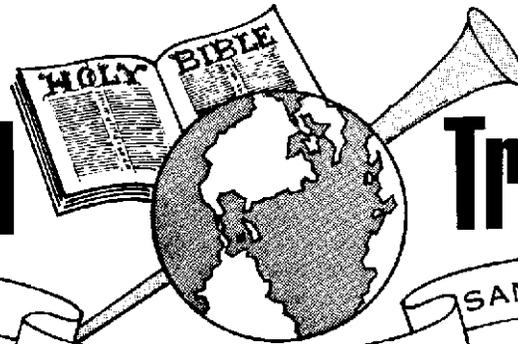


# The Gospel



# Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:38

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Mal. 2:13

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SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

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Vol. 37 November 2007 No. 11



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

*Psalm 122:1*

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker ..... Editor  
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

**THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:**

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS  
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

.....  
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for any reason. Not responsible for unsolicited articles or  
items.

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**Vol. 37 November 2007 No. 11**

# Guest Editorial

"But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while  
we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my  
love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and  
abide in his love."

John 15:10

## Abiding in His Love

Some two thousand years ago,  
God sent His precious Son into this  
world to be the Redeemer of man-  
kind. He could see the terrible con-  
dition man was in and the depths  
of sin to which he had gone. There  
was no way a mortal human could  
ever possibly lift himself from the  
sin and the bondage he was in.  
Man needed a miracle from a High-  
er Power to bring him the help he  
needed. Jesus Christ stepped up  
and volunteered to be the sacrifice  
required. He is the unspotted  
Lamb, sacrificed to take away the  
sins of the world.

Jesus came to forgive and to  
save souls from sin, and He also  
came to completely deliver from  
sin and to take away the bondage  
and guilt of sin. Under the old Law  
of Moses, a man could be forgiven  
for sins committed only once every  
year. The Law had no power to  
give man the strength to live right.  
Jesus, being the ultimate Sacrifice,  
put away sin forever, therefore  
allowing mankind to live free from  
sin and able to please God. In Luke  
1:74-75 we read, "That he would  
grant unto us, that we, being deliv-  
ered out of the hand our of enemies  
[sin, Satan, and the flesh], might  
serve him without fear, In holiness  
and righteousness before him, all  
the days of our life."

Mankind was, and is, unworthy  
of the love, the mercy, and the  
goodness Jesus demonstrated  
by giving His life to redeem all  
who will receive Him into their  
hearts. He willingly went to the  
Cross of Calvary, laid His life

down, and suffer the shame and  
the reproach that was required.  
Our Savior displayed love beyond  
human comprehension. This He did  
gladly, so that lost humanity could  
be made heir with Him and the  
Father. The Apostle Paul penned  
these words in 2 Corinthians 8:9 to  
describe Christ's love and concern  
for mankind. "For ye know the  
grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that,  
though he was rich, yet for your  
sakes he became poor, that ye  
through his poverty might be rich."  
The Lord wants men and women to  
be spiritually rich.

God places His love in the heart  
of a man or a woman when the new  
birth takes place. This great trans-  
forming work creates a fire of love  
burning toward God within the  
soul. Then, however, it becomes the  
responsibility of each one to keep it  
burning fervently. Failure to nur-  
ture His love by the individual will  
soon cause the fire to die down and  
go out completely. Love is not au-  
tomatically kept alive, but must be  
continually nourished. Too often, it  
seems that certain ones expect God  
to do it all. Jude, verse 21, says to  
"Keep yourselves in the love of  
God." In Proverbs 4:23 the wise  
man Solomon instructed, "Keep thy  
heart with all diligence; for out of it  
are the issues of life." The heart is  
the center of man's affections.

Many things can rob the love of  
God from the heart if a man or a  
woman permits it. The issues of life  
can come in many different forms. The

*[continued on page 26]*

*Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

*13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

*14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

*15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

*16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

*17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

*18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

*19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity*

*unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

*20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

*21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*

*22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

*23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

# The Wages of Sin Is Death



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **Sin Controls the Whole Man**

I want to focus on verse 23 of our Scripture reading. As we look into the writings of the Apostle Paul in Romans, Chapter 6, we see a very clear picture of what sin really is. In verse 12 of our Scripture reading, Paul said, "Let not sin . . . reign in your mortal body." This Scripture lets you know something about sin that you should never forget: wherever sin is, it is going to reign. Sin is not going to take second place, just as God will not take second place. Sin

wants to control the whole man, just as God wants to control the whole man. Again, the Apostle Paul said, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body." When sin gets into your life, it is going to reign over you completely. You always need to remember that either sin or righteousness is reigning in your life.

Paul finished verse 12 by letting you know that if sin is reigning, you are going to obey it. Second Corinthians 4:11 states, "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might

be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

Away with the thought that we serve God with the soul and the body still serves sin. That is your condition in sin. In sin you might have a desire to do that which is good, but if you are not doing that which is good, you are still in sin. The body, which houses the soul, is in servitude, either to sin or to obedience. Look at the simplicity of Romans 6:16, which says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;

whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

The Scripture text in verse 23 tells you that "the wages of sin is death." This Scripture lets you know there are wages attached to sin. We all like wages from our employers; we look forward to payday. We plan how we are going to spend our money. We budget and set so much aside for this and that. However, you cannot look forward to sin's wages. Sin pays its laborers well. The wages of sin is spiritual death, and sometimes physical death.

### **Take Heed, Lest You Fall**

The wise man said in Ecclesiastes 7:16-18: "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time? It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all."

Solomon was not talking about living holy or doing all one can to serve God and being a soul winner. He was speaking of someone who thinks he is more righteous than others and wiser than others, a self-righteous individual. God demands holiness, and we must strive to be as holy as we possibly can.

First Corinthians 10:12 says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." The wise man, Solomon, was talking about how overconfidence will destroy a person. Many times being overconfident brought down the children of Israel, and overconfidence will bring you down. When you think you are to the place where you have things lined up well, you need to be careful. Overconfidence and self-righteousness will destroy you as well as being wicked.

Sin brings forth broken homes, broken hearts, and ruined lives, and the suffering is tremendous. Separated families will not have anything to do with one another. I repeat, sin pays its laborers well. David received his pay for adultery, for deceit, and for being an accomplice to murder.

Second Samuel 11:1 reads, "And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem." This Scripture tells us that "when kings go forth to battle," King David stayed home.

Historians say this was about a year after the war with the Syrians broke out, and around the spring of the year. That was the time for most military operations. The kings usually had two campaigns: one in the spring, and one in the fall. They did not go out in the winter because it was inconvenient, and in the summer it was too hot. David was a victorious king. Not one nation could defeat him as long as he served God and did that which was right.

Second Samuel 10:15-19 states: "And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together. And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that were beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them. And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him. And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there. And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more."

### **The Folly Of Letting Down Your Guard**

While David was winning the battles, the devil was plotting his downfall. When does the enemy love to attack? He loves to attack when you are unaware. Israel fought a tremendous battle. Nations formed

alliances with other nations to come against Israel, but Israel still defeated them. They won great victories. Whenever you have a great victory, you are apt to relax and take it easy. When you take it easy, you let down your guard. This pattern is very consistent with the Scriptures.

After Jesus was baptized, God spoke out of Heaven and confirmed His being pleased with His Son; then Jesus had to go into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. About the time you think you know your way around and start to shirk from duty, you need to beware.

David backed away from the battle. He had just come through many battles, and no doubt he thought in his mind, "I am going to stay here in Jerusalem and let Joab go out and lead all this fighting." Joab went out and successfully defeated their enemies, but David tarried at Jerusalem.

While David tarried at Jerusalem, that put him in the way of temptation. Bathsheba was upon her housetop washing herself, and David was in a place where he could see her. If you study this more in depth, you will find that historians have a real problem with Bathsheba bathing herself where she knew the king could see her, right in full view. Nevertheless, David knew better than to do what he did. He became not only an adulterer but also an accomplice to murder. Moreover, he was deceitful. The wages soon came: Bathsheba was with child. After she had the child, God smote the child and he passed away. However, that was not all that David suffered because of his sin.

First Kings 13:1 states, "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel. . . ." Bethel, at that particular time, was in idolatry with Jeroboam. The man of God had a commission from God: he cried out against the altar and the sacrifice. He did that commission well, and he did not move away from his calling one little bit. He followed the exact instructions that God gave him. However, an old backslidden prophet in Bethel paid him a visit after he began his journey home.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 1:8-9: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

The old prophet lied to the man of God and got him to do that which was contrary to what the Lord had instructed him to do. If God was going to change His instructions to the man of God, He would have told him Himself. He would not have told an old backslidden prophet to tell him, one who was not even hearing from God. Disobedience cost that man of God his life. You need to be careful of whom you listen to. There are many vagabonds who will fill your ear if you will let them.

What is a *vagabond*? A vagabond is one who has no fixed home; he wanders from place to place. Foot-loose, gypsy-like, rambling, roving, vagrant, drifting, and roaming are synonyms for the word *vagabond*. A religious vagabond goes to one congregation, and then gets upset with the preacher in that place, so he goes to another congregation. Then he thinks that is the greatest congregation ever, but in time he gets upset with the preacher in that place, and away he goes again. A vagabond has no spiritual direction. Such a person does not allow God to direct his life. To say that God is directing that person's life is to say that God is the author of confusion. A vagabond travels here and there, and he runs down this pastor and that pastor. What does that tell you? That person cannot be pastored, and you must not lend that person an ear to dump his trash.

### **Provoking God to Anger With Much Evil**

You can read much about King Ahab in the Word of God. First Kings 16:30 says, "And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him." He was more wicked than all the other kings before him. First Kings 16:33 says, "And Ahab made a grove; and

Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him." He was very wicked. He provoked God and stirred His anger.

How did King Ahab die? He disguised himself in battle so that the enemy would not recognize him, but that did not stop a random arrow. First Kings 22:34 reads, "And a certain man drew a bow at a venture [that simply means randomly], and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness." That was an amazing shot! Those kings were well protected by armor that would stop an ordinary arrow, but that arrow, which was sent at random, was guided by God. It went right between the joints of the harness, where the armor came together. There was only a little space that an arrow could have even fit into, and that was the place where the arrow lodged.

Verses 34-35 continue: ". . . wherefore he [King Ahab] said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot." King Ahab died in the evening. He disguised himself to make sure he would make it through the battle, but God had a man shoot an arrow at venture, and it had the right direction and the right speed to hit the king where it would not bounce off his armor, piercing right in between the joints where the armor came together.

There are wages to sin; it has a payday. You read the verse of Scripture that let you know King Ahab was more wicked than all the kings before him. He married a very wicked woman named Jezebel, and they both did evil, and both of them died at the hand of God.

### **King Saul's Disobedience**

In 1 Samuel you can read about the first king of Israel, King Saul. Although he started out well, soon he was eaten up with jealousy and envy; then that envy turned into murder. Saul got swelled up with pride to the

degree that he no longer was of any use to the Lord. God was good to him and gave him the opportunity to right himself and lead Israel against the Amalekites. Again, King Saul failed to carry out all that the Lord had commanded him to do.

You can read the command in 1 Samuel, Chapter 15. God was going to bring judgment upon the Amalekites because of what they had done to His people about four hundred years earlier. God had said that He was going to take vengeance on them. You see, God's memory is outstanding; He does not have memory lapses. He remembered well how the Amalekites had attacked the children of Israel from behind after they came up out of Egypt. The Amalekites attacked the weak and the feeble that could hardly keep up. Moses had to stop the procession and send Joshua to choose some men and fight the battle and whip Amalek until they left. Therefore, God was remembering that.

We read in 1 Samuel 15:1-9: "Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek [you can read in Exodus 17:14 that God made a promise that He would utterly destroy Amalek] and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

"And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou

comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly."

The Lord gave Saul another chance to redeem himself. He was still the king of Israel, and God had a mission for him. At this time, Saul was swelled up with pride, so he changed the Word of God a little. He spared that which the Lord said to utterly destroy. (Friend, when God tells you to destroy something, that is exactly what He means. He does not leave the choice up to you. When God lays His hand on something in your life and says to destroy it, then you had better obey Him.)

Now you are going to read how King Saul lied in verse 13: "And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD." That was definitely not the truth. Next, let us look at Saul's repentance in verse 24: "And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words [he did not need to say anymore, but he went on to justify it]: because I feared the people, [He was their leader, the king, yet he said that he feared the people. All he had to do was command the people, and they would have obeyed.] and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD."

Samuel would not return with Saul. Saul's repentance was so shallow. He should have stopped when he said he had sinned, and then he should have said he was sorry. He did not have to bring the people into it and add a lie to his repentance. (Friend, when you come before God, you must tell God the truth, because He already knows the truth. You do not have to drag other people or other things into it.) The people did not sin; King Saul did.

## The Reaping for Sin

Then came the end for King Saul. First Samuel 31:4-5 says: "Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him." It is amazing how the reaping for sin can be so exact. I am going to show you in the Scriptures why God had it this way.

One of the most barbarous acts in the Bible was committed by Saul and his armor bearer. His armor bearer was an Edomite, not an Israelite. His name was Doeg. I want you to see how exact God is in the reaping. Saul's armor bearer killed about eighty-five priests with that sword. First Samuel 22:9-19 reads: "Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, [The word Edomite comes from the word Edom, and they were neighbors to the Israelites. Once in a while Israel had battles with them, but they were usually friendly.] and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, [Now, what Doeg was doing was squealing; he was a traitor. He was speaking of an incident that happened with David. David had come to a priest in the city of Nob.] to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

"And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub [Saul was checking out Doeg's story]. And he answered, Here I am, my lord. And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

"Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more. And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house [that meant all the priests at Nob were going to die]. And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not show it to me.

"But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD [they had a little godly fear; they knew better than to do that]. And the king said to Doeg [Doeg was his chief armor bearer, the one that historians believe was in battle with Saul when he died], Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests [all the priests' families in that city], smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword."

## The Exactness of God's Vengeance

First Samuel 22:20-23 states: "And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David [he ran to tell David]. And Abiathar showed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard."

What was David talking about? I

want to make this plain to you. In 1 Samuel, Chapter 21, you can read of this incident. Verses 1-7 read: "Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place. Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

"And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the showbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite. . . ."

Doeg saw all of that take place, so what did he do? He ran ahead to tell Saul that he saw the priest harboring David, giving him bread, and inquiring of the Lord for him. Therefore, Saul went into a rage, and one of the most barbaric acts that ever happened in the Bible took place. When Saul commanded his servants to slay the priests of the Lord, they would not do it. However, Doeg, his armor bearer, took the sword and went through and killed eighty-five priests. Then he went from there into the city of Nob, and killed women, children, and little babies. He wiped out that town with the edge of the sword.

When King Saul died, he died by a sword, just as he commanded Doeg to use a sword on the priests of the

Lord. Then the same sword that Doeg used to hack up those priests and used when he went into Nob and wiped out that city was the same sword that pierced his own heart. How exact sometimes can be the reaping that God sends!

In the New Testament you can read that Judas received wages as a traitor to Jesus. Matthew 26:14-15 states: "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver." Some say that was awfully cheap, but today people are betraying Jesus for one cigarette, a bottle of beer, a little drugs, or a little cussing. Now, that is cheap, yet they look down on Judas.

Sin pays well when it comes to reaping. Judas' payment was shocking to him. I am sure Judas did not expect any wages like he received. No doubt, he thought that he could betray Jesus and then it would be over, and no one would know the difference. He probably thought Jesus would escape from their midst as He had done at other times.

Matthew 27:3-5 reads: "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. [Those were terrible feelings that they had! To whom did Judas go? They were the chief priests and the elders, the religious hierarchy of that day. They helped to get Judas in trouble. Oh, we know that Judas got himself in trouble, but they helped. The point is, there is no mercy with false religion, *no* mercy. What did Judas do?] And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself."

### "God Is Not Mocked"

I want you to read some wages for sin that are more up to date. Galatians 6:7 states, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a

man soweth, that shall he also reap." I want to tell you about some individuals and events that are more up to date. You probably know about some of them. These were individuals who actually mocked God, for whatever reason. It could have been because of pride, because of the way they were in society, because of the way they had been elevated; but they used their influence against God.

One of them was John Lennon. Undoubtedly you have heard of John Lennon. He was a singer for the Beatles. Some years before he died, during an interview with *American Magazine*, he said: "Christianity will end; it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that. I am certain. Jesus was okay, but His subjects were too simple. Today we are more famous than Him." John Lennon, after saying that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ, was shot and killed in 1980.

There was a man who was elected the President of Brazil. During a presidential campaign, he said, "If I get five hundred thousand votes from my party, not even God could remove me from being president." He got the votes all right, but he got sick the day before being inaugurated and died.

Then there was a man who was a bisexual. He was a Brazilian composer, Kazuo, a singer, and a poet. During a show in Rio de Janeiro, while smoking his cigarette, he puffed out some smoke into the air and said, "God, that's for You." He died at the age of thirty-two of AIDS in a horrible, horrible manner.

Everybody knows about the man who built the *Titanic*. After the construction of the *Titanic*, a reporter asked him how safe the *Titanic* was. With an ironic tone he said, "Not even God can sink it." You know what happened, and you have heard about the many lives that were lost.

Have you ever heard of Marilyn Monroe? She was an actress, and she was visited by an evangelist during the presentation of a show. He told her that the Spirit of God sent him to preach to her. After hearing what the preacher had to say, she said, "I don't need your Jesus." One week later, they found her dead.

There was a singer for the rock group AC/DC. One of the 1979 songs he sang was, "Don't stop me, I'm going down all the way, down the highway to hell." On February 19, 1980, Bong Scott was found dead. He choked on his own vomit.

God is not mocked. The wages of sin is death. In Camponas, Brazil, in 2005 a group of friends were drunk, and they went to pick up a friend. The mother accompanied her daughter to the car and was so worried about the drunkenness of her friends. Her daughter sat down in the car, and while holding her daughter's hand, the mother said, "My daughter, go with God, and may He protect you." She responded to her mother, "Only if God travels in the trunk, because inside here it is already full." Hours later, news came that they had been involved in a fatal accident, and everyone had died. The car could not be recognized, even for the type of car it was, but surprisingly, the trunk was still intact. The police said there was no way the trunk could have remained intact. To their surprise, inside the trunk was a crate of eggs, and none of them was broken—not

one eggshell broke.

Christina Hewitt, a Jamaican journalist and entertainer, said, "The Bible, the Word of God, was the worst Book ever written." In June 2006 she was found burned beyond recognition in her own motor vehicle.

### The Choice Is Yours

God is not mocked. Again, Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." As I close the message, you come down to a choice. Romans 6:23 gives you a choice: you can either have the wages of sin or the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ. One of those is earned, and the other is given to you freely. The wages you have to earn, but the gift of God is given to you freely. May God help you to make the right choice. We have studied some examples through the Word of God, and I just mentioned these others. I do not usually bring other people and events into a message, but I wanted to show you that these things are just as up to date today as they were back in Bible

days. People are still receiving the wages that they have labored for. You need to be careful of how you spout off about God. You want to be careful with your tongue. Why? God is not mocked.

I remember when John Lennon was killed and how the world was saddened. The world was more saddened about the death of John Lennon than they were about the death of Jesus Christ. The assassin made sure that John Lennon was not going to get up when he put at least four bullets in him.

God is exact. When King Saul left this world, he died by a sword. Remember that he commanded his armor bearer to use a sword to hack up all those priests, and his armor bearer went out of this life by the same sword. I trust that you will make the right decision. You must either take the wages of sin or accept the gift of God. God wants you to accept His gift. He will give it to you freely. You cannot earn this gift. You earn the wages of sin.

(Compact Disc # TR-150E)

### The Christian's Creed

Let me be a little kinder,  
Let me be a blinder  
To the faults of those around me;  
Let me praise a little more;  
Let me be, when I am weary,  
Just a little bit more cheery;  
Let me serve a little better  
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver  
When temptation bids me waver;  
Let me strive a little harder  
To be all that I should be.  
Let me be a little meeker  
With my brother who is weaker;  
Let me think more of my neighbor  
And a little less of me.

*The one concern of the  
devil is to keep Christians  
from praying. He fears  
nothing for prayerless  
studies, prayerless work, or  
prayerless religion. He  
laughs at our toil, mocks at  
our wisdom, but trembles  
when we pray.*

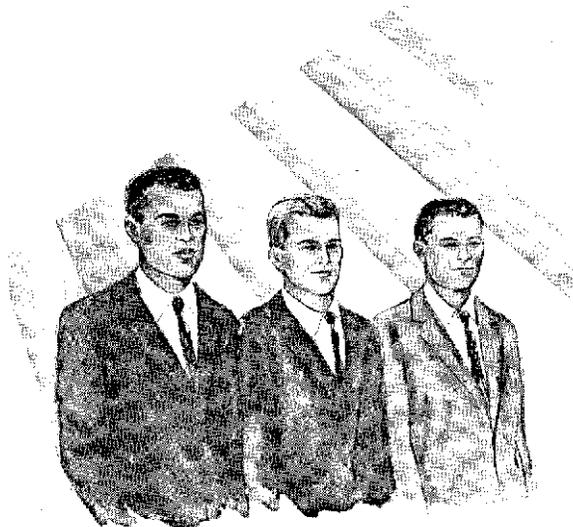
*Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

*2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made*

*me free from the law of sin and death.*

*3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.*

# The Transforming Power of God



*Brother Leamon Whitehead*

## **His Power Can Lift You Out of Sin**

Sin is a serious condition. My friend, being in sin means you are separated from God; therefore, you cannot have fellowship with Him. When Adam and Eve sinned, God drove them out of the garden, and they lost the precious fellowship that they once enjoyed with Him. How precious that fellowship was! After they were driven from the garden, the Bible says a flaming sword was placed at the gate, which turned every way to keep the way of the Tree of Life. Jesus Christ, that Supreme Sacrifice at Calvary, is the only way back into the family of God, or the paradise of God, and to regain fellowship with God.

How powerful and precious is the transforming power of God! Dear one, God can do anything. No matter how far down in the depths of sin you have gone, His power can lift

you and plunge you into the fountain that was opened for sin and uncleanness. He can clean you up and make you whiter than the driven snow. It is truly amazing what our God can do. No case is too bad for Him. As long as you can get unbelief out of the way and reach God by faith, He will unlock the prison house and set you free.

The Apostle Paul said in another place that the Law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. It was not given to take away sin or to clean up men and women and free them from sin. It was a tool that God used to show the wickedness of sin and the separation that it brings. Since the Law was a schoolmaster that brought us to Christ, it is only through Christ that we can be set free from sin. The Law was weak, but there is no weakness in Christ. His precious blood that was shed on the Cross of Calvary will cover every sin. There is no weakness in bringing you to life in

God and in bringing you to real salvation. The Law was weak through the flesh.

You see, dear one, you cannot accomplish this in the flesh. You cannot work it in the flesh. God has to work it in, and you must work it out. This great salvation came down from God out of Heaven. You cannot work it up. It is not something that you do, but it is through the power of God that falls when you humble yourself and come to Him and cry out for mercy. What do you want the Lord to do for you, dear one? Do you want Him to save you? That is what Jesus has been waiting to do. If you will just cry out to Him, He wants to set you free from sin.

## **Lean Upon the Lord**

In Romans 1:16 the Apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that

believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." The Gospel must be preached. It is the preaching of the Gospel that brings old-time conviction and enlightens men and women. It shows them their true condition. Paul said he was not ashamed of it. It will work! It does not work just part of the time, but it will work all the time. It will work every time a soul gives heed to it and allows that seed in the heart and life and surrenders to Him. Praise God!

Many times we have heard the testimonies of those who were in deep sin tell of how God lifted them out and made them new creatures. That is what He is in business for, so that He might save men and women and draw them back to Him.

Jesus did not come to condemn. Man was already condemned. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. We were already on our way to hell, lost and without a Savior, but Jesus came to make available to mankind that Supreme Sacrifice. My friend, He made it possible for you to get by that "flaming sword" and to get back on the good side of God and enjoy fellowship with Him.

The devil is our enemy, but Jesus is our friend; He loves us and wants to help us. Oh, how much we need God's help, even to live in this life. Dear one, He can enable you to be successful in your Christian living. He can cause you to be an overcomer.

The Apostle Paul wrote in the latter part of 2 Corinthians 12:10, "When I am weak, then am I strong." When I realize that I do not have any strength in myself and realize how weak I am, then I realize that I am strong in the Lord. Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." May you ever remember that Christ is where your spiritual power is. He is your helper, and you can do all things, whatever He might bid you to do, through Him.

Dear one, you need to quit saying, "I can't. I can't." Praise God, you can through Jesus Christ. Whatever He burdens you to do, whatever talent He gives you, whatever He

asks of you, if you will say yes, right behind that comes the power to perform whatever God has put on your heart. He will not let you down, but He will be there. His power will be there to lift you, strengthen you, and help you. He can put the words in your mouth to speak. Sometimes when I am preaching, He gives me the words to speak so quickly that I can hardly say them fast enough. That is what God can do! God can bring Scriptures to your mind and lay them on your heart. He wants us to lean upon Him.

### **"Be Not Conformed to This World"**

God formed us, but sin deformed us. It took us away from God, caused us to become ungodly, and caused us to be nothing like God wants us to be; then Jesus came along and died on the Cross of Calvary and rose again. Since then, through real salvation, man can be transformed and brought back into a holy state so that God can move into that person and take up His abode and dwell there. I am not talking about just having a visit with Him on Sunday or Wednesday. He will come and take up His abode in you and live within you day by day after your vessel has been cleaned up. Sin is gone, because it has been washed away, and then you and God can have fellowship. God will dwell right in your heart and life. He will come to church with you, He will go home with you after church, and He will stay all night with you.

Some so-called preachers say, "You cannot live free from sin." Well, if you will repent and turn away from sin, then you will have One right on the inside who will enable you to be an overcomer. Praise God! How wonderful it is to live for the Lord! You see, my friend, it is God's transforming power that changes men and women.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech 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. And be not conformed to this

world. . . ." I want to tell you, that is a full-time job. You cannot let down. You have to press right on and stay on guard all the time, because the enemy will come along. If he cannot get you one way, he will try to slip in another way. He will change his disguise just a little to try to throw you off; therefore, you have to be careful all the time.

Thank God for the experience you might have gotten thirty or forty years ago, but if you are not working at your salvation daily, all the time, you have been drifting away from God. We have to work at it all the time. Our enemy is real. He is trying every way he can to slip in through a little crack. If you just give him a little room, he will move in and slip something over on you. I say that to let you know that you need to beware of the enemy. That is the reason you have to work at your salvation all the time. You cannot accidentally do it; you have to do it on purpose. You have to continually watch, pray, and seek God so that you might know the moves of the enemy and see how he is going to try to work in a sly way.

You never get this down to the place where you can coast along. The only coasting you can do is downward, but you should be heading upward; therefore, you have to keep climbing higher each day with God. Again, Romans 12:2 reads, "And be not conformed to this world. . . ." One could probably preach all night on that conformity and how the world is moving in on us. You see, my friend, sin is very blinding. That is the reason people's hearts are darkened, and they are blind when they do not know the Lord. Have you ever heard people say, "Why, I don't see any wrong in this" or "I don't see any wrong with that"? The truth of the matter is, they do not really see wrong in much of anything because they are not in fellowship with God. Things must be judged by the law of God, not by what man says. This old world is letting down more and more, and the laws have been and are being passed to legalize terrible things, but God has not changed His mind about those things. He did not

say they were right. My friend, when you judge a matter, you must judge it according to what God thinks about it. He is the One you have to get direction from. You need to see what He thinks about a matter.

### **The Blinding Effects of Sin**

Oh, how sin has moved in on men and women! It has moved in on fathers and mothers. Nowadays you see them dressed in a terrible manner, and you see the children with hardly anything on. How sad that is! I have often wondered how a father or a mother could turn a daughter loose with such little clothes on. It is because they are blinded by sin, and they do not see the danger or the wrong in it. God wants to help people and give them insight so that they can see what the enemy is trying to do, how he is trying to work, and what the influence is going to be on the family.

Sometimes because things do not happen all at once and people do not see such a great difference, they think there is nothing wrong with the way they are dressing, but you can rest assured, the enemy is working. That is how darkness comes, just a little at a time. When preachers become silent on the message, darkness begins to creep in, and it does not take long. We all need the Word of God. Why? We need to look into the mirror of the Word of God to really see ourselves and to see whether or not we are drifting. We have to allow the Spirit of God to examine us to see where we stand with God.

Remember, Romans 12:2 says not to be not conformed to this world. Satan is constantly trying to bring us back into conformity with the world. Did you know that? Satan will try to shame you, even sometimes when you dress right and live right. Brother, when you go down to the barber shop and get your hair cut, the devil will try to shame you. The world is saying: "You don't have to live that way. You don't have to do that." Well, what does Jesus say about it? What kind of example does He want you to set?

People have things switched

around: we see long hair on men and short hair on women. There is something in the human flesh that, if you do not have it under the control of the Spirit of God, wants to rise against God's Word. Something in human nature wants to question God, His Word, and His law. That is the reason we see long hair on men and short hair on women.

Many women say, "I can't stand it; I've got to get it cut off," but then men want to grow their hair long. Can you see how human nature works? Had God told men to grow long hair, they would have defied that: "I'm not going to do it. I'm not going to have anything to do with it." You have to be careful of that kind of attitude. You need to find out what God's Word says, what God wants you to do, and how God wants you to live. This applies to both men and women. You ought to willingly submit to His will. That is where the blessing is!

### **Abide in Darkness No Longer**

The entire verse of Romans 12:2 reads, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The transforming power of God changes men and women. It changed me. Oh, how much better people's lives would be if they would allow God to change their lives! Sin will ruin your life, my friend. There is some pleasure in sin, but it only lasts for a little season, and then it is gone. As the people of God, we have joy unspeakable living right here in this life, and we are headed for that great day. The best is yet to come for the people of God!

Oh, how sin deformed us! It caused God to hide His face from us, and it separated us from Him. Then Jesus came along when a sacrifice was needed and said, "Father, I will go." He was willing to go to Calvary and willingly died on the Cross. No man took His life. He had the power to lay it down and take it up again, yet He willingly paid the sin debt so that men and women could live.

Christ has made eternal life available to you, friend, so that you do not have to abide in darkness any longer. You do not have to stay in sin any longer. You do not have to be under its terrible clutches and in shackles. Jesus died and brought about a plan of life and salvation so that you can be set free from sin. Praise God! You can have the victory, my friend, if you will just look to God and claim it.

In 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 the Apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

My friend, sin is a very serious matter. How it has deformed mankind and separated him from God! It has mankind in such a state that there is no way he can live for God or walk with God. The Bible lets us know that sin affects the mind, the heart, the eyes, and the feet. Man walks in a crooked path, the broad way. The mind is darkened and the heart is darkened when one is away from God.

### **God's Way Is Best**

Jesus came along and said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the

light of life." Oh, I love this good way! I thank God for His saving grace, for His keeping power, for His transforming power, and for how He lifted me out of the horrible pit of sin and quickened me and made me alive. It is wonderful to be able to walk with God and to have the power to tell the devil no.

Oh, how terrible are the things that are coming on the world and the things that are getting hold of people. Saint, are you not glad that you are free? Are you not glad that you have the power to tell the devil, "No! I don't have to do that." Praise God! I thank God that I can walk along and be contented and satisfied.

Many people out in the world are addicted to drugs, and they have to have them. I thank God that, through Jesus Christ, I do not need such things. I am drinking from a greater fountain than that. It is grand to be a Christian! I love it. I thank God for the transforming power that changed my life. Let the world go on and do what they will. Certainly, we are trying to get them saved. We want to see people saved, but by no means are we going to follow them. I have given up the whole world to follow Jesus. I am satisfied with Jesus. Bless His Holy Name! I am contented and free in serving God.

You have to be careful that you do not become discontented, because when that happens, you will begin to look over the fence, so to speak. Friend, you need to keep content in your own soul, so that you and Jesus can have sweet communion and so that you are not moved by what the world is doing. You should not be moved by the fads and the fashions and the styles of this world, but you ought to be satisfied in Jesus. Praise God forever! The child of God is satisfied in being what God would have him to be, living as He wants him to live, and dressing as modestly as the Christian ought to dress. As a Christian, you should be happy in it. If you get to the place where you complain, it is not going to be long until the enemy will take advantage of you.

You need to see that God's way is best. You may not always feel that

way, but down deep in your heart, you know that God's way is always best. You cannot see the end of what is going to happen many times, but God's way is best. Sometimes things may seem to be working against you, but take courage. Romans 8:28 says, "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."

### **Wait Upon the Lord**

The devil would like to convince you that Jesus has turned against you. Being a Christian does not mean everything is going to go well. There is no guarantee that everything is going to go smoothly. Christians have flat tires, their washing machines break down, their plumbing sometimes leaks, and their toilets may overflow. Sometimes Christians have more of the month left over than they have money for.

The devil will say to you: "Well, look at those people. They don't even go to church, and they have this, that, and the other thing. They are doing a lot better than you are." My friend, you must not pay attention to that. Some people will try to convince you that the Lord has turned against you; but if you have not turned on Him, He will not turn against you. He may be testing you and trying you. He might have something brand new for you just up the road. You might not have to get that old washer fixed. God may give you a brand new one if you will just stand the trial and the test and be what He would have you to be.

Many a person has gone down and lost out because the devil convinced them that the Lord had turned on them when things were not going well. You just make sure that you are doing all that you know to do and stay faithful and open to God for more; then whatever happens, just praise God for it, because He is still right there. Dear one, I want to tell you, the sun will shine again. An old saying says, "The darkest hour is just before dawn."

I kid people sometimes, and I tell them about some fellows that were

standing around during the night waiting on daylight, and all at once, it dawned on them. If you keep waiting, it will be there. If you wait and it is still dark, you have not waited long enough. Just keep waiting, and God will come through.

Isaiah 35:1-4 reads: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you."

### **The Lord Will Enlighten Your Darkness**

Isaiah 35:5 reads, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." When you read this, you may think of the natural sight being restored, and that is wonderful, but that is just for the body. However, it is the spiritual eyes that He gives us that bring enlightenment to the soul. David said in Psalm 18:28, "For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." That candle lit by the Lord will dispel darkness. Praise God forever! How wonderful it is to walk with Him! Sin had blinded us.

If you are away from God, sin has blinded you. You might have twenty-twenty vision with your natural eyesight; but if you are spiritually blind, you cannot see the good things of God and the way of salvation. My friend, you cannot tread upon this way unless God moves into your life and lifts you up. The unclean cannot pass over this way.

We thank God for every dear one who was healed physically in those days and since then, but those who have quickened spirits are made alive in Christ Jesus. In Matthew 4:16 Jesus

said, "The people which sat in darkness saw great light." He was not talking about sitting around at midnight with the lights off. Paul talked about that Light, and he said it was brighter than the noonday sun. Christ will light you up! You will not be looking around in the garbage cans of this old world, trying to find a bite to eat, spiritually speaking. In other words, you will not be running down to Babylon or running here and there, but Christ will cause you to be stable and settled. You can eat from the Father's table and drink from the fountain that never runs dry. That is the Light I am talking about, and that Light is Jesus Christ. Before Jesus came, man had not heard from God since the last Book of the Old Testament, Malachi, had been written, which was about four hundred years; then those who sat in darkness saw a *great* Light.

Isaiah 35:6 states, "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." One songwriter read that and was inspired to write, "My desert bloomed roses the day I found the Lord."

### **Unbelief Will Cause You to Miss Heaven**

Praise God, nothing is any sweeter or greater than salvation on this side of Heaven. My friend, if you do not know Him, I pray that you will seriously consider the Lord. This old world is coming to a close. Peter told what will happen to it: it is going to burn up, and everything in it is going to burn up, not burn over. This thing is closing out, according to the Word of God.

Someone may say, "Oh, I don't believe that." You see, that is the trouble: unbelief will cause you to say that. In Noah's day unbelief was what made old Noah sound as if the sun had gotten to him, in the minds of the people. They might have thought, "Maybe he had a heat-stroke." No, he heard from God. God told him to build a boat. Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as

yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Noah was out building a big boat in the desert. That looked strange, and he also talked about a flood coming, yet it had never rained on the earth. A mist came and watered the earth, the Bible says. It had never rained, yet a man was saying: "It's going to rain; a flood is coming! You need to get right with God." He did not just have a week's revival, but he preached about 120 years and worked on the ark. My friend, there were a lot of unbelievers in that day. Only eight souls got into the ark. The rest of them were unbelievers, but when the rain started falling, every one of them became believers. Then, however, there was no way for them to get in.

The Bible teaches us that God will not destroy the earth with water the next time; it will be destroyed by fire. You may say, "Aw, that couldn't happen; that's never happened." No, it has never happened, but the Bible says it is going to, and I believe it. I believe it so much that I have made preparations to miss it. How about you? It would be better to be on the safe side. You may ask, "What do you mean?" You need to get right with God. Do not take a chance; then you have not lost anything. If you take a chance, you will lose everything.

The Word of God speaks against unbelief. Oh, how unbelief hinders people from believing God, and receiving from God, even in salvation! You have to get beyond that. I would rather be safe than sorry, wouldn't you? Someone may say, "Oh, you don't have to live that close. You don't have to live that strict." Well, I do not want to take a chance. If you give up the world and follow God, what have you lost? Look at what sin and the world have done to the inhabitants.

### **Be on the Safe Side**

You will not lose anything by living for God. It is such a good, clean way to live. As a Christian, you

do not have to darken the alley every time the sheriff's car goes down the street, because you have not been living wrong. You have been living right, with everything above the table, so to speak. Suppose you live this way and then you face death. When the death angel comes to get you, suppose you were to find out that you did not have to do all of this. You have not lost anything.

On the other hand, if you cut corners and say: "Well, there is nothing wrong with this. We don't have to do that"; then when you get to the Judgment and the God of all the earth pronounces the sentence and you come up short, there will be no time to fix it, because death will have overtaken you. Then you will have lost everything. Therefore, it would be better to be on the safe side. If you will take that attitude, friend, if you look at it in that manner, you will be getting right with God, because you cannot afford to put it off any longer.

If God is dealing with your heart, do not put off salvation any longer. Someone may say, "I'm going to wait until tomorrow." Friend, there is no guarantee that you will be living tomorrow. Also, you have no guarantee that He will deal with you as He is dealing with you now. That is the reason you need to do it today. If you give your heart and life to God, He will give you salvation, and you will stand amazed at the transforming power of God.

One dear, older brother said: "I still pinch myself sometimes. I can't really believe it's me." What a wonderful work God has done! My friend, He wants to do you good. He does not want to hurt you or to see you lost. He does not want to have to speak these words one of these days: "Depart from Me; I never knew you." He wants to say, "Enter in, thou good and faithful servant." May God help you to be serious about this matter, because sin is already leaving its mark on you. The world is leaving its mark on you. God wants to change you, friend.

*(Compact Disc # TR-148E)*



Many years ago, when a boy of seven or eight years, my home was near a beautiful village in the central part of the state of New York. Although it was but a humble cottage, the flowers and shrubs flourishing so luxuriantly under the tender care of my mother, that it made it seem a paradise in my young eyes, and even now I remember the home of my boyhood as the sweetest spot on earth. My father was in humble circumstances, and by close and laborious study earned the daily bread of his family, ever looking forward to the time when the reward of his labor should bring us peace and plenty.

I was an only son, and acknowledged by all to be a growing image of my father, and although almost idolized by him, his poverty prevented the gratification of very many of my childish humors and saved me from the fate of far too many idolized children. He was a true Christian, always endeavoring to instill good and holy principles into the minds of my little sister and myself.

The distance between my father's house and the village was about half a mile; and a most delightful walk it was in the summer. To take the hand of my father and accompany him in his visits to the village store, listening to his stories and carrying some little parcel for

my sister or mother, was one of my greatest pleasures. There was one thing, however, which I longed for more than anything else, and which I imagined would make me supremely happy. It was a jackknife. Then I would not be obliged to borrow father's every time I wished to cut a string or a stick, but could whittle whenever I chose and as much as I pleased. Dreams of kites, bows and arrows, boats, etc., all manufactured with the aid of that shining blade, haunted me by day and night. I had asked my father to buy me one, but he could only promise to grant my request at some future time, which to me seemed ages hence.

One of these visits, the sequel of which forms the subject of this tale, I shall never forget. It was a beautiful morning in June that my father called me and gave me leave, if I wished, to go with him to the store. I was delighted, and taking his hand, we started. The birds sang sweetly on every bush and everything looked so gay and beautiful that my heart fairly leaped with joy. I was very happy.

After our arrival at the village, and while my father was occupied in purchasing some articles in a remote part of the store, my attention was drawn to a man who was asking the price of various jackknives which lay on the counter. As

this was a very interesting subject to me, I approached, intending only to look at them. I picked up one, opened it, examined it, tried the springs, felt the edge of the blade with my thumb, and thought I could never cease admiring their polished surface. "Oh, if it were only mine," thought I, "how happy I should be!"

Just at this moment, happening to look up, I saw that the merchant had gone to change a bill for his customer, and no one was observing me. For fear that I might be tempted to do wrong, I started to replace the knife on the counter, but an evil spirit whispered, "Put it in your pocket. Quick!" Without stopping to think of the crime or its consequences, I hurriedly slipped it in my pocket, and as I did so felt a blush of shame burning my cheeks, but the store was rather dark and no one noticed it, nor did the merchant miss the knife.

We soon started for home, my father giving me a parcel to carry. As we walked along my thoughts continually rested on the knife, and I kept my hand in my pocket all the time, from a sort of guilty fear that it would be seen. This, together with carrying the bundle in my other hand, made it difficult for me to keep pace with my father. He noticed it and gave me a lecture about walking with my hands in my pockets.

Ah! how different were my thoughts then from what they were when passing the same scenes a few hours before. The song of the birds seemed joyous no longer, but sad and sorrowful as if chiding me for my wicked act. I could not look my father in the face, for I had been heedless of his precepts, broken one of God's commandments, and become a *thief*. As these thoughts passed through my mind, I could hardly help crying, but I concealed my feelings and tried to think of the good times I would have with my knife. I could hardly say anything on my way home, and my father, thinking I was either tired or sick, kindly took my burden and spoke soothingly to me, his guilty son.

No sooner did we reach home

that I retreated to a safe place, behind the house, to try the stolen knife. I had picked up a stock and was whittling it, perfectly delighted with the sharp blade, which glided through the wood almost of itself, when suddenly I heard the deep, subdued voice of my father calling me by name, and on looking up, saw him at the window directly over my head, gazing down very sorrowfully at me. The stick dropped from my hand, and with the knife clasped in the other, I proceeded into the house. I saw by his looks that he had divined all. I found him sitting in his armed chair, looking very sorrowful. I walked directly to his side, and in a low, calm voice, he asked me where I got the knife. His gentle manner and kind tone went to my heart, and I burst into tears. As soon

as my voice would allow me, I made a full confession. He did not whip me, as some fathers would have done, but reprimanded me in such a manner that, while I felt truly penitent for the deed, I loved him more than ever, and promised never, never to do the like again. In my father's company, I then returned to the store, and on my knees begged the merchant's pardon and promised never again to take what was not my own.

My father is long since dead, and never do I think of my first theft without blessing the memory of him, whose kind teachings and gentle corrections have made it, thus far in my life, and *forever*, my last.

Selected

## The Snake That Poisons Everything

It topples governments, wrecks marriages, ruins careers, and destroys reputations; causes heartaches, nightmares, and indigestion; spawns suspicion, generates grief, and dispatches innocent people to sob and cry on their pillows. Even the name of this snake hisses. It is called gossip—office gossip, party gossip, neighborhood gossip, even church gossip.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself these questions: Is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary? If not, then let the story die with you.

*Matthew 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.*

*37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

*Luke 19:35 And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.*

*36 And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.*

*37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;*

*38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

*39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.*

*40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

*41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,*

*42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*

*43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,*

*44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

# Will God Leave You Desolate?



*Brother Larry Dishman*

## **"I Have Set Before You Life and Death"**

In the day in which we live, messages like this may not be very popular. People would rather hear someone preach about the love of God, the mercy of God, the grace of God, or the long-suffering of God. They fail to look at the other side. God is a God of love and mercy and

grace; however, He is also a God of wrath. He hates the works of iniquity. He does not hate the sinner, but He hates the sin. God loves the world, but He hates sin today as much as He ever did.

Whether or not God will leave you desolate depends on what you do about your soul's condition. God does not want one soul to be lost and to spend eternity in a devil's hell. He

let us know through the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:9, "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."

God, through the Prophet Ezekiel, stated in Ezekiel 33:11, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn

from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" God does not want men to die in a sinful, lost condition. God's will is for every soul to come to the Lord Jesus Christ and repent of sin. Man is a free, moral agent, and God will not save anyone against his or her will. It is a choice that each individual must make.

Deuteronomy 30:19 states, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." If you want life and blessing, you must choose life; otherwise you are choosing death and cursing. Joshua told the children of Israel in Joshua 24:15 to "choose you this day whom ye will serve." This is a choice that you, too, must make. You do not have to live after the flesh and live in sin. You can come to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. He can make you a new person, where old things are passed away and all things become new.

### **Harden Not Your Heart**

As Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem, He began to weep. What would cause the Son of God to weep? He saw their condition. As He looked over the city, He saw more than fine buildings. He looked down and saw the many souls who had turned Him away. They rebelled and rejected Him as their Savior, and He knew it would only be a short time until God's mercy would be shut off to those Jews. You may say you do not believe that God would work that way today. Nevertheless, the very reason that caused God to leave those people desolate can happen to you if you continue to reject Him.

In our Scripture text Jesus said, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! [Every one of those people could have been partakers of His peace. His next words cause fear to come over me.] but now they are hid from thine eyes." It was not that they were going to be hid from all people's eyes, but they were hid from their eyes. God is not obligated to deal with anyone repeatedly. My friend, you need to get saved

when God gives you the opportunity, when the Spirit of God deals with your heart.

It takes the Spirit of God to show people their lost condition. You may sign a church membership card and get baptized, but no man can come to the Father except through the Lord Jesus Christ. I am so glad that I responded to His call one day. I am glad that I did not go on in my sins and continue to harden my heart.

It is time to move when the Spirit of God speaks to your heart. Sin still makes God angry just as much as it ever did. I believe that we are living in the closing out of time. This world is not going to last forever. The Bible says that as it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. If God did not let the people of Noah's day and Lot's day get by, I am persuaded that He will not let America get by with sin.

The sins that caused God to destroy the world in Noah's day and the same sins that caused God to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day are going on in America today. America is in trouble with God, and she is on a downhill slide toward hell. America was once a God-fearing nation, but the majority of her people have lost the fear of God and have blasphemed God. He is not going to let America get by with sin and ungodliness.

### **Walk in the Light, Lest Darkness Come Upon You**

Genesis 6:11 says that violence filled the earth. Many men have lost the natural use of the woman, and they are burning in their lusts one for another. Many women are doing the same. That is sick! Moreover, it is a sin in God's sight. He hates it today as much as He ever did. He has not changed His mind about it. Some modern preachers and doctors of divinity say it is acceptable, and they are ordaining people who condone this ungodly way of living and practice it. Nevertheless, in God's sight it is just as bad as it ever was. Man may pat that sin on the back, but we are living in perilous times, as the Bible says, where people have a form of

godliness, yet they deny the power thereof.

If you do not think this world is getting worse, where have you been for the past twenty years? Abortion, the killing of little, innocent, unborn babies, was legalized. You may not believe that abortion is murder, but it is murder in the sight of God. All parties involved in the act are guilty, from those who wrote the bill and voted to sign it into law to legalize it, to the mothers who sign the consent forms. They all are guilty of murder in the sight of God. Galatians 6:7 states, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Our nation is sowing death, therefore, it is going to reap death, because no one can get by God's law of sowing and reaping. Friend, it is time for you to turn to God, if you ever plan to get saved, and live for Him. It is high time to awake out of your sleep and get right with God. We are coming to the closing hours of time, and people are blind to their spiritual condition. Most people are carelessly thinking that this world is going to last forever, but mark it down, time is getting ready to come to an end. I am glad that I am in Christ. I could have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. I, too, could have become blinded to the Truth. God's Truth could have been hidden from my eyes.

Again, Jesus said in verse 42 of our Scripture text, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." If God leaves your soul in darkness, you will not know which way to turn or what to do. In John 12:35b Jesus instructed, "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." If God shines light on your pathway, whether you are a Christian or a sinner, you had better walk in the light that He gives you, lest darkness come upon you and you are left in darkness. I thank God for the precious light of the Gospel.

Paul spoke of that light in Acts, Chapter 9, when he said he was on the way to Damascus and a light shined about him. I like the way he

told his testimony. You can read about the next time he told his testimony in Acts 22:6. He said, ". . . suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me." The third time he told of the account is recorded in Acts 26:13, when he said, "At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me." It became brighter and brighter as he told others of his experience. Dear one, if you fail to walk in the light that God has shone upon your pathway, that light will turn to darkness. As great as that light is, that is how great the darkness will be to you.

### Choosing Desolation

As Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem, He wept. The Son of God began to weep. He could see the view of the splendid temple, but He remembered the people's disobedience to God and the many mercies that God had shown toward them. Certainly that city would have been spared had they only accepted Jesus as the Messiah. I believe that as He looked over the city, in His mind He saw the lost souls of men. He saw those to whom He had preached. He saw those before whom He had performed miracles. His work was so complete that He left them without excuse, yet they still rejected Him. He always went about doing good; nevertheless, they found fault with Him. Finally, they crucified Him, the very Son of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ knew what was going to happen to the city of Jerusalem. He foresaw the destruction that was going to take place, as described in Matthew 24:15-22. The destruction of that city is not something that will take place in the future, but it has already taken place. When Jesus told the Jews, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:38), He was speaking to the Jews of that destruction.

Jesus said in Matthew 23:36 of our Scripture text, "Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation." Therefore, this event could not come upon a generation

thousands of years down the road. He was speaking of what was going to come to pass upon the generation of that day. Most Bible students know what happened to those people. Prince Titus' army compassed the city, just as Jesus foretold.

According to the historian Josephus, the soldiers killed so many people that there was no more room to put any crosses in the ground. They even killed little babies, and expectant mothers were run through with the sword. Josephus said the blood ran in the streets of the city. You may wonder how God could have allowed anything so terrible to happen. I want you to understand that they chose this destruction.

Sinner friend, you are choosing your own desolation by saying no to the Spirit of God. Some believe that a just God would not send anyone to hell. When you choose to live in sin, you are choosing to go to hell. Millions are choosing the broad way to hell.

### Take Heed

Matthew 7:13-14 reads: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

I am glad that I am no longer on the broad way that leads to destruction. I thank God that one day God saved me and turned me around and put me on the strait and narrow way. This way is the Highway of Holiness, and no unclean thing shall pass over it. Will God leave you desolate? This is a serious question, and you need to get serious about where you are going to spend eternity.

Jerusalem was forsaken by God because the people had forsaken Him. Their day of mercy had passed. Christ offered them salvation, but they rejected it. You may think that could not happen to you, but it could. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 11:21, "For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee." If God did not spare His own people (the natu-

ral branches were the Jews), you need to take heed, lest He also not spare you. Verse 22 reads, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God. On them which fell, severity. . . ." Many people think the Jews are still God's chosen people, but that is not so. If they get saved, they will have to get salvation the same way others get it.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 21:43, "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." What nation is that? It is the holy nation, God's peculiar people, the Church of the Living God. Praise God forever! God took that kingdom away from the Jews and gave it to every born again individual. You cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless you have been born again. Many people are looking forward to a kingdom in the future, but the saved have been enjoying it for years. God's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. If you are born of God's Spirit and walking in all the light that God has given you, you are in the Kingdom of God.

Will God leave you desolate? Ezra 8:22 reads, "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him." If you forsake God, His wrath will be upon you. The Jews did not get by with forsaking God, and you will not get by with it either. Peter said that the men in Noah's day and in Lot's day were examples to those who should live afterward and who live ungodly.

Someone may ask, "If the event spoken of in Matthew, Chapter 24, happened in the past, why did God allow it to be recorded in the Bible?" He did it so that we might read it and take notice of it, lest God's wrath should be poured out upon you or me.

### Strive to Enter In

Some people say, "When I get ready, I'll get saved." Friend, you can only get saved when God gives you the opportunity. If you do not get saved when God speaks to you, you

will die in your sins and go to hell. You cannot get saved whenever you want to.

I have stood by the deathbeds of people who had said they would get saved when they were ready. In the hospital bed they were ready, and they cried and asked me to pray for them, but they could not get saved. Why was that? They had rejected God at the time of opportunity and had hardened their hearts. When I prayed, they said, "I don't feel any relief. I don't feel that God has saved me." One time I prayed with a man who was ninety-one years of age, and the last words he said were, "O God, don't let me die! O God, don't let me die!" It was pitiful that God had blessed a man with a good, long life and he died unsaved.

Dear one, you need to get saved when God gives you the opportunity. While He speaks to your heart and while the door of mercy is open, you ought to surrender your life to Him. Do not be as the five foolish virgins who waited until it was too late and then started knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us" (Matthew 25:11). The Lord's reply was, "I know you not" (Matthew 25:12). Luke 13:24 says, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Many have sought to get saved, many have strived to enter in, but they waited until it was too late. Their hearts became hard and insensitive to the Gospel and the Spirit of God.

How sad it is to sit at the bedside of one who is dying and unprepared to meet God, knowing he has lived for the devil and rejected God all his life! Often individuals lay there helplessly and strive to enter, but they are unable to get through. You need to take heed, lost soul, and not put off salvation until it is too late. Do not wait to seek God.

When the Jews accused Jesus and wanted to put Him to death, they took Him to Pilate, who said, "I find no fault in him." Three times, Pilate examined Jesus, and the third time he went to the Jews and let them know that he found no fault in Him.

Those Jews said, "Let his blood be upon us and our children" (read

Matthew, Chapter 27). My friend, that very thing came to pass. God did not permit those Jews to get by with rejecting the Savior, and you will not get by either.

Many people live in adultery, live as drunkards, and become drug addicts, yet they never seek God for forgiveness. Throughout the Old Testament we can read that men rejected the prophets. Prophet after prophet came, and the people rejected them. Finally, John the Baptist went about preaching and warning men to flee the wrath to come, yet people rejected the warnings. In Matthew 3:11 John said that another was going to come whose shoes he was not worthy to bear. He preached the Gospel and told the people to "repent or perish." Still, many people said no.

### **Remember Your Creator Now**

Jesus proclaimed that they could reject Him and be forgiven, but He said that another was coming, and that was the Spirit of God. There was nothing more to come after He came. There is no future dispensation. If you reject the Holy Spirit, no other prophet is going to come and give you another opportunity. No angel is going to come down and give you a special message. This is the day of salvation; now is the appointed time. People in false religion may tell you that if you fail to get saved now, you can get saved during a supposed millennium; however, there will not be a millennium. Today is the day of salvation. If you ever intend to get saved, you had better wake up and do so before the door of mercy is closed.

God waited in the days of Noah because He is long-suffering. He waited for the people to repent, but one day His patience wore out. I believe that the long-suffering of God is the reason He has not already come. God is waiting for the lost to repent. How long is He going to wait? No man knows the day or the hour when the Son of Man will come. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:4, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." We who are saved and have spiritual insight are not in darkness.

We are aware that we are living in the last days, in the closing hours of time.

My friend, wrath and judgment are coming upon the unjust. Often as people approach death, they become alarmed and anxious, and with fear and trembling they ask others to pray, but many times it is forever too late. When all the righteous are received into Heaven, the door will be closed to those who are unsaved for time and eternity. No wonder the Bible urges young people in Ecclesiastes 12:1 to "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

I am trying to encourage you to remember your Creator while there is still time and opportunity. Death often comes suddenly and unexpectedly. You need to awaken out of your sleep and seek God for mercy and forgiveness. Oh, how sad to face the Judgment unprepared to meet God! You may not believe in the Judgment and hell, but they are just as real as this life is. It will take less than five seconds to start believing when death overtakes you.

You can read about the rich man in Luke, Chapter 16. Verse 23 reads, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom," and he cried for mercy. Will you not cry for mercy today? Many people are too proud to humble themselves and seek God for salvation. Friend, in hell you will not be too proud to seek God, but it will be too late; then the door of mercy will be closed forever.

### **"Now Is the Day of Salvation"**

As I look back over my life, I remember times when I was living in sin and walking after the flesh that I could have been called into eternity, unprepared to meet God. I thank God that His great hand of mercy was looking after me. He is a loving and a long suffering God, but it is not good to tax His patience. Genesis 6:3 states, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." Sometimes people procrastinate and turn away from God so many times that they no lon-

ger feel the tug of His Spirit. Their day of mercy will soon be past; then death will come and the door of Heaven will be closed against them forever.

Second Corinthians 6:2 reads, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." The time will come when it will not be an acceptable time with God. The door of mercy will be closed, and men will be removed to a world where love is not shown and compassion is unknown. Right now, when the offer is given, while God is speaking to your heart, is the accepted time. In John 12:35-36 Jesus said: "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth now whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." Soon the time of mercy will pass, and God will not pardon the sinner who goes unprepared into eternity. Dear one, you cannot calculate the future. You have no assurance that you will live another day or even another hour.

The rich man found no mercy in hell. Luke 16:24-25 reads: "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame [I believe he is thirsty for the Water of Life as well as water to quench his physical thirst]. But, Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."

If you die in your sins and go to hell, you will remember this message. It will haunt you throughout the ceaseless age of eternity. You will remember the times when you could have done something to escape that awful place called hell, but you loved the things of this world too much. When you awake in that awful place called hell, all these worldly things that are keeping you from being a Christian will seem as nothing. They may seem like mountains to you today, but when you awake in that awful place, you will wish you had

lived differently. I have heard people say, "When I get to hell, I'm going to have a lot of company." Not one of them will comfort you.

### **Sin Will Cost You More Than You Want to Pay**

After the rich man realized there was no mercy and no pardon for him, not even a little drink of water, he said in Luke 16:27-28: "I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." Verse 31 answers with these words: "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." The only hope you have, sinner friend, is the Gospel. If you refuse to believe the Gospel, there is no hope for you.

God showed me through the preached message what a wretch I was. God witnessed to my heart and said, "Son, you don't have to go to hell. I have made a way and paid the price so that you can have life and have it more abundantly." I am glad that a man of God told me how I could escape the damnation of hell. Many people have quit this godly way. I am going to go on regardless. I have determined, by the grace of God, to go through whether my loved ones go with me or not.

Sin brings pleasure for a season, but I have found something that is good when I am at church, when I am at home, and when I am on the job, and it is everlasting. Salvation satisfies my soul. I took a drink of the Living Water one day, and it satisfies my soul. I tried the world, and it does not satisfy. Young person, you are going to find that the pleasures in this world last only for a season. If you want lasting joy, peace, and love, you must be born of the Spirit of God. Sin will take you further than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay.

The rich man wanted Abraham to send Lazarus to his five brothers to warn them not to come to hell, but I repeat, Abraham said in verse 31, "If they hear not Moses and the proph-

ets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." If you go to hell, you will not want anyone that you love to come to that awful place. I have heard men laugh and mockingly say, "I am going to be a water boy when I get there." I would be afraid to say that. You are dealing with a just and holy God, a God of wrath. There are not going to be any water boys in hell. You need to come to God before it is too late. Will God leave you desolate?

### **Becoming Insensitive to His Voice**

Salvation is an individual matter, and if you are unsaved, you need to come to Him now. He can withdraw His Spirit from you and let you go on in sin and deception. Three times in the Book of Hebrews, the writer admonished, "Harden not your heart." Every time God speaks to your heart and makes you aware of your condition and you refuse Him, you are hardening your heart. You can reject Him so long that you can become insensitive to His voice. Many people living in sin intend to get right with God, but they do not realize the deceitfulness of sin. I repeat, my friend, it will take you further than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay.

You may say, "I will get saved when I get ready." Proverbs 27:1 reads, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Proverbs 29:1 states, "He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." When God reveals your need to you and you persistently resist the Spirit of God, there is no remedy for you. The Apostle Paul said in Acts 26:19, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Will you be obedient to the heavenly vision? God will save you and keep you saved if you will obey Him.

Will God leave you desolate? If He made the whole Jewish nation desolate because they heeded not His pleadings, He will leave you desolate also. Thousands upon thousands of people were killed because they did not know the time of their visitation.

This is your time of visitation.

Christian friend, this concerns you too. You can read in the Book of Revelation that those churches got in trouble with God. He gave every one of those churches a space to repent, and when they did not repent in the space that He gave them, He removed the candlestick from the place. Has God been dealing with you as a Christian along some lines where you know you ought to measure up? These Scriptures are a warning for you as well. God's Spirit will not always strive with saints of God who know they need to make a move and know they need to make things right but fail to do so. God will let you go on in your sin and unbelief if you insist upon having your own way. If you want the downward road, He will let you take that road.

**Except You Repent, You  
Will Likewise Perish**

Sinner friend, God is giving you a space to repent. You cannot receive mercy unless you repent. In Luke 13:3 Jesus said, "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." What does it mean to repent? It means to ask for forgiveness and to turn from your sin. I repeat, you cannot receive help unless you repent. Will God leave you desolate?

Are you truly saved? Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Are you going to stay in your condition? The Jews chose to remain in their condition. I pray that you will not go on in your condition and rebel until darkness comes upon your pathway. Will you be obedient to the Spirit of God? While He is pleading with you, won't you make Him your choice? The Spirit of God is real, and God is faithful. He is passing by your way once more. Would you say yes to Him? Do not reject the greatest Friend you could ever have.

God has been merciful and long-suffering. Do not turn from Him. You could be at the point of being left desolate. If you turn from God now, you may never hear the Spirit of God speak to your heart again. Would you hearken to the Spirit's voice? He is still calling you. While He is plead-

ing with you, make the choice to serve Him. Do not go on as you are and harden your heart. Your conscience may be tender, but if you continue to reject Him, your heart will become hard. I pray that you will obey God. If you fail to surrender your heart to Him now, the hour may come when you will call upon Him in vain. Dear friend, won't you hearken to Him right now?

Proverbs 1:24-26 reads: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man

regarded; But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh." You need to seek Him while the door of mercy is open. The door of mercy is going to be closed some day, and then it will be too late. The Bible says to seek Him while He may be found. Do not wait until it is too late.

*(Cassette C-108E)*

**COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE**

***Perhaps you have not counted  
All your blessings one by one;  
Perhaps we have not bothered  
To remember whence they come;  
And maybe you have taken  
Just for granted all the things  
That the good Lord has created  
And the gifts that nature brings.***

***The autumn hills in glory robed,  
Golden field of grain,  
The sunset's dazzling splendor  
Or the Milky Way's great plain,  
The starry sky's sublimity,  
The ocean's mighty power,  
The wonder of creation  
In the petal of a flower.***

***And so if you have failed to show  
By work or act or deed  
That you are thankful unto Him  
Who fills your daily need,  
May this day show you're grateful  
When you add up all the sum  
Of the blessings you remember,  
As you count them one by one.***

***Author Unknown***

*Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

*17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

*18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

*19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

*20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

*21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*

*22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

## *A Servant of Righteousness*



*Brother Garrett Haylock*

### **Being Made Free From Sin**

I want to focus on verse 18 of the Scripture reading, which states, "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." We hear people preaching, and we hear people talking about preaching, but the only real preaching that will cause people to get rid of their sins is the preaching of the Gospel. A minister can stand up and say many things, but any minister that leaves people feeling content in their sins is surely missing the mark. God intends for people to be free from sin.

In Luke 2:10-11 we read that an angel descended from Heaven and made this proclamation: "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The greatest news that the world has ever heard is that a Savior has come into

the world.

Matthew 1:21 tells us, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." I thank God that He has not missed the mark. His true, called ministers will not stop with sin reigning in people's lives. The Apostle Paul used this line of thought in Romans 6:1-2: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Again, I want to emphasize the thought in verse 18 of our Scripture reading, which states, "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." As I was looking through the Scriptures, I looked at what Christ had to say about servants. As you read through the Scriptures in this message, you will notice that servants did not have much say. As a matter of fact, the

Apostle Paul encouraged and instructed servants to be obedient to their masters in all things. He wrote in Titus 2:9, "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again."

Many times when people come to God, they do not come as servants. Often they come with their own agenda, but a servant does not have any say. That may not seem to be good news to you, but that is what every Christian is. Once sin is out of your life, you become a servant of righteousness.

Jesus said in John 8:34, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." To be a servant means that you are under the control of your master. Those who are servants of sin cannot help themselves. Many people are hooked on drugs and alcohol and have all kinds of addictions and they are servants of sin. They think they

are in control, but in reality they are under Satan's control. When I was unsaved, I thought I was in control. I thought I could kick sinful habits anytime I wanted and pick them up when I wanted. It is not until you really try to quit that you realize you are a slave to those things. That is what a servant is, a slave. As a sinner, you have become a slave to sin and sinful habits.

### **Enduring Sound Doctrine**

In our Scripture text the Apostle Paul was making a comparison. In essence, he was saying: "You know what it is to be a servant of sin, to be under the power and the control of sin. Now just turn it around: since that you are free from sin, you are a servant, not of sin, but of righteousness."

What a privilege to be a servant of righteousness! As a child of God, you crave righteousness, live righteously, and do righteousness. You become a slave, a servant of righteousness. You can only reach that place after you are free from sin. Sin is something that cannot remain in the lives of God's people. God's people have to put all sin behind them. Too many times people profess to know God, but in reality they are far from Him. Those around them know it too. I do not want to be a preacher who is satisfied with a congregation that is living in sin.

I strive to be as my mentors have been. True men of God preach and labor to get sin out of people's lives. That is the reason our Savior came; that is the reason He died and rose again. There are three kinds of preachers: those who preach *over* the people, those who preach *under* the people, and those who preach *to* the people. People should be preached *to*. From the time I came to the church and bowed at an altar of prayer and got saved, I was ready for real preaching. We need to be told the Truth of God's Word.

I remember the first prayer meeting and the first baptismal service I attended in Honduras with Brother Brooks. I was almost knocked out of my seat with the kind of preaching that he preached to those new con-

verts sitting in the front row, ready to go down into water baptism. I thought most people would pick up and walk out, but since the Lord has placed me in a place of responsibility, I found myself doing the very same thing for this reason: if people are not going to take sound doctrine and cannot endure it, then they might as well move on before they are baptized.

You may say, "Oh, but the congregation will be small." Sound Gospel preaching does not drive off honest people. It will not make the congregation smaller in terms of having quality people. A large congregation might have quantity, but what about the quality? I thank God for true holiness, for the Christian life, and for the Gospel that has been preached. If sound doctrine and firm preaching drive off people, I would have been gone a long time ago.

I sat under Brother Brooks' preaching for twenty-seven years. The night I got saved, as the message started to go forth, I did not know who told him about me, but seemingly, he knew a lot. He seemed to know how I was living. From that night on, a bond formed between us. I loved him dearly, and I still love him.

### **Go Boldly to the Throne of Grace**

After I was saved a short while, Brother Brooks often came to the congregation where the Lord is now helping me to pastor. Whenever he came, I was always so glad to see him. Often I would go to the altar to get this powerful man to pray one of those powerful prayers, and then I felt that I was spiritually strengthened for another week.

One night I went to the altar and stayed there after others had gotten up and left. I wanted Brother Brooks to come and pray for me. So he came to the altar and said, "Brother Garrett, what can I do for you?"

I said to him, "I would like to be prayed for, pastor."

He looked at me straight in the eyes and said, "This is the last time I am praying for you." He shoots straight. He just speaks as the Lord sends it to his mind, and he does not

mince matters. At least twenty years have gone by since then, and I am still living for God. I am living proof that Truth does not cause a person who loves the Truth to run off.

Straight preaching really does people good. It builds up the Church of God. When Brother Brooks said that to me, I looked at him thinking, "What kind of pastor is he?" He told me: "Brother Garrett, you have to learn to scabble for yourself. I am not going to be here all the time. You have to learn that you can pray for yourself." That is the reason at home I do not always rush down to the altar to pray for every one in my congregation. That advice worked for me, and it will work for others too. People need to learn to seek God for themselves.

Hebrews 4:16 instructs, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Sometimes it is good to have a man of God pray for you, but really it is only in the time of affliction that the Bible says the elders are to anoint you with oil and pray the prayer of faith for you.

I wanted Brother Brooks to pray for me all the time, because I felt that when he prayed for me, I could make it. Soon I found that when problems arose, Brother Brooks was not around, so I had to contact God for myself. I am sure you have found that to be true in your Christian experience as well. Many times when you think you need your pastor, he is out on the mission fields, striving to help others come into the kingdom. You have to learn to pray for yourself.

### **Yield Your Members to Righteousness**

The Apostle Paul explained how being a servant of righteousness happens. In Romans 6:19 he said, ". . . as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." This is how you become a servant of righteousness. God gives you a new heart when you are born again. He cleans up your life, and you become a new creation.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The very same hands that used to do things for the devil and the very same mouth that used to say bad words and curse became members of righteousness. Profanity is rampant in the lives of so many people today. It is amazing that the mouth that was cursing yesterday is praising God today, all because of salvation, the new birth.

When you become a new creature, you yield your members a servant to righteousness and holiness. In Romans 6:20 Paul said, "For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness." Before you were saved, you never wanted anything to do with righteousness or the church. It is amazing how the devil will try to slip something in on you after you have given your life to the Lord. He will say, "You can still hold onto a little of this and a little of that." The devil wants you to believe that you can go half and half.

You only become a servant of righteousness after you are free from sin. If you are still holding onto sin, you are not a servant of righteousness, whether you profess to be a Christian or not. We read in Romans 6:21, "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death." After you are saved, you want to be a servant. Paul said in verse 22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God." I thank God for the privilege of working for Him and for being a servant of righteousness. I trust that you can see that you are not just a servant, but a servant of righteousness.

### **God Can Spare You From Many Regrets**

I thank God that I do not have to do the things that I used to do before I got saved. I am glad that salvation cleaned up my past and made me a new creature. I am rejoicing in the fact that I do not have to live the way I used to.

I was raised close to the church, but as I got a few years into my teens,

I became rebellious. I wanted to get away from all that church, church, church. I felt that I was old enough to break loose, and no one could stop me. I did things that have caused me many regrets, but Jesus was faithful to me. He had a ministry there. One night a true man of God preached a Gospel message that touched my heart. As the Lord spoke to my heart, I am so glad that I was not disobedient that night.

I was not raised with a father, but I had a grandfather for most of my childhood years and a little mother who was saved and who strove to live for God. As a single parent, she endeavored to keep me and the other children straight, but one by one, we began to break away. Today I am the only one of four children who is really saved. I continue to encourage the other three to be saved, because I realize the regrets from which God can spare people if they will give their lives to Him. Dear one, if you do not get saved now, your condition is going to get worse.

God really is merciful. I am so grateful today for what the Lord has done in my life. He turned my life around. There are so many reasons for becoming a child of God and for staying saved. I did not go as deep in sin as many have, but I went deep enough to know that if I had kept going down the road I was traveling, I would have been lost eternally. I am glad to be a servant of God. God has been so good to me, and I want to serve Him faithfully.

Many times when people refer to being a servant of God, generally they are referring to the ministry. However, everyone who is saved from sin and who is striving to live for God is a servant of God. No matter what capacity you serve Him in, to be a servant of God is wonderful!

### **Be Faithful**

When I attend camp meetings, I see young people put on their aprons and serve the meals and clean off the tables, and that is a humble beginning. Young person, if you remain faithful, God will surely bless you. It is not just the great things that God sees; He sees the little things as well.

If you will continue to be faithful, one day you will do greater things. Many times people want to start doing the big things.

You may say, "If I can get the position I want, then I will be faithful." Friend, Jesus said if a man is faithful in little, then he will be faithful in much. When you are a servant of righteousness and it is time for the worship services, attending the services is not an option. You are a servant; therefore, you must attend. A servant does not tell the Master what he is going to do. In Hebrews 10:25 we are instructed not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is. Sometimes you may not feel well, but if you are a child of God, you will be there if you can. When a servant of God cannot go to the sanctuary, he is very sick. Only something far beyond your control should keep you away from the sanctuary. During revivals and other meetings, the child of God loves to do some little thing for the Lord; it is a pleasure.

Years ago, as I drove with others to and from meetings, I felt that I was being used so greatly to do something for the Lord. It is wonderful to see the many young helpers laboring in different congregations. Christian young person, as you labor for the Lord, I pray that you will continue to do so, and then the Lord can use you in great and wonderful ways.

Again, verse 22 of our Scripture reading states, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." At the end of life, the Christian will have everlasting life for being a faithful servant. Jesus said in Matthew 25:34, speaking of the end of time, "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Thank God, that is the reward for being a faithful servant of God.

No matter how small the work is that you are doing, if you will be faithful, you will receive a reward for your labor. To be a servant, you must do all that the Scriptures tell you to do. You must be willing to walk in all

the light that the Lord gives to you.

### **Following in His Steps**

Matthew 20:24-28 reads: "And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Apostle Peter said in 1 Peter 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." Just as Jesus did not come to be ministered to, neither are you to be living as though you expect someone to be a minister to you. Jesus said that is the way the world exercises dominion over its own, but the child of God is not to be like that. In essence, Jesus said, "If you are going to be great, you will be great because of your service to Me, because you are a servant."

The mentality of a servant is that he or she is willing to do whatever is needed, not just the great things. Jesus ministered. He could have done many things, but He chose to minister, and then He gave His life a ransom for many. Jesus was always doing good. In Mark 6:31 Jesus said to His disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart . . . and rest a while." The verse continues, ". . . for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." Why? They were always ministering, always doing, and always seeking to help souls. Mark 6:34 says that Jesus was moved with compassion toward the people because they were as sheep not having a shepherd.

Being a servant of Christ is the most beautiful life that anyone could ever live. Oh, I am so grateful that I am a servant of righteousness! I do not want anything more to do with sin. In 1 Peter 4:3-4 the Apostle Peter

told the people not to go back into the old, sinful life. He said: "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you."

### **Serving God Wherever He Places You**

Child of God, you need to realize that because Jesus Christ came into your heart, you are a new creature and the old things are passed away. You should have no desire for sinful things anymore.

Many times my friends have said to me, "Are you going to church again tonight?" Before I was self-employed, sometimes I said to my boss, "I need to leave early because tonight is church night" or "I can't work overtime this evening because tonight is service night" or "I am letting you know in advance that in May I will be going to the convention." I always made my employers aware of any spiritual appointments that I had. They wondered: "Why are you going to do that? Why are you going to that meeting again this year? You keep going year after year." Yet those same people took off work to go shopping overseas, and nothing was said about that. They came back sporting what they bought on their trip, and nothing was said.

The child of God strives to get something for his soul. The sinner wants to find out, "Why do you have to do that all the time?" God's people are different. You may think this way is strange, but I am grateful for this holy way of living. The greatest thing that ever happened in my life was becoming a servant of God. It is a privilege.

I thought of when Israel had to battle Amalek and the great man of God, Moses, was holding up his hands. When his hands were up, Israel prevailed, but when his hands went down, Amalek prevailed. The man of God could only hold up his hands for so long and then they began to fall, so Aaron and Hur got a

stone and sat Moses upon it; then they each got on one side of Moses and held up Moses' arms. Israel won a great victory that day. It was Moses who was holding up his arms in the beginning, but Aaron and Hur helped him to keep them up.

Being a servant may seem insignificant to some people. Many people would have rather been Moses, but Aaron and Hur were satisfied just to hold his arms up. It is a privilege to be a servant of God, to be used by God in any field of labor. People should not be so fussy to be a Moses, but they should be satisfied to be as Aaron and Hur, just holding up a man of God's hands for a while. Great men and women become mature in the church by sticking around and helping, by serving God wherever God places them. They ought to be willing and ready to do as they are instructed by the minister of God. That will help people to be great servants.

### **A Servant's Duty**

In Luke, Chapter 17, Jesus talked about servants. We can learn much by reading what Jesus had to say. In verses 7-10 we read: "But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

No matter how simple the instructions that have been given to you, you should not feel less important because people might look up to certain positions as being more important than others in the church. Some people may feel they have reached a place where they are greater than others, but Jesus let people know that, after they had done all that was commanded, they were still

just servants to the Lord. After you have measured fully to everything that God has brought your way as light, Jesus lets you know that you ought to say, "I have done that which was my duty." This is the kind of attitude we all ought to have. One should not have a domineering attitude or an attitude of wanting pre-eminence. We each should consider that which we have done as a ser-

vant's duty. As a servant, one has nothing to brag about or to become heady about. A servant is glad that he has done what the Master said to do.

No matter what you are called to do in the body of Christ, you are a servant of righteousness. Child of God, I want to encourage you to be faithful in the service of the Lord. You have been cleansed from your

sins, so you need to stay faithful. Do not become entangled again in the things of this old world. You need to press on, and humbly serve your Master until He sees fit to call you home. May the Lord bless you in my prayer.

*(Compact Disc # TR-011M)*

*[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]*

spirit of worldliness will ever attempt to sneak into the heart of a child of God. Looking for and desiring to possess the latest fads and styles can cause leanness in one's love for God. Yielding to the temptation of wanting to look as the world does in dress or to act as the world acts can result in love becoming indifferent or turning cold. God wants His people to look and dress clean and modestly, but to avoid the worldly ways, patterns, and fashions.

Another robber of love from the heart is that of falling under a spirit of materialism. This condition will cause individuals to become discontent with their station in life. It will cause them to seek earthly riches instead of heavenly treasures. The spirit of materialism causes people to seek after more worldly possessions and greater financial wealth. It leaves them in a condition of never being

satisfied with what God has provided. They feel they need to strive to keep up with the neighbors. Oftentimes this spirit and attitude finds ones having to work two jobs to make ends meet. Many mothers leave the home to go out and work just so they can have more material goods. There have been times when a brother or a sister has left a spiritual congregation, where his or her soul was fed on sound doctrine, for a better paying job or for a promotion. The love that God once places in the heart can become indifferent toward the things of God. If this is allowed, love will suffer and one's relationship with Him will begin to wane. Every child of God must be careful and continually guard against the various devilish intrusions.

In John 15:10 Jesus said, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in

his love." The secret to successful Christian living is constantly abiding in Him. Jesus said in John 8:29, ". . . for I do always those things that please him [the Father]." We must also do the things that please the Lord by striving earnestly to follow His example in all things. Love, burning love divine, is the key to abiding in Christ. Obedience to His Word will keep you close to the Master.

In John 14:15 we read these words from the Savior: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In 1 John 5:3 we read, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are no grievous." We prove the love that He so richly gave us is yet working when we continually obey His words.

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**Why is it that most people want The FRONT seat in the bus, The BACK seat in church, and The MIDDLE of the road?**

# Announcements

## MOSS POINT, MS

Oct. 31-Nov. 4

**REVIVAL:** Pine Grove Church of God, 11629 Hyway 614, Moss Point, MS 39562  
(The church is located 18 miles west of I-65 Mobile, Alabama, on Airport Blvd., which turns into Hyway 614)

Evangelist: Brother Roger Decker, Newark, Ohio

Service times: 7:00 each evening; Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. (See Sat. service times below)

MOTELS: *Motel 6*, Rate: \$54.71, incl. tax. Phone 251-343-8448; *Fairfield Inn*, Rate \$112.86, incl. tax. Phone 251-316-0029; *Hampton Inn Suites*, Rate \$189.00, incl. tax. Phone 251-776-5866

November 3

**FELLOWSHIP MEETING:** Two Services: 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Meals provided by the local congregation.

For further information contact: Pastor Larry Dishman, 11629 Hyway 614, Moss Point, MS 39562

Telephone: (Home) 228-588-6288; (Cell) 251-776-2100

## MECHANICSBURG, IN

November 7-11

**REVIVAL:** Church of God, Mechanicsburg Indiana

Evangelist: Brother Tim Wilson, Sylacauga, Alabama

Service times: Wed.-Fri. 7:00 p.m. @ Mechanicsburg; Saturday Fellowship 10:00 a.m.

@ Mechanicsburg; Sun. Morning 10:30 a.m. @ Mechanicsburg; & Sun. Eve. 6:00 p.m. @ Brown Rd.

For further information contact: Pastor Allen Polston,

Telephone: 765-521-8284 or visit our website @ [www.churchofgodindiana.com](http://www.churchofgodindiana.com)

## CANBY, OR

Nov. 22-28

**FELLOWSHIP MEETING & REVIVAL:** Church of God, 522 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Canby, OR 97013

Evangelist: Brother Earl R. Borders, Heath, OH

Service times: Thursday - Saturday (2 services each day) 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:40 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Monday - Wednesday (1 service each evening) 7:30 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier, 552 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Canby, OR 97013

Telephone: 503-266-9297

## SUMMERSVILLE, WV

December 14-16

**REVIVAL:** The Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651

Evangelist: Brother Irwin Seshier, Heath, Ohio

Service times: Friday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders. Telephone: 304-872-4047

Visit our website at: [www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com](http://www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com)

## NEWARK, OH

December 26-30

**WINTER CAMP MEETING:** Church of God, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055

Service times: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.; Thursday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Morning prayer services Thursday - Sunday. Heated dormitories. Three meals served daily in dining hall, plus the snack stand is open in the dining hall after the evening services.

Bedding is supplied; please bring your own towels.

For lodging reservations contact Brother Dave or Sister Ruby Bush, 725 N. Cedar Street,

Newark, OH 43055, or call 740-345-1213. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.

For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker, 87 Decrow Ave. Newark, Ohio

Telephone: 740-344-2543

*When it seems hardest to pray,  
we should pray the hardest.*

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