therein.

The Prophet Isaiah penned in Isaiah 40:3, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD." In other words, you have to clean house in order for God to move in, and then you have to keep cleaning house for God to stay there. I want you to see the way that you receive Christ; then to keep Him, you must continually clean house. In this continual cleansing, the preacher preaches, the Sunday school teachers teach, and the Spirit bears witness. You never get to the place where you stop cleaning house. God is always revealing more light to walk in. In the day in which we are living, the light will shine brighter and brighter into this old lost and dying world.

The world is getting more worldly, and the church needs to get more of God. There must be a strict division between the two so that people will know they are either saved or unsaved. God is displeased with people preaching and living in such a way that one can hardly tell them from the world, yet they still claim to be saints. God calls every man and woman to be holy, because His people are holy. To stay that way, we have to keep cleaning house. As the preacher preaches the Word of God and the Lord shows

you something, then you need to move up.

We are living in one of the laziest times in which man has ever lived. The same spirit you see out in the world is knocking on the church's door. If you are not careful, this state of laziness will move in upon you, and you will want God to do it all.

"Prepared Unto Every Good Work"

Many people have said that when God takes certain things away from them, then they will gladly give them up. If that is your attitude, you will lose your soul in hell, because God has never taken anything away from anyone. All He will do is show you, and then you must do the cleansing. We are not robots or in bondage, but we are free to do that which is right.

When the preacher preaches under the anointing of the Spirit of God and uncovers something in your life, God expects you to clean house and get rid of it. There is nothing to pray about when you see that is what the Word of God teaches. God expects you to do what He wants you to do. The cleaner the house, the more the reflection of God, and the more people can see God in your heart and life. He said it is so that your profiting may appear to all people. Again, Paul stated in 1 Timothy 4:15, "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

God required Israel of old to do something. He has always had requirements for His people. We read in 1 Samuel 7:3, "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD."

Second Chronicles 19:3 reads, "Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart

to seek God." Second Chronicles 29:15 states, "And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD."

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:21, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet [fit and proper] for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." When he was talking about purging, he was simply talking about having more of God and less of self. When we purge ourselves from various things, Paul let us know that we will be fit and proper for the Master to use. Friend, until you do this, you cannot be fit and proper for God to use. We are washed by the water of His Word every time it goes forth.

Be Faithful

Matthew's Gospel tells us that the Lord gave talents to every man according to his several abilities. The spiritual body needs every member. I do not believe that God designed the physical body with extra parts and stuffed them in for spares in case one should go bad. Every part of the physical body has a place and a work to do, and it takes each member to function properly. When God saved us, He placed us in the spiritual body as He saw fit. He needs every member for the body of Christ to go forward and to reach a lost and dying world.

God will reward every one of us for whatever we do for Him. Christ said in Luke 16:10, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." He let us know that the key is being faithful in the small things. If you are faithful in the little things, then you will be faithful in much. If you are faithful over the earthly things that God has given you, then He will give you spiritual things. On the other hand, if you are unfaithful in the earthly things, then you will be

unfaithful in the spiritual things.

My friend, you need to check your experience to see how faithful you are over the earthly things that God has given you. If you take care of them, then you will be faithful over much. Jesus went on to say in verses 11-13: "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

You cannot serve God and the world at the same time. You must decide which one you want. If you are going to serve God, then you must put your whole heart into it, meditate on what God has called you to do, and give yourself over to it wholly. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:4, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life." You need to get worldly things off your mind and set your mind on the things of God.

We can compare serving God to being in the military service. One was inducted, and in two weeks they sent him home to get his affairs straightened out, because when he returned, they wanted him to wholly set his mind on what he was to do in the Army, not on business back home. Likewise, in the Lord's army He wants you to set your mind strictly on the things of God, because He called you to be a soldier in His army. Therefore, He does not want you to put worldly things first, but rather to put the things of God first and to have one purpose in mind, and that is to see souls won to the family of God. That should be your primary concern, child of God. No matter how much of this world's goods you accumulate, when you are on your deathbed, all of it will lose its value. You will be rewarded for the effort that you have put forth in the work of God.

Fulfilling Your Obligation

Paul stated in our text of Scripture in verse 28, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." I want to draw your attention to this: he made absolutely no distinction concerning one office being more obligated than another in carrying out the work He has called them to do. In other words, those who have been called to be apostles or teachers are to fulfill that obligation. Those whom He has called to be helpers are obligated to fulfill that work. If the apostles did not fulfill their obligation, we would not see much accomplished, because God has chosen to use the foolishness of preaching to save souls.

God also placed helpers in the body. If you are not careful, you will say, "I'm nothing but a helper." Then should someone say, "Hey, let's go fishing Sunday," you will say, "I'm not tied down with a Sunday school class or anything, so I guess we can go." If you are not at your post of duty to help others, then they will not be able to do the best they can do, because they need help. God placed helpers in the body, and helpers are just as important and as necessary as the preacher, the song leader, or anyone else. As a helper, if you do not fill your obligation, you are not pleasing God. When God is displeased, something is not going to work out right. If God has not called you to do something specific, then you need to settle down and be a good helper.

Today there is a lack of good helpers. Although God has called them, they do not feel their duty to be a helper because they do not have a specific place. One way a helper can help is to pray for others. How can you help the preacher? You can pray for him. Helpers are necessary; it is a gift, and God expects each helper to fulfill that job. If you do

not take that gift seriously, the Lord has one message for you: how shall you escape, if you neglect that gift?

Let me ask you these questions: Do you expect the preacher to do his job? Do you expect the Sunday school teacher to come and do his job? God has called Sunday school teachers, and I believe that He put them in charge of that Sunday school class. The teacher does not come in and sit down and say, "What do you want to talk about?" He has a lesson, and God has called him or her to teach those in the class what God would have them to know so they can receive some help.

Your Reasonable Service

Paul went on to mention "miracles, then gifts of healings, helps." These are all gifts that the Lord gives to the body of Christ. Christian friend, you are not to neglect helping other members of the body by failing to pray for them. There is too much leanness and shallowness among those who claim to be the people of God. One reason is that they are not doing what God has called them to do. For example, if people are laboring to pass out revival notices and doing something extra, when the service times come, they are on fire for God. However, when people do nothing, they just sit back and do not take part in the services. Why is that? God blesses whenever they fulfill their responsibilities and use the gifts that He has given them.

God's church is full of shouts of praise for what God has done when people have helped and prayed for others. I have watched this down through the years. Whenever God's people get under a burden and fast and pray for souls, then when they see souls go to an altar of prayer, they will be shouting and weeping. Others who did not pray will wonder what is going on. When ones fulfill that position of helping, God blesses them in a special way. On the other hand, those who do not fill that place will not receive a blessing.

The reason that some people are so quiet is that they have no blessing, because they did not fulfill their responsibilities.

When there is no payday, it is not long until people backslide. In the secular world no one will work week after week without a payday. People depend on that. God gives His people a payday when they labor for Him.

It takes a total presentation of ourselves to work for God. Paul made this quite clear in Romans, Chapter 12. He was talking about the spirit that motivates the actions of the members. He said in verse 1, "I beseech [or beg] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service [in other words, that is the least that you can get by with]."

If you will study Chapters 9, 10, and 11, you will find that the Jews (Paul had been a Jew) would not accept the Gospel. Therefore, God set them aside and reached out to the Gentiles. Paul was burdened over this because he said in Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." In Chapter 12 he said, in essence, "I plead with you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies in such a way that my people can be saved."

Christian friend, if you are going to do anything for God, you must do it wholeheartedly. This is the most reasonable thing that you can do for your salvation. No doubt, you have unsaved family, and maybe your companion or your children and neighbors are unsaved. Perhaps your father and mother are unsaved. Paul was burdened over his people. You ought to be burdened over your people when you see your unsaved family. God wants you to present yourself wholly for Him to use as He sees fit so that you might win souls for Him.

This is what camp meetings and revivals are all about. They are not

just gatherings to meet old buddies that you have not seen for years. They are not merely times to enjoy the good singing and the good food. These are special times set aside to see souls saved and receive help and to see the church edified. We want to see God move in a great way, and He will if we each do what God has called us to do. We must be helpers.

Consecration

God extended mercy to the Gentiles because the Jews had rejected Christ. In every one of our families, some are unsaved. We ought to lay aside other things and get down to business with God so that we can see souls won for God. The Scripture lets us know that when we get down to business praying for other people's souls and sicknesses that God will also bring our loved ones in.

One of the great areas being neglected as far as the church is concerned is the gift of helps. How much do you pray for the song leader, the instrument players, and the preacher standing behind the sacred desk? You can do a big part if you will pray for the one who stands behind the pulpit. You might not lead the song service, but you can do a big part if you will pray for that one. He might have been leading the song service for many years, but He still needs prayer.

Do you pray for the choir and the choir director or do you just take it as entertainment? If you neglect the gift that God has called you to do, how can you expect a payday? In Luke 19:13 Jesus said, "Occupy till I come." If you do not do what God has called you to do, you are opening the door to a spirit that is not right.

Again, the Apostle Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14-16: "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." Paul was simply telling Timothy that if he did not do these things, he would not save himself or anyone who heard him.

A good helper shows a double portion of consecration. Not everyone can help; it is a gift. When one fulfills the duty of helping, he will be at his post of duty just as the preacher is. When you see the pastor sitting up on the platform and you know he is going to preach, you ought to pray for him. If he is not going to preach, you should pray for whomever is going to preach. Then when souls are saved and people receive help, God writes your name in the record, and you will have some blessings coming to you. If you will be at your post of duty, the church will grow and be edified.

We all may not see everything eye to eye, but we can be in agreement. We may not see some things move as quickly as we would like to see them move. Sometimes we want to see some things move slower than what they move. Nevertheless, to be a helper takes real consecration. A helper is just as important in the spiritual body as the arm is to the physical body. If one member gets a little lame, another member will come along and help it.

How Important Are Helpers?

When you get out of bed in the morning, all your body members work together. This is exactly what God has in mind with the spiritual body. The fact that God called apostles first does not mean that they can get along by themselves.

In Exodus, Chapter 17, you can read that Israel was in a battle. As long as Moses was holding up his arms, Israel was progressing. When his arms got tired and he dropped them, then the enemy started to progress. A couple of brethren saw this and decided to do something. Moses was standing, so they got a

stone for him to sit on, and then each of the two men held up one arm until dusk when the battle was finished. Israel came out victorious because they had some helpers. They would have lost the battle had those two not taken notice and helped Moses. Although God was there, Moses needed helpers so they could win the battle. This shows you how important helpers are.

My friend, the battle will be lost unless we have good helpers. Will you consecrate your service to God and be a good helper so the battle can be won? In too many cases, battles are being lost today simply because the helpers are not there.

You can read in another place in the Word of God where some people got together and built a temple. I believe it took 153,700 men seven years to build that temple. Finally, the day came when it was completed, and God's blessing was placed upon it. All 153,700 people were helpers, and I find no place in the Word of God where even one of them was named. They called it Solomon's temple. I do not suppose Solomon ever lent a hand in building it, but Solomon received all the credit for it.

Thousands of men worked, sweated, and slaved for seven years. Some cut the stones out of the quarry, some hauled the stones up to the building site, and others built it, and they did it all without the sound of a hammer. The helpers never received any recognition at all.

Too many times if helpers do not get recognized, they fail to work. How many sit and say, "If no one else is going to do it, I'm not going to." On the corner of Sixth and Locust Streets, some fifty years ago, a little old house sat there. After going through many legal procedures, the work of building the church was started. When it first began, everyone in the congregation was there to help, but when they got down to working every night, only a few showed up.

My wife and I had been out to

help every night, so I came home one night and said, "I'm not going out tonight." I walked out on the front porch and laid down in the swing. I did not much more than get laid down when the Spirit of God said, "Get up and get out there." So I got up and went out there, and in time we finished building the church. I said these things because I want you to realize that when some do not work, it discourages others. Remember, God takes note of those who do the work, and He does the rewarding. Oh, everyone else might forget, but God does not.

"Walk in His Ways"

The preacher cannot possibly hear about every rumor or disgruntle. It takes a consecrated person with backbone to stop rumors and disgruntles. You must refuse to listen to them and plainly tell them that you do not want to disobey the Bible by receiving accusations without two or three witnesses. The preacher cannot fill all the offices, but he trusts others to do visitation work. If anyone gets out of line, it takes a consecrated person to let the pastor know.

It took consecration for Esther to go to the king when Haman tried to undermine Mordecai and the Jews and have them killed. He also built a big gallows in his backyard so that one day he could have the satisfaction of seeing Mordecai hang by the neck until he was dead. Esther knew that it might mean death to go to the king without an invitation, but she decided to do it to save her people, even if it should cost her own life.

As Esther walked in before the king, I suppose she was trembling because she thought this might mean death, but the king held out the scepter to her and asked what he could do for her. She related it. Do you know what happened? Haman ended up being hung on the gallows that was built for Mordecai. Esther was willing to put her own life in jeopardy to help her people. She was not a tattler; she just saw that they

had to have help.

Being a helper is an important office in the church, but it is being neglected because people place such little value on helpers. It is the result of division, deadness, and false doctrines. If you are a good helper, you have an important role. Your job is as important a role as the piano player, the song leader, the choir director, or any other position. Failing to be a good helper and not standing for the Truth causes division and deadness. You should not be afraid to say amen when someone sings or preaches. Let people know that you support them.

First Kings 2:1-4 states: "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: That the LORD may continue his word which he spake

concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."

In many cases, failing to achieve the goal that God has for the local assemblies is due to people failing to be good helpers. It is important to be a good helper. The devil tries to make people think they are not doing anything, and he tries to discourage them. Sometimes he tries to get people to do some things greater than they have the ability to do. As a result, nothing is accomplished.

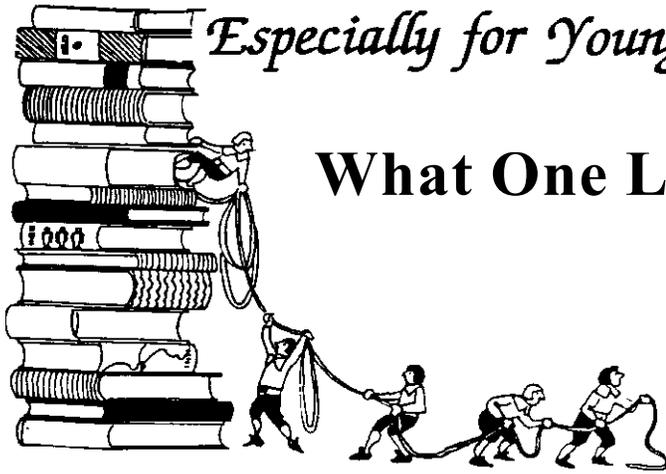
If you have failed in what God has called you to do, you ought to ask His forgiveness and make a vow for the future. If God has called you to be a helper and you have not felt that responsibility, do not go on that way. A helper is as important as anyone else in the body of Christ. If you have failed in that position, you need to confess it to God and ask Him to forgive you. Will you let God have His way?

(Cassette C-4661M)

It is equally easy for God to supply our greatest as well as our smallest needs, to carry our heaviest as well as our lightest burden—just as the ocean bears the battleship as easily as it does the fisherman's vessel.

Especially for Young People

What One Lie Did



It was winter twilight. Shadows played about the room, while the rudy light flickered pleasantly between the ancient andirons.

A venerable old lady, whose hair time had silvered, but whose heart he had left fresh and young, sat musing in an armchair, drawn up closely by the fireside. Suddenly the door opened, and a little girl hurried to her side.

"Well, Bessie," said the old lady, laying her hand lovingly on the child's sunny ringlets, "have you had a good slide?"

"Beautiful, Aunt Ruth, and now won't you tell me one of your nice stories?"

Bessie was an only child, whose mother had just died. The little girl had come to visit her aunt, who had learned to love her dearly because of her winning ways and affectionate disposition. However, Aunt Ruth's eyes were of the clear sort, and she soon discovered that Bessie was not only careless about telling the truth, but she displayed little sensitiveness when detected in a falsehood.

Now, if there was any one trait for which Aunt Ruth was particular distinguished, it was her unswerving truthfulness. If there was any one thing that annoyed her more than all others, it was anything like falsehood.

"A liar shall not stand in my sight," was the language of her heart, and so she determined, with

the help of God, to root out from her darling's character the noxious weed, whatever effort it might cost her. Of this she had been musing, and her resolve was formed.

"Get your rocking chair, dear, and come close beside me," and in a moment the child's blue eyes were upturned to hers.

"I am old now, Bessie," and she tenderly stroked that fair brow, "and my memory is failing. But I can recall the time when I was a little, sunny-haired girl, like you. You open your eyes wonderingly, but if your life is spared, before you know it, child, you will be an old lady like Aunt Ruth.

"In those young days I was in a spelling class at school, with a little girl named Amy, a sweet-tempered, sensitive child, and a very good scholar. She seemed disposed to cling to me, and I could not well resist her loving friendship. Yet I did not quite like her, because she often went above me in the class, when, but for her, I should have stood at the head.

"Poor Amy could not account for my occasional coolness, for I was too proud to let her know the reason. I had been a truthful child, Bessie, but envy tempted me, and I yielded. I sometimes tried to prejudice the other girls against Amy, and this was the beginning of my deceit. She was too timid to defend herself, and so I usually carried my point.

"One day our teacher gave out to us the word, *believe*. In her usual low voice, Amy spelt '*b-e-l-i-e-v-e, believe.*' Her teacher misunderstanding her said, quickly, 'Wrong—the next'; but turning to her again, asked, 'Did you not spell it *l-e-i-v-e?*'

"No, ma'am, I said *l-i-e-v-e.*"

"Miss R——, still in doubt, looking at me, inquired, 'You heard, Ruth, how was it?'

"A wicked thought occurred to me to disgrace her and raise myself. Deliberately I uttered a gross falsehood, 'Amy said *l-e-i-v-e.*'

"The teacher turned toward Amy, who stood silent, distressed, and confounded by my accusation. Her flushed face and streaming eyes gave her the appearance of guilt.

"'Amy,' said her teacher sternly, 'I did not expect a lie from you. Go, now, to the foot of the class, and remember to remain after school.'

"I had triumphed, Bessie; Amy was disgraced, and I stood proudly at the head of my class, but I was not happy.

"When school was dismissed, I pretended to have lost something, and lingered in the hall. I heard the teacher say, 'Amy, come here,' and then I caught the light footsteps of the gentle child.

"How could you tell that lie?"

"Miss R——, I did not tell a lie,' but even as she denied it, I could see through the keyhole that

in her grief at the charge, and her dread of punishment, she stood trembling like a culprit.

"Hold out your hand."

"There I stood, as if spellbound. Stroke after stroke of the hard ferule I heard upon the small white hand of the innocent child. You may well hide your eyes from me, Bessie. Oh, why did I not speak? Every stroke went to my heart, but I would not confess my sin, and so I stole softly from the door.

"As I lingered on the way, Amy walked slowly along, with her books in one hand, while with the other she kept wiping away the tears, which would not yet cease to flow. Her sobs, seeming to come from a breaking heart, sank into my own.

"As she walked on, weeping, her foot stumbled, and she fell, and her books scattered on the ground. I picked them up and handed them to her. Turning toward me, her soft blue eyes swimming in tears, in the sweetest tones, she said, 'I thank you, Ruth.'

"It made my guilty heart beat faster, but I would not speak; so we went on silently together.

"When I reached home, I said to myself, 'What is the use, nobody knows it, and why should I be so miserable?' I resolved to throw off the hated burden, and going into the pleasant parlor, I talked and laughed as if nothing were the matter. But the load on my poor heart only grew the heavier.

"I needed no one, Bessie, to reprove me for my cruel sin. The eye of God seemed consuming to me, but the worse I felt, the gayer I seemed, and more than once I was checked for my boisterous mirth, while tears were struggling to escape.

"At length I went to my room. I could not pray, and so hurrying to bed, I resolutely shut eyes. But sleep would not come to me. The ticking of the old clock in the hall seemed every moment to grow louder, as if reproaching me, and when it slowly told the hour of

midnight, it smote upon my ear like a knell.

"I turned and turned upon my little pillow, but it was filled with thorns. Those sweet blue eyes, swimming in tears, were ever before me; the repeated strokes of the hard ferule kept sounding in my ears. At length, unable to endure it longer, I left my bed, and sat down by the window. The noble elms stood peacefully in the moonlight, the penciled shadow of their spreading branches lying tremulously on the ground.

"The white fence, the graveled walks, the perfect quietness in which everything was wrapped, seemed to mock my restlessness, while the solemn midnight sky filled me with a sense of awe which I never felt before. Ah! Bessie, God was displeased with me, my conscience was burdened and uneasy, and I was wretched.

"As I turned from the window, my eyes rested on the snow white coverlet of my little bed, a birthday gift from her mother. All her patient kindness, rushed upon my mind. I felt her dying hand upon my head. I listened once more to her trembling voice, as she fervently besought the blessing of heaven upon me: 'Oh, make her a truthful, holy child!'

"I tried to banish from my thoughts this last petition of my dying mother, but the more resolute was my purpose, the more distinctly did those pleading tones fall upon my heart, till, bowing upon the window, I wept convulsively. But tears, Bessie, could give me no relief.

"My agony became every moment more intense, till at length, I rushed almost in terror, to my father's bedside.

"'Father! Father!' but I could say no more. Tenderly putting his arm around me, he laid my throbbing head upon his bosom, and there he gently soothed me, till I could so far control my sobbing as to explain its cause. Then how fervently did he plead with Heaven, that his sinning

child might be forgiven!

"'Dear Father,' said I, 'will you go with me tonight to see poor Amy?'

"He answered, 'Tomorrow morning, my child.'

"Delay was torture; but striving to suppress my disappointment, I received my father's kiss and went back to my room. But slumber still fled from my weary eyelids.

"My longing to beg Amy's forgiveness amounted to frenzy, and after watching for the morning, for what seemed to me hours, my anguish became so intolerable that I fled once more to my father, and with tears streaming down my cheeks, I knelt by his side, beseeching him to go with me to Amy that moment; adding in a whisper, 'She may die before she has forgiven me.' He laid his hand upon my burning cheek, and after a moment's thought, replied, 'I will go with you, my child.'

"In a few moments we were on our way. As we approached Mrs. Sinclair's cottage, we perceived lights hurrying from one room to another. Shuddering with dread, I drew closer to my father. He softly opened the gate, and silently we passed through it.

"The doctor, who was just leaving the door, seemed greatly surprised to meet us there at that hour. Words cannot describe my feelings, when in answer to my father's inquiries, he told us that Amy was sick with brain fever.

"'Her mother tells me,' he continued, 'that she has not been well for several days, but that she was unwilling to remain from school. She came home yesterday afternoon, it seems, very unlike herself. She took no supper, but sat at the table silently, as if stupefied with grief.'

"'Her mother tried every way to find out the cause of her sorrow, but in vain. She went to bed with the same brokenhearted appearance, and in less than an hour, I was summoned. In her delirium she has been calling upon her dear Ruth,

beseeking you with the most mournful earnestness to pity and to save her.'

"Bessie, may you never know how his words pierced my heart!

"My earnest plea to see Amy just one minute prevailed with her widowed mother. Kindly taking my hand, led me to the sick chamber. As I looked on the sweet sufferer, all hope deserted me. The shadows of death were already on her forehead and her large blue eyes.

"Kneeling by her bed, in whispered words my heart pleaded, oh, so earnestly, for forgiveness. But when I looked entreatingly toward her, in her delirious gaze there was no recognition. No, Bessie, I was never to be comforted by the assurance of her pardon.

"When I next saw Amy, she was asleep. The bright flush faded from her cheek, whose marble paleness was shaded by her long eyelashes. Delirium had ceased, and the aching heart was still. That small, white hand, which had been held out tremblingly, to receive the

blows of the harsh ferule, now lay lovingly folded within the other. Never again would tears flow from those gentle eyes, nor that bosom heave with sorrow. That sleep was the sleep of death!

"My grief was wilder, if not deeper, than that mother's of whose lost treasure I had robbed her. She forgave me; but I could not forgive myself. What a long, long winter followed. My sufferings threw me into a fever, and in my delirium I called continually upon Amy.

"But God listened to the prayers of my dear father and raised me from this sickness. And when the light footsteps of spring were seen upon the green earth, and early flowers were springing up around the grave of Amy, for the first time I was allowed to visit it.

"My head swam as I read, lettered so carefully on the white tablet:

"'AMY SINCLAIR,
Fell asleep September third.'

"Beside that fresh turf I knelt down and offered, as I trust, the prayer of faith. I was there relieved, and strengthened too, Bessie," said

Aunt Ruth, as she laid her hand tenderly upon that young head bowed down upon her lap.

Poor Bessie's tears had long been flowing, and now her grief seemed uncontrollable. Nor did her aunt attempt consolation, for she hoped there was a healing in that sorrow.

"Pray for me!" whispered Bessie, as at length, looking up through her tears, she flung her arms about her aunt; and from a full heart Aunt Ruth prayed for the weeping child.

That scene was never forgotten by Bessie, for in the twilight hour, a light dawned upon her, brighter than the morning. Although it had cost Aunt Ruth not a little to call up this dark shadow from the past, yet she felt repaid a thousandfold for her sacrifice. For that sweet young face, lovely as a May morning, but whose beauty had been often marred by the workings of deceit and falsehood, grew radiant in the clear light of that truthful purpose which was then born in her soul.

Selected

[*Guest Editorial—continued from page 2*]
success is learning to adapt one's self to conditions and being at rest with those conditions. Rather than looking on the dark side of the situation or problem, learn to look on the bright side. Look for the good that you can attain from each obstacle.

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:11, ". . . I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul not only enjoyed the good things from the Lord but also he patiently accepted the things that came upon him and caused him to suffer. Therefore, whether he was rejoicing with the good or suffering with the reverses, he had learned the wonderful secret of how to apply himself in every situation that came his way.

He possessed a deep contentment and a calmness within his soul, knowing that the great God of Heaven would lead him through safely and with victory. Paul experienced a sweet peace within that enriched his life while enduring the unpleasant things that befell him.

As a Christian, you, too, must learn this valuable lesson of being content. The command is to "be content with such things as ye have" (Hebrews 13:5). Stop worrying and fretting about the things you do not have. You need to lay aside the anxiousness over the future and what might happen. Look up and be thankful for all you do possess. Peace, happiness, and contentment do not come from the abundance of worldly goods that one has

acquired. They come from knowing Christ and having Him dwell within your heart.

To be truly happy and to be able to sing the joyful songs of praise, you must put forth the effort to learn the joy of contentment. Strive daily to find contentment, and war against the things that would destroy it. You must cultivate your spirit and allow your faith and trust in God to grow. If you will follow the pattern that God has laid out for you to follow, you will find contentment in whatever state and situation life finds you. You, then, can boldly sing the songs of glad rejoicing, knowing that your life is resting in His protective care.

Selected



IN
MEMORIAM

Wayne P. Hafley

August 11, 1937 – December 16, 2004



With saddened hearts we pay final tribute to a precious brother in Christ and a true man of God. One of God's faithful warriors who fought the good fight of faith, loved God, and preached the Gospel fervently without fear or favor. His labors in the ministry and the influence of his life follow after him.

Brother Wayne P. Hafley was born August 11, 1937, to the late Charles B. and Minnie Bell (Millsap) Hafley in Athens, Tennessee. He became acquainted with a young lady named Doris Jean McGahhey nearly fifty years ago. On April 15, 1956, Brother Wayne and Sister Jean were married in Athens, Tennessee. The Hafley's home was blessed with four children. One daughter, Janice (Mike) Davis, and three sons: Daniel (Paula) Hafley, Donald (Sharon) Hafley, and Richard Hafley.

December 16, 2004, God in His infinite wisdom saw fit to call the soul of Brother Wayne P. Hafley from this time world. Our brother has moved onto a higher, richer, and more joyous phase of the Church of God. The Apostle Paul penned the words in Philippians 1:23 (Brother Hafley would agree), "For I . . . desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." For our dear brother, life's burdens are past, his afflicted body is now laid aside, and he is resting safely in the arms of Jesus. His labor of love for God, the church, and the souls of mankind is

finished. He presently enjoys those things that are yet awaiting all who will be faithful. For several months Brother Hafley suffered much in his body as a result of a serious heart attack. This condition had a great effect on his physical health and strength. When he preached a message, he had to use a chair to help support himself. This was certainly not like Brother Hafley, for he was a very active preacher. Our brother was a Holy Ghost anointed, hellfire and brimstone preacher who told it just like it is.

Brother Hafley lived an ungodly life (as most men and women do) before he met the Christ of Calvary. One evening as he attended an old-fashioned prayer meeting in Morristown, Tennessee, God began to convict him of his sin, whereupon he repented and God saved him. After a few years of living for the Lord, God began to work with him regarding a call to the ministry. As God spoke to his heart, he listened and obeyed the call. He followed as the Lord directed.

In 1964 Brother Hafley began his first work as the pastor of the New Hope Church of God in Murphy, North Carolina. This is where Brother James Lovingood pastors at this present time. He then went to pastor the New Bethel Church of God in Madisonville, Tennessee, where Brother David Watson now pastors. The McMinn County Church of God

was started in a building behind Brother and Sister Hafley's home. His next congregation to pastor was the Church of God in Carrollton, Ohio. Brother and Sister Hafley started the congregation at the Mount Zion Church of God in Minerva, Ohio, where Brother Hafley finished his work for the Lord.

The passing of our dear brother certainly leaves a void in his home with his dear wife, his family, and the congregation he pastored for the past twelve years. Truly the loss of our brother is great, but God is able to carry on the work. When Moses was called from this time world, God called Joshua and said, "Arise, go."

We say to the dear saints at Mount Zion Church of God, Be encouraged and hold fast to God's never changing hand, for He has promised to see you through every trial and hard place. The hour may seem dark now, but remember this: it is always darkest just before the sun shines. David penned the words in Psalm 30:5, ". . . weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." It is so important that you *stand steadfast* in faith, lean heavily on God's Word and *look* to and *wait* for His direction.

Our prayer is that God will grant the grace, the strength, and the comfort that are so greatly needed at this time of bereavement.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

God Is Seeking a People



Brother Allen Polston

"The Father Seeketh Such to Worship Him"

God is seeking something as He permits time to go on. He is not allowing this world to go on just to see how wicked people can become. Sometimes as we look around and see so many evil things going on, we wonder if it will get much worse. People in this world are in a very wicked condition, and they are going deeper and deeper into sin. Things that used to gratify and appease the flesh do not seem to do so anymore. People are turning to more wicked devices and trying more ways to pamper and exalt the flesh and to do things that are against God, such as same-sex marriage and other things that we see going on. Sometimes I won-

der what really is the difference between our day and times past when God destroyed people in Noah's day, Lot's day, and other times. God has something that He is looking for. He is still the same as He has always been, and He is still looking for people through whom He can work and bless in the midst of the ungodliness that surrounds us. Romans 5:20b says, "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Some people who are saved have allowed themselves to become lean in their souls, and others have even gone back on God. Many have become careless; nevertheless, God's grace can help an individual to be an overcomer.

We have read about miracles in the Bible and have heard about things that have happened in the

past, and we say, "We would like to see some of those outpourings of the Spirit of God today. We would like to see revivals break out that last for weeks with many souls weeping their way to God." I want you to know that God can still do what He has done in the past, but He needs people through whom He can work. God is looking upon the hearts of men and women and seeking vessels that He can use in miraculous ways.

Sometimes people feel that age limits them or that other things prevent them from being useful in the Kingdom of God, but God can take nothing and make something. He can take what appears to have no value, no talent, no ability and, by His mighty power, make a dramatic change, one that will even surprise others when they witness it.

When I first got saved, I had a Gospel music recording, and on it was a song that said, "It's really surprising what the Lord can do." That song just rang a bell in my soul, because I thought of what I had been and what God had done in my own life. It is amazing what God can do! God is still seeking those whom He can use.

Consider the Value of Your Soul

We are created to be profit-minded individuals. In other words, we look for those things that will benefit us. God designed us that way. For example, if you were to lay your hand on something hot, you would not just stand there and say, "This is hot; I'm getting burnt." God created you in such a way that when you touch something hot, you will jerk back immediately. You feel that it would be more profitable to get your hand off that rather than to leave it there.

When considering profitable things, I thought about how we raise our families, guide our homes, and try to make a comfortable living. We do things that will profit us. However, some people do unprofitable things. Unfortunately, some engage in sin and give themselves over to pleasurable things, and they sow to the flesh.

In Mark 8:36 Jesus asked the question, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" As I mentioned earlier, we are very profit-minded people, and Jesus knew this when He asked that question. He wanted people to stop and consider this matter. When He asked that question, He also knew that it was impossible for anyone to gain the whole world. One would not have enough resources. Yet, if you could gain the whole world, what would it profit you in negotiating all of that if you forgot about your soul?

One day the world and everything in it will be gone. Even the fleshly body in which you are living

will go back to the dust from which it came. People spend so much time and even go to extremes to try to make the fleshly body beautiful. They try to make it appear to others as something really fabulous because they want to be noticed. They waste a lifetime seeking the things of this world, yet they do not stop to think about their souls. Friend, you have a soul within you that will still be living a million years from this moment. That part of you will be very conscious throughout the ceaseless age of eternity.

Long after your fleshly body has been laid in the grave, you will be very much alive. This is what you need to think about, because the devil will do everything he can to get your mind on other things. He will try to get you to ponder over what might happen tomorrow or next month. He tries to get you to put off thinking about the most serious matter of where you will spend eternity. He will distract you in every way he can. The devil wants to get you so occupied with other things that you do not really pause to consider the value of your soul; however, being profit-minded, you need to consider it.

God Is Not Slack Concerning His Promise

Many people have sat in church services where God has dealt with their hearts, yet they rejected Him. Some have lived to eventually come to a place of repentance, but the number of those who have shunned the grace of God until it was too late is far greater. Undoubtedly, they would give everything they ever possessed and enjoyed if they could have one more opportunity to really get serious about their never-dying souls. Jesus spoke about a rich man who was filled with regret concerning the decisions and choices he made while here on earth, and he is still regretting them.

Amidst all the world's revelry, multitudes of individuals who have passed from this life regret that they

ever rejected God. Right in the midst of all life's pleasures, you need to be conscious of something; there is still a hell, and eternity is real. There is a hell to shun and a Heaven to gain. In God's great mercy and love, He continues to grant life to you, and He wants you to worship Him. God is seeking individuals whom He can use for the work of God.

Second Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Verse 15 reads, "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation." God permits wicked people to continue to live in sin. He is longsuffering because He wants to save their souls. God is still in the business of saving souls and changing hearts and lives. Friend, He wants to take away the burden of sin, clean up your life, and enable you to live a joyous, wonderful life. God is still doing these things.

Technology is ever changing, and many things have become modernized, but God's old-fashioned way still thrills the soul. If you will consider what is the most profitable thing for you to do concerning your soul, you will submit your life to God. Friend, He will come in and do the hard things that the devil is telling you that you cannot do. The devil is a liar. He always has been a liar, and he always will be. God will tell you the truth. When He finds an individual who will surrender his life to Him and let Him have His way, He will come in and do the work. He is still the same. When He comes in, the devil will have to go; then the joy bells will begin to ring in that person's soul.

The Goodness of God

Romans 2:4 says, ". . . not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Friend, if you have life today, that is the goodness of God; He is so good to people. He is blessing people with

the things that enable them to live, to have help, to be strong, and to have opportunities, because it is the goodness of God that leads one to repentance.

We make many decisions about what is profitable in this life. God gives you the ability to weigh your decisions so that you can do what is most profitable. God wants you to see how much He really loves you and how concerned He is about you. When God saved me, He had already made several attempts to get me to go in the right direction. As I was growing up, I can remember many times in the worship services when God tried to draw me to Him, but I continued to be stubborn and selfish and chose the foolish route, which turned out to be very unprofitable.

God is seeking people who will worship Him. In John, Chapter 4, you can read the conversation that Jesus had with the woman at the well. That woman had quite a tarnished past. Her life was filled with many failures. Quite a number of things turned out to be unprofitable for her, although she said in verse 20 that her fathers had worshiped in that mountain. She had some family members who were religious.

No doubt, many people today are in the same condition that woman was. In many ways their lives have taken a turn for the worse. Because of sin, things have come their way that they probably never dreamed would happen. I can tell you from experience that, because of sin, certain things came into my life that I never thought would happen. When I was growing up, my father and mother taught me to pray and to look to God. They also taught me to do my very best in school. They were very interested in my welfare.

As I began to get older, I made the very foolish decision to reject God. I made very good grades in high school. When I graduated, I was one of the top seven students in my class. However, after a year and a half in college, I was so strung out

that I had to go home. Before six months were up, I had been in jail four times. Sin is a mocker. It will take you further than you really want to go. That is the way the enemy works. He just keeps wrapping the tentacles of sin around you.

Friend, it would be wise for you to spend some serious time to really think about the way you are living. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." God cares for you. Even if you take His name in vain, He is interested in your eternity-bound soul. He continues to do things for you, and He gives you opportunities in hopes that the hour will come when you will surrender your heart to Him.

Be a True Worshiper of God

God is seeking precious souls that He can use. I do not mean that you should merely join a church and occupy a pew. God is looking for people who will worship and adore Him. Many people are confused about this subject. They think they can get by as long as they show up on Sunday for a little while or attend the services from time to time. However, in verse 24 of our Scripture lesson, Jesus told the woman at the well, "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." This lets you know that God is everywhere at all times. If it were true that God was only in church buildings, then the only time you could worship Him would be when you were in one of those church buildings.

Many people feel that as long as they go to church and put in their time and go through a little ceremonial worship, when they walk out the door, they can go out and do whatever they please. We would probably be surprised at how many professing Christians drink intoxicating beverages. Friend, you do not know where you will end up without God. You have no guarantee that you will be able to keep your

life in line without Him. No matter where you go, God hears all that you say and sees all that you do.

God is a Spirit, and that means He is everywhere. In order to worship Someone who is everywhere, it calls for a change in your behavior everywhere. Jesus let the woman at the well know that true worshipers must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Wherever you go, whatever you do, you need to be mindful of Almighty God. It is good to have fun and to be together with friends and family and God's people. Nevertheless, wherever life takes you, to be a true worshiper of God, you must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the Truth. It is not His will that any should perish. He wants all men to repent. Friend, it would be wise for you to heed the message. You need to let God examine you. You need to make sure that no matter what you do that you are mindful of God in all your activities, wherever you go. Because God is a Spirit, He sees you wherever you are. You are always under His watchful eye. That may make some people sad, but it ought to make God's people glad. He knows all about you, and He keeps a record of all the things that you are doing.

I trust that this message will cause you to think seriously about what is profitable for your soul and to realize that God wants you to serve Him at all times. You need to fix it in your heart that you are going to serve God for as many days as He gives you. I am looking forward to seeing you in Heaven. I fooled around with the devil and was on my way to hell long enough. I am glad that God showed me a way to get off the road to destruction and put me on the road that leads to Heaven. I am planning to go to Heaven one of these days, and I would like to see you there. May God bless you.

(Cassette C-5149E)

Exodus 18:13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?

15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God:

16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

18 Thou wilt surely wear away,

both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee,

but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

27 And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.

The Fear of God



Brother Calvin Foster

Having Profound Reverence Toward God

Moses took the advice of his father-in-law and chose able men who feared God to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. We need to associate with men and women who

fear God. We need more people in our world who fear God. The fear of God is leaving and has left the hearts of many people today. They do many things to prove that they fear neither God nor His judgments.

According to Webster's dictionary, the word *fear* means "anxious concern; profound rever-

ence or awe, especially toward God." We teach our children to respect fire and to fear anything that will harm them. We teach them to fear the outcome of dealing with illegal drugs and other vices. It is good to be fearful of some things. I fear God, not in the sense that I believe He might strike me down

should I do something wrong or fail Him. The kind of godly fear that I am speaking of is that of extreme reverence and respect.

God is love, and many times people take advantage of God's love by failing to have respect and reverence for Him. He does not stand over us with a club to keep us from doing wrong. He is love. Nevertheless, we ought to fear Him, and we should not take His mercy for granted. I have great reverence and respect for God.

Exodus, Chapter 14, will help you to better understand this fear. Verse 30 reads, "Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore." God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, and then Pharaoh and his army chased them to bring them back. God divided the Red Sea, and Israel walked through the sea on dry ground. When Pharaoh and his army pursued them into the Red Sea, the waters returned and destroyed them. Verse 31 says, "And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses."

Do you fear the Lord when you see Him do great and mighty things? How can you go out and sin against God and use your health, your strength, your mind, and the things He has blessed you with for the devil? Do you not fear the Lord? Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." Friend, if you want wisdom, you must fear the Lord and obey His commandments. By doing so, you will gain much understanding. It is good to fear God, and it is prosperous. You should want to fear the Lord.

Why People Do Not Fear God?

There are some reasons that people do not fear the Lord. One

reason is found in Ecclesiastes 8:11-13: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

These verses give you a good understanding of why some people do not fear the Lord. They do evil deeds, yet God does not execute judgment against them speedily. They fail to realize that God is love, and He gives people the opportunity to repent. When a man robs a bank or does other wrong, his punishment is not always executed speedily. Therefore, he thinks he can get away with it; then he goes out and does it again. However, God keeps a record, and a payday will come eventually.

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Young person, if you are dealing with drugs, stealing cars, or burglarizing homes, you are doing wrong. You may think you can get away with it, but you cannot. God has a day of recompense for you. Sooner or later, you will get caught. You need to remember this: because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily does not mean you are getting by. Punishment may not be executed speedily, but God sees everything you are doing. It is just a matter of time until judgment will fall on you and you will get caught. You might get killed by the police. I hope you do not die and go to hell.

You need to have a fear in your heart for the Lord. Proverbs 16:6-7

says: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." I thank God for these verses of Scripture.

The Beginning of Wisdom

Sinner friend, the reason you have not departed from evil is that you do not fear the Lord. I thank God for the day when the fear of the Lord struck my heart. You need to fear the Lord, whatever age you may be. If you truly fear Him, you will depart from evil. You should fear what God could do to you if you do not. You should have respect and reverence for the Lord. There are certain places where I do not go and certain things I do not do because I fear the Lord. I do not want to get in trouble with Him. Many people do not fear the Lord anymore. May God help them to acquire that fear.

Another reason that people do not fear the Lord today is that many ministers are preaching a watered-down Gospel. They do not preach the fear of the Lord anymore. Once a lady told me that she had attended a certain church for about fifteen years, but the pastor seldom said anything against the devil and rarely preached on hell. I do not want to die and go to hell. Friend, if you will turn to God, Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

The Prophet Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 32:38-40: "And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." I thank God that He put that fear in my heart. The fear of the Lord keeps

me from doing anything that would displease Him. Today people fear man more than they fear the Lord.

Too many so-called Christians sing and preach, and then they go out and do something against the Lord. If you are a child of God, you are to do the Lord's work and declare judgment on wrongdoing. I want to make Heaven my eternal home, and to do so, I must fear the Lord. It is as simple as that. I do not want to get in trouble with Him. I am thankful that God put His fear upon my heart.

The Israelites feared the Lord after they saw how He delivered them from Pharaoh and his army. Friend, do not wait until something terrible happens to you before you start to fear Him. You need to fear Him now. Remember, Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." Won't you be wise and fear the Lord? Do not wait until something tragic happens. Often people start to fear the Lord when they hear about thousands of people being killed or hear of a train crash or an airplane crash or some other tragedy. They should fear the Lord before such things happen. People ought to fear the Lord whether or not tragedies happen.

"Serve God Acceptably"

Jesus said in Luke 12:4-5: "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

As I said earlier, having the fear of God is good. Man can rob you and even kill you. It is natural to be frightened of anyone who threatens to harm you, and it is good to use common sense and to protect yourself. However, Jesus said not to be afraid of those who can kill the body. After man has killed you, he can do nothing more to harm you. Jesus went on to say that you should

fear God, who has power to cast the soul into hell. He is the One you need to fear most, because He has power to cast you into hell after your body has been killed. I appreciate God for putting His fear in my heart. Having the fear of God will cause you to walk uprightly.

Deacon, church member, preacher, do you fear God? Are you doing wrong when you know better? Are you mistreating your wife, your husband, or your fellowman? At work do you cuss out your boss or fight and carry on with your co-workers? If so, you do not fear the Lord. Are you merely a church member? Friend, you should not be a hypocrite. The Lord will punish you if you do wrong, no matter who you are. Wrong is wrong, and right is right. While you have time, you need to admit that you are wrong and get right with the Lord.

Hebrews 12:28-29 reads: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." You should want to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Why? Hebrews 12:29 states, "For our God is a consuming fire." God demands reverence, godly fear, and respect. I am kind of old-fashioned in that, whenever I enter someone's home, a restaurant, or a church, I take my hat off to show respect. When I sit down to eat, I bow my head to thank the Lord. I love the Lord, and I respect Him, His house, and His people.

Many people have lost the fear of God, and they try to bring God down to a human level. Friend, you cannot bring God down to man's level. One day you will have to bow down to God and humble yourself before Him. Many people honor other men more than they honor God. Hebrews 10:30-31 states: "For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his

people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The Whole Duty of Man

Sinner friend, you do not fear God if you will not confess your sins and turn away from them. I repeat, you may think you are going to get by, but you cannot get by God. One day you are going to wish that you had feared the Lord, but it may be too late. You will wish that you had the fear of God in your heart on Judgment Day. If you die without Christ, you will be sorry that you did not accept Him as your personal Savior. You will say, "Oh, how I wish I would have feared the Lord!" but it will be too late.

Again, Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." God is a Living God; He is not dead. I want you to understand how important it is to fear the Lord and to love Him.

Psalm 115:11-13 reads: "Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great." That is a wonderful promise in God's Word! He will bless those who fear Him. God will bless the common man as well as the man of renown as long as he fears Him. God wants you to fear Him, reverence Him, love Him, and have extreme respect for Him.

Some preachers want people to reverence them more than they reverence God. They want to be called "Reverend." Jesus let us know in Matthew 23:8 that we all are brethren. A preacher should not want you to bow down to him and call him "Reverend."

Consider again the words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. [This is our duty. God created us, and He wants

us to obey Him and keep His commandments.] For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Dear friend, won't you obey the Word of God today? You need to heed good

advice. Moses was not too proud to heed the advice of his father-in-law. He had a humble spirit.

If you are a God-fearing person, God can use you to be a blessing to others. Godly fear is an attribute that will shine forth in your life if you

love God, love Truth, and hate ungodliness. May God bless you. It is my prayer that His Word has fallen on good ground.

(Cassette RC-146)

THE GOLDEN RULE EXEMPLIFIED

Early one morning while it was yet dark, a poor man came to my door and informed me that he had an infant child very sick, and he was afraid that the child would die. He desired me to go to his home and, if possible, prescribe some medicine to relieve it. "For," he said, "I want to save its life, if possible." As he spoke thus, the tears ran down his face. He then added, "I am a poor man, but doctor, I will pay you in work as much as you ask if you will go."

"I said, 'Yes, I will go with you as soon as I take a little refreshment.'"

"Oh, sir," said he, "I was going to try to get a bushel of corn, and get it ground to carry home, and I am afraid the child will die before I get there. I wish you would not wait for me," and then added, "We want the child's life if we can."

It being some miles to his house, I did not arrive there until the sun was two hours high in the morning, when I found the mother holding her sick child, and six or seven little boys and girls around her, with clean hands and faces, looking as their mother did, lean and poor. On examining the sick child, I discovered that it was starving to death! I said to the mother, "You don't give milk enough for this child."

She said, "I suppose I don't."

"Well," said I, "you must feed it with milk."

She answered, "I would, sir, but I can't get any to feed it with."

I then said: "It will be well then for you to make a little water gruel and feed your child."

To this she replied, "I was thinking I would if my husband brings home some Indian meal. He has gone to try to get some, and I am in hopes he will make out. "

She said this with a sad countenance. I asked her with surprise, "Why, madam, have you not got anything to eat?"

She strove to suppress a tear and answered sorrowfully, "No, sir, we have had but little these some days."

I said, "What are your neighbors, that you should suffer among them?"

She said, "I suppose they are good people; but we are strangers in this place and don't wish to trouble any of them, if we can get along without."

Wishing to give the child a little manna, I asked for a spoon. The little girl went to the table drawer to get one, and her mother said to her, "Get the longest handled spoon." As she opened the drawer, I saw only two spoons, and both with handles broken off, but one handle was a little longer than the other. I thought to myself, "This is a very poor family, but I will do the best I can to relieve them. While I was preparing the medicine for the sick child, I heard the oldest boy (who was about fourteen) say, "You shall have the biggest piece now, because I had the biggest piece before." I turned around to see who it was that manifested such a principle of justice, and I saw four or five children sitting in the corner, where the oldest was dividing a roasted potato among them. And he said to one, "You shall have the biggest piece now." But the other said, "Why, brother, you are the oldest, and you ought to have the biggest piece."

"No," said the other, "I had the biggest piece."

I turned to the mother and said, "Madam, you have potatoes to eat, I suppose?"

She replied, "We have had, but that is the last one we have left, and the children have now roasted that for their breakfast."

On hearing this, I hastened home and informed my wife that I had taken the wrong medicine with me to the sick family. I then prescribed a gallon of milk, two loaves of bread, some butter, meat, and potatoes, and I sent my boy with these and had the pleasure to hear in a few days that they all were well.

Selected



In
Loving Memory
of
Ralph Allen Craig

February 13, 1928 — March 10, 2005

Another faithful child of God has finished his life here with victory and gone on to the eternal world of Glory. Brother Ralph Craig of Newark, Ohio, passed on to his rich reward March 10, 2005.

Brother Craig was born in Newark, Ohio, on February 13, 1928, to the late Harry and Myrtle (Simpson) Craig. They lived near their pastor, W. A. Wilson. When Ralph was several months old, Brother Wilson's daughters loved to take turns giving him a ride in his stroller. Their brother Emerson was several years older than Ralph, but much younger than his sisters. He loved to take Ralph rides in the stroller, running as fast as he could. When Ralph's mother looked out the window and saw the fast, reckless ride young Emerson was taking him, she rescued her firstborn and ended Emerson's adventure. Happily, both boys were unhurt. They had many laughs about this over the years. Many years later, Brother Emerson became Ralph's pastor, but he was not reckless in telling him the great truths of the Bible.

One night when Brother Craig was about thirteen years of age, he got out of bed crying and told his mother that God was convicting him of his sins. They knelt and prayed, and God saved him. He was a graduate of Newark High School in 1946, and went to work at Owens-Corning. He married Dorothy Linn in 1947. They were the parents of three daughters: Sandra, Diane, and

Paulette. Brother and Sister Craig were married for over 57 years.

In 1951 Brother Craig began work at Rockwell International, where he retired in 1986, after serving 35 years as an inspector. He served as a trustee and Sunday School Superintendent of 26 classes and 52 teachers and helpers at the Church of God, God's Acres. Also, he wrote the Sunday school quarterlies, which are still being used here and in other congregations. Brother Craig was a Bible scholar who read and studied the Bible every day and prayed much to his Lord, and he was divinely inspired in writing these lessons.

After suffering a severe stroke in 2002, he was confined to the hospital and Health Care Center for over three years. Although he lost the use of his body, his mind was sharp, and he knew where Scriptures were found that were read to him. He rejoiced greatly when the church choir and other singers came to sing for him at various times during his long battle with illness.

His memorial service at the church at God's Acres was beautiful, and God's presence was there cheering us on. Pastor Roger Decker spoke of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21, which reads, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." To die was great gain to Brother Craig, and our loss is Heaven's gain. He is rejoicing in that heavenly land with the saints who have gone on before him. Revelation

14:13 states, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

A letter from his wife was read at the funeral service, entitled "A Letter to Ralph." It reads:

My husband Ralph. Remember how young and happy we were when we started on this incredible journey—I, 18—and you, 19? God was with us, leading and guiding us. We were blessed with three lovely daughters. How we loved them, and you were strong and handsome and worked hard to take care of your little family. As the girls grew older, the four of us had a lot of fun at your expense, teasing and laughing at you for being the only man in a houseful of women. You went along with it and let us have our fun, but we knew who was boss and loved and respected you.

God gave you good health, and you would work all day at your job, and then help build the church building on the corner of Sixth and Locust Streets, and later our present building at God's Acres. God used us both in different ways at the church. Remember what good times and hard work when we worked in the Lunch Stand at camp meetings. You were the milkshake man and the hamburger fryer. How wonderful to be used of God!

The girls grew up and were married. Later there was the pitter-patter of little feet in our home. How we loved and played with them—all six of them. The house would ring with joy and laughter when the whole family was over. Oh, what a blessing! God was still first in our hearts and was leading us on our journey.

Then came the dark day when God called our Sandy home. We were shattered and devastated, but the Lord carried us on His wings of love and made us able to bear it. The great Church of God—His people—were holding us up in prayer. Keith was able to continue raising their three children, and we helped as we were needed. We grew older, and you retired, but God was not done with you. You became Sunday School Superintendent and wrote the Sunday School Quarterly for

several years with me working with you. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Ralph, God saw our tears and heard our prayers through the years that our children and grandchildren would find this great salvation and real experience with Christ that we have that has taken us on this long journey of nearly 58 years. We hope to be an unbroken circle in eternity. May God grant it!

Now, my dear husband, your health has failed. We must say goodbye. But wait! This is not the end! The best is yet to come, and you are already experiencing the wonderful glories of eternity. Remember, I will follow you as the Lord continues to lead me the rest of the way home.

Love,
Your wife Dorothy

Brother Craig was privileged to have three great, godly pastors to

proclaim the Word of God: Pastors W. A. Wilson, Emerson A. Wilson, and Roger L. Decker. They each could depend on him to help in different needs of the church.

Brother Craig is survived by his wife Dorothy and daughters, Diane (William) Nichols and Paulette (Larry) Schwartz; son-in-law Keith Jackson; grandchildren, Craig (Bridgette) Jackson, Amy (Sean) Benson, Jodi Jackson, Brittany and Derek Nichols, Jennifer Workman; and one great-grandson, Coleton Jackson; two brothers, Charles (Christine) Craig and Frank (Bonnie) Craig; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Marian and Jim Lewis. His daughter, Sandra Jackson, preceded him in death on January 13, 1989. Although he is greatly missed, he is rejoicing in the heavenly realm of the church now!

Hope of the Righteous

*Beyond this world of toil and care,
Beyond this vale of gloom,
There is a land, a happy land,
A place we call our home.*

*O what a blessed hope is this,
An anchor to the soul!
And if we do our Savior 's will
We 'll safely reach our goal!*

*To enter heav 'n we must be pure
And holy in His sight,
And every day we truly must
Be walking in the light.*

*We 'll pray for God to keep our feet
Upon the Cornerstone;
We 'll give our hearts and lives to Him,
For we are not our own.*

*O yes, we 'll trust Him while we live!
We 'll trust Him when we die!
And then when all our work is done
We 'll reign with Him on high.*

Luella Byers Henry

Announcements

HONDURAS

May 1-8

CONVENTION: Church of God, Honduras

Evangelists: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, OH & Brother David Stegmeier, Canby, OR

For further information contact: Pastor Esau Brooks

Telephone: (Honduras) 011-504-451-514

(Grand Cayman) 1-345-947-2114

MEDINA, OH

May 16-22

REVIVAL: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH 44256

Evangelist: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, OH

Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. & Sunday 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor C. H. Dickerson, 215 Montview Dr., Medina, OH 44256

Telephone: 330-725-6853 or 330-725-5993

NILES, MI

May 13-15

REVIVAL: Niles Church of God, 1305 Fort St, Niles, MI

Evangelist: Brother Jerry Miller, Comstock, MI

Service times: Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m.

For further information contact: Pastor B. W. Cheney, Sr.

Telephone: 269-687-1045

My Mother's Bible

This Book is all that's left me now,
Tears will unbidden start;
With faltering lip and throbbing brow
I press it to my heart.
For many generations past,
Here is our family tree;
My mother's hand this Bible clasped;
She, dying, gave it to me.

Ah! well do I remember those
Whose names these records bear,
Who 'round the hearthstone used to close
After the evening prayer,
And speak of what these pages said,
In tones my heart would thrill!
Though they are with the silent dead,
Here they are living still!

My father read this Holy Book
To brothers, sisters, dear;
How calm was my poor mother's look
Who loved God's Word to hear.
Her angel face—I see it yet!
What thronging memories come!
Again that little group is met
Within the halls of home!

Thou truest friend man ever knew,
Thy constancy I've tried;
Where all were false I found thee true!
My counselor and guide.
The mines of earth no treasure give
That could this volume buy;
In teaching me the way to live,
It taught me how to die.

George Morris