

# The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"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. 32:39

"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

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 38 December 2008 No. 12



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

*Psalms 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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We reserve the right to edit and/or decline any material  
for any reason. Not responsible for unsolicited articles or  
items.

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# Guest Editorial

## A Special Thanks to You!

We want to take this opportunity to express a special word of thanks to all of our readers for faithfully supporting The Gospel Trumpeter. We are grateful for your prayers, your thoughtful giving, and your letters of encouragement. Because of the combined efforts of prayer, labor, and finance, The Gospel Trumpeter continues to be mailed to thousands of homes, businesses, and institutions across the United States and many foreign countries. First of all, we are deeply indebted to God for the ability and strength He gives us, and then to our readers and the many faithful helpers who give of their time to publish the good news of the Gospel through the printed page. Certainly, the work of the Kingdom of God is a great work, and it is especially rewarding when we receive reports of how it is helping souls. We are thankful for the privilege that God has given us to be a small part in His great work.

Putting out a religious publication is not always an easy task. There are many aspects that go into it. For instance, selecting the helpful messages and the short articles that we feel God would have used in each issue of The Gospel Trumpeter involves time and consideration. It requires searching for material that will provide good spiritual food for the souls of our readers, something that will strengthen and encourage them. Finding the proper way of revealing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost is always a great concern. It certainly takes

the Lord to guide and direct. Since this periodical has been in print, we have heard from many people who have been won to the Lord because of reading an article that brought an awakening to their souls. Thankfully, they turned to God for mercy and pardon. Having a part in winning souls for Christ brings great rewards to each worker. Never forget that everyone has a part!

Locating the finest sources to secure the best pricing when purchasing paper and other materials always presents a challenge. As you well know, the rising cost of materials and postal rates must also be considered. The Bible teaches that we are not to be slothful in business matters; therefore, we do strive to be as frugal as possible in our buying habits. By the way, have you moved recently? If so, have you sent us your change of address? When someone moves and fails to inform us, the Post Office returns the issue to us and then charges us for the return postage. This return postage at one time cost 10 cents per copy. It has now gone up to 50 cents for each returned copy. We sincerely ask you to send your change of address to us as quickly as possible so that we might keep this additional cost to a minimum.

Also, we kindly ask that if you submit a new name to be placed on the mailing list, please be sure that individual desires to receive the paper. There have been times when we have received a letter from a person who

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# What Is the Church of God?



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **The City of the Living God**

I want to talk to you about the Church of God, or the body of Christ. The Church of God is not just a church among churches. She is not a sect, or a denomination. The word *church* comes from the Greek word **ecclesia**, which is in the New Testament. This word means "called out." In the Hebrew the word *church* means "assembly."

The writer of the Book of Hebrews brings those two words together in Hebrews 12:22-24: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of

the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Many churches were established throughout Corinth, Galatia, and Asia; but the name of the church and its teachings always corresponded with the teachings of the Scriptures. Using any other name for the members of the body of Christ is unscriptural, and it is perverting the Gospel; it is adding to, or in some cases, taking away from the Word of God. You should be able to back up the teachings with the Word of God. The church is the body of Christ, which includes all those who are saved. The body of Christ is not a building or a sect. A sect does not contain all the body of Christ, and it does not contain all the Truth. The body of Christ, or the Church of God, includes all those who are saved in accordance with the Word

of God. All her members have been saved and delivered from sin.

You could look in a telephone book and underline a church and join that church, but there is only one church where you have to be saved from sin and walk in Truth, and that is the Bible church, the Church of God. All her members have been saved and delivered from sin. They have obeyed from the heart, just as the Bible says they must do.

Romans 6:17 says, "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." God's people gladly line up with the teachings of the Word of God in repentance and forsaking of all sin. Then they continue in the doctrine and the teachings of the Word of God. When you get saved, you must repent of all the

sinful things that you know that you are guilty of and forsake them; then you must continue in the Apostle's doctrine of the church, just as the saints did in the Book of Acts.

Acts 2:41-42 says: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." They continued steadfastly, which means they were earnest toward the Apostles' doctrine. They were hungry for the Word of God.

### **Salvation Brings a Change**

When old-time salvation enters your soul and God cleanses you from sin, you will automatically hunger for Truth. You want to know all the things that pertain to the Church of God. It is a wonderful, exciting experience! Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." It is exciting when you get saved!

When I got saved, I was thrilled! I did not know any doctrines. The only thing I knew for certain was that I was saved, and I was excited. I continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, and God has taught me many, many things. I am still learning yet today.

The Church of God obeys from the heart. When salvation comes to the house of a sinner, he becomes a different individual. You cannot have God on the inside without something happening to you. When God gets on the inside, you begin to change. A smile will come on your face, joy comes into your heart, your spirit changes, and you are excited and thrilled!

Let us read of the change that takes place when salvation comes to one's house. Luke 19:4-5, speaking of the life of Zacchaeus, says: "And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus

came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house." That was a wonderful thing to have happen, to have Jesus abide at his house!

Verses 6-8 read: "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Zacchaeus was a publican, or a tax collector. The Bible lets you know that he was a principal tax collector, and he was rich. He knew that he was despised by the common people and in danger of being harmed because of his profession and his size, but he did not let that deter him from seeing Jesus. The Bible says he was "little of stature." He ran ahead of the crowd until he came to a sycamore tree, and he climbed up the tree to see Jesus. At the command of Jesus to come down, the Scripture tells us he did just that.

Somewhere between the tree and the ground, Zacchaeus got God in his soul. When he hit the ground, he was a changed man. Let us look at the change that took place in the life of Zacchaeus. Something was working on Zacchaeus' conscience. Verse 8 says, "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Why did he bring that up? He brought up the thing that was on his conscience the most. He revealed the sin that stood out to him.

When Zacchaeus said that he was going to give half of his goods to the poor, and restore fourfold anything he had taken by false accusation, what did Jesus say? Verse 9 tells us, "And Jesus said

unto him, This day is salvation come to this house." Dear one, old-time salvation calls for cleaning up the house. I am not talking about that frame house in which you live, but I am talking about your spiritual house. Salvation calls for cleaning up and making restitution. Zacchaeus was ready to make restitution. The publicans, or the tax collectors, were well known for overcharging the people by saying they owed more than they actually owed. That is the reason they were so despised by the people. When Zacchaeus said that he was going to give half of his goods to the poor, and if he had taken anything from any man by false accusation, he would restore him fourfold, he was going beyond what the Law required.

### **A Spiritual House**

The church is made up of men and women who have come to an age of accountability and who have obeyed the Word of God in repentance, forsaking all sin, and living a new life. The Bible calls them "new creatures," and rightly so. When a person gets saved, he will make restitutions as God directs. God knows the right time. The Christian wants to clean up everything in his life that he possibly can. God's church is a clean church. Her members want to keep everything clear.

First Corinthians 6:9-11 says: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind [you are deceived if you think one of these can make it into the Kingdom of God], Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you."

Sometimes you may forget what kind of rascal you were because God did such a good job of changing you.

You should never look down on anyone who is doing the same thing that you once did. Have you forgotten all about the times that you did the same thing? Notice that after Paul mentioned that list of sins, he said, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified."

When was the church built? Jesus is still building His church, but there was a time when this church was set in motion. Matthew 16:18 says, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In A.D. 32 Jesus said, "I will build my church." In A.D. 33 the Apostle Paul penned these words in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

The church had some groundwork laid. It had its beginning with the preaching of John the Baptist, Jesus, and the Apostles before the Day of Pentecost. There were many who entered into the Kingdom of God at that time. They were vessels that Jesus used to build His church. The church was not set in order until the Day of Pentecost, and then the church spread all over the then-known world.

In Acts, Chapter 1, Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father. They were to wait until they were endued with power. They had to have God on the inside for direction before they left Jerusalem and went into Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth, or the lands of the Gentiles. They needed the power of God in their lives, and that is still a need. People need to have the power of God in their lives before they witness to others.

The church was set in motion on the Day of Pentecost. Every church that has come into existence since the founding of the Church of God is

not the Church of God. The Church of God is not Roman Catholic or Protestant. Every sect that claims that they have another name, that they are a branch off something, is not affiliated with the Church of God. The Church of God is a separate church, and that is where some people have problems. The Church of God is made up of people who have been called out of Babylon, called out of sin, and called out of false religion. They are the **ecclesia** of the New Testament.

### **The Foundation of the Church**

First Corinthians 3:11 says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:20-21: "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord." There is only one building on one foundation. The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ.

The head of the church is not Doctor So-and-So, and the headquarters is not located in some locality here on earth. The Church of God does not make its own laws, its own doctrines, or its own creeds. It does not make its own way for individuals to become members. James said in James 4:12, "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy."

How does the church get its members? How does a person become a member of God's great church? The best way to understand it is to go back to the beginning when the church first went forth. Acts 2:46-47 very plainly tells us: "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God [praise is still comely in Zion], and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." That

is the entrance to the church.

You do not need to have your name on a church membership book here on this earth. God keeps track of the members. He writes their names in the Lamb's Book of Life, and we all have to come through the same door. There is only one door to the church, and that door is Jesus Christ. People cannot sneak in, buy their way in, be voted in, or shake the preacher's hand to be welcomed in.

### **The Door of the Church**

You must come through the door, Jesus Christ, when you meet God's conditions. In the Book of Matthew, Jesus called it a "strait gate" and a "narrow way." It is that straitness and narrowness that people do not like. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14: "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." When Jesus said, "Few there be that find it," He was not talking about finding the strait and narrow way. He was talking about finding life. Few will find life in Christ. Why? They will not take the straitness and the narrowness of the way.

Sectism has removed the Bible standard and continues to make more and more room for the flesh. That is the reason those lines of separation have been moved back with even some who call themselves the Church of God. There are ministers who once stood for Truth and the Bible standard, but they compromised and made more and more room for the flesh. The more room for the flesh the pastor gives the people, the more they are going to want. Then they might as well sit at home and listen to the radio. They would get just as much good by doing that as they would in some places that call themselves the Church of God.

The gate is still strait and the way is still narrow, and when you get saved, you have to come through the Door, Jesus Christ. John 10:7-10 states: "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Speaking to the angel of the church in Philadelphia, Jesus said in Revelation 3:7, "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth." The only way one can get through the door and into the sheepfold is to ask God's forgiveness and to forsake sin. You have to be honest of heart, sick of your lifestyle, sick of sin, and ask God to forgive you. At the same time that you ask God's forgiveness, He has to see in your heart that you are turning away from sin. Then you can go in and out and find pasture, or food for your soul.

### One Body and One Lord

How many churches does God have? Well, how many bodies does the Lord have? Let us read it from God's Word. Ephesians 4:4 says, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." First Corinthians 12:13 states, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

First Corinthians 12:20 tells us,

"But now are they many members, yet but one body." In Matthew 16:18 Christ said that He would build His church. Acts 2:47b says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." In Acts 20:28 Paul told the elders to "feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." When Jesus walked the shores of Galilee, He had one head on one body. The same is true yet today in His spiritual body. The church has only one Head and one body.

The Word of God talks about the one body and the oneness of the church. God is not the author of confusion. He does not want to put any doubt in your mind. Getting in the Word of God will take away all confusion. There is only one church, one body of Christ. You should always keep that Truth locked in your heart. There is oneness with God: one Lord, one Spirit, one body, one baptism. God deals in oneness. A local congregation is just a part of the church. The church is universal. There are members of the church in many foreign countries and in many states of the Union, but they are one body, one church.

Often the word *church* appears in the plural form, but when it does, it is not speaking of other denominations or other sects. When the Bible has the word *church* in the plural form, it is speaking of the one church in many different localities.

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 16:1, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches [plural] of Galatia, even so do ye." If the Apostle Paul had been talking about different denominations, he would have had no authority over them, but he was talking about congregations of the Church of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:17, "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church." He was not talking

about denominations or sectism. When he said, ". . . in every church," he was talking about speaking in every Church of God congregation in different localities.

### The Unity of the Church

The church has unity. Jesus said in John 17:11-12: "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled." Jesus said He kept them through the Father's own name, and the name of the Father is God.

The unity among believers was started when we were washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. All believers, or all members of the body of Christ, have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. All the saints have been cleansed and forgiven. All our sins have been taken away, and we have fellowship with one another. Before I got saved, I did not want to have anything to do with God's people. I was not a part of the body of Christ. When I got saved, I became a part of the church; then I wanted to be among the saints of God. Unity starts when people are saved.

As saints, our job is to endeavor to keep the unity. We have to work hard to keep it. That is what the Bible says. The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:3, "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." It is not always an easy task to keep the unity of the Spirit. The word *endeavor* means "project, undertaking, venture, operation, effort; the use of one's energy to do something; labor, exertion, pains, striving, struggle, toil, travail, work, earnest try, effort, attempt, essay, struggle, trial, undertaking." You are going to have to really toil and work hard to keep the unity of

the Spirit.

The devil is always lurking somewhere to separate brothers and sisters. What is the best way the devil can disrupt unity? He does it by word of mouth through someone in whom you have confidence. Someone may say, "Well, I heard . . ." or "Did you know that he did that?" The next thing you know, quietness comes in that pew. You have to endeavor, or work, to keep the unity of the Spirit. God starts it, but we each have to endeavor to keep it. It starts when you are saved, and it is wonderful unity, but you have to work to keep it.

The devil is always around to separate brothers and sisters and to separate families. The devil does not have any mercy. He could not care less about you. The only thing he is interested in is that you end up lost. He could not care less whether he rips your family apart and destroys your household. Although the devil has no mercy, thank God there is mercy with Jesus Christ.

### **What Can Keep the Family of God Together?**

When we are born again, we have the same Spirit, and we have fellowship with one another just as they did in the morning-time church. They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, breaking bread from house to house, and they had all things common. The Apostle Paul wrote about something that kept them endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit. In Colossians 3:12-14 Paul stated: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

In Colossians 2:1-2 Paul said: "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for

them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ." Their hearts were knit together in love. Love is what keeps God's people together; love is the bond. Certainly other things are involved as well. We have to walk in the light and stay out of sin, but I am talking about what keeps the members together.

When love becomes weak, next comes the talk, the gossip, and the slander. Then people manifest spirits that ought not to be. Sometimes people can become really feisty. They speak sharply and say things they should not say, all because love has gotten really weak in their lives. Jesus said in Matthew 24:12, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." A person does not turn cold instantly; it is a waxing process. When a person waxes cold, he starts cooling off gradually, just as the wax sets up on a candle when the flame has gone out.

The next thing you know, when a brother or a sister is in a fault, there is no restoration to that one. What do some people do? They run that person down and call that one names. What you are doing is judging God's servant! Remember, what you put out is going to come back to you.

The Church of God, the body of Christ, is a wonderful institution that came from the mind of God. It was not brought about by men sitting around trying to think it up. If you are not a member of this great institution; then you can be by repenting and turning away from your sin. God will receive you as a full-fledged member of His church. You do not have to go through catechism or be indoctrinated by men's theology to get into the church. All you have to do is repent and turn from your sin, and God

will receive you as one of His children.

The church, or the body of Christ, is a wonderful family to be part of. I am so glad that I am a part of God's wonderful church, the Church of God. Again, the word *church* comes from the word **ecclesia**, and it means "called out." Church, each of us has been called out of sin. Some of us were in Babylon, and God called us out. We are the **ecclesia** of the New Testament.

The church is also the assembly. All those who have been blood bought assemble themselves together to offer acceptable praise to God. It is a wonderful family, and you are cheating yourself when you do not become a member of God's family. Sometimes there are problems; that is the reason you need a pastor, and you need God to help you. There are always going to be problems, but there are going to be problems whether you serve God or not. I would rather serve God and have problems than to have problems without Him. If you are not a member of God's blood-bought church, the one that He purchased with His own blood, you can be.

*(Compact Disc TR-172E)*

### ***Which?***

*Which shall I choose today,  
The hard or easy way;  
To seek some soul to bless,  
Or to stay in idleness;  
For some cause to sacrifice  
Or simply close my eyes;  
Work out God's plan for me,  
Or set my passion free;  
Climb upward on my knees,  
Or only seek for ease;  
Walk where the martyrs trod,  
Or scorn the claims of God?  
Lord, in my heart today,  
I give Thee right of way,  
Work both to will and do  
And help me to be true.*

*Selected*

# DENOMINATIONALISM



*Brother Calvin Foster*

## **Jesus Was Undenominational**

What is a *denomination*? A denomination is a particular religious sect or body with a specific name or organization. It is an organized group of religious congregations. Denominationalism is the tendency to separate into religious sects or denominations. Someone may ask the question, "How do divisions originate?" Divisions come from human beings and their personal views, especially when people look to men rather than looking to the Bible for authority.

The Church of God is not a denomination. A denomination is a sect or a party. A denomination is larger than a local congregation, but it is smaller than all the redeemed in the whole world. The New Testament speaks of local congregations, the redeemed, all the saved. Therefore, the New Testament church cannot be fit into any denominational mold.

The Church of God is not a protestant denomination. All the denominations of our day were established by men hundreds of years *after* the church of our Lord Jesus Christ was established in A.D.

33 on the Day of Pentecost. If it came after A.D. 33, it is too late. If it came before A.D. 33, it is too early. Denominational earmarks are absent from the Church of God, such as voting on baptismal candidates or having a large universal, territorial organization. Do you know where the headquarters for the Church of God is located? It is in Heaven. While our Lord Jesus lived on earth, there were three principal divisions among the Jews: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Herodians. Although each of these had some truth, Jesus did not identify himself

with any of them.

In John 17:20-21 Jesus said: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Jesus Christ, in His dying on the Cross, paid for our unity.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:14-16: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby." Jesus Christ died on the Cross. He paid for our unity with His life so that we might be one. He was undenominational. Christ pleaded for unity in the Scriptures.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? [The answer to that is no!] was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" Our Lord pleaded for unity, and He planned for unity.

### **A House Divided**

Paul stated in Ephesians 4:1-6: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing

one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." There is only one faith, one body, one church, and one Lord. Therefore, since our Lord Jesus Christ was undenominational and anti-denominational, His church must be as well.

God wants the home to be united, but denominationalism divides homes. We read in Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Friend, today you must choose whom you are going to serve. Will you choose the gods of the people or the gods of the world? There is only one Lord, one God, and one faith. Whom are you going to serve? Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Jesus said in Mark 3:25, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Denominationalism cannot stand because it is divided against itself, and division is a sin that God hates. Proverbs 6:16-19 states: "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." God hates division, and He hates the one who sows discord among brethren and causes division, or a split.

Denominationalism conveys to the world that God is the author of confusion, but 1 Corinthians 14:33 tells us, "For God is not the author of

confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." God is not in all the confusion in the religious world, because He is not the author of confusion. Man is the author of confusion. When a man decides that he wants to have his own church, or his own religion, he causes confusion. Denominationalism is destined for destruction, and it cannot stand. Jesus said in Mark 3:24-25: "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." It is not standing now, and it will not stand in the Judgment.

### **The Standard of Authority**

The cure for denominationalism is for everyone to accept the standard of authority, but denominationalism does not want to do that. They do not want to accept the same standard of authority, which is the Word of God. To give you an example, suppose three people are in one room, and each person looks at his watch to see what time it is, but each of their watches display different times. The way to find out the true time would be to consult the naval observatory time. That is the standard for setting the time, and that would set them straight. No matter what time is displayed on each person's watch, the three people would have to accept the standard. Since God's Word is the standard, men should go to the standard. However, many do not want to accept God's Word as the standard. They all carry their Bibles, but they do not want to accept the standard of the Word of God. If they would, that would settle the problem and we would have unity.

Men need to lay down their creeds, their disciplines, their manuals, their confessions of faith, and their catechisms and seek the Lord with all their hearts and souls. Next, they must be born again. Then, in the right spirit, they must turn to the Word of God and study God's standard. If they would do

this, we would have unity. I wish everyone would seek the Lord wholeheartedly. God will not hide Himself from an honest soul, from the least to the greatest. Anyone can find God.

Men should speak what the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. The New Testament Scriptures do not authorize any organization for the universal church. Religious leaders try to set a great big organization to govern the universal church, but that is not New Testament Bible. Although the Bible does refer to the church in a universal sense, when it speaks of the whole family of God, the New Testament also refers to the church in a local sense. Many of Paul's letters were directed to a local church in a particular city. You should look at his letters. Some men seek power over others through organizational structure. In other words, they want a headquarters that is greater than the local congregation. An earthly headquarters greater than the local congregation is contrary to New Testament Scriptures. According to the New Testament, a local congregation's headquarters is in Heaven.

### **Are Man-Made Religious Titles Wrong?**

Let us look at some of the religious titles that are unscriptural. Matthew 23:1-11 reads: "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

"But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries [a little pouch they carried around with Scriptures written on little pieces of paper], and enlarge the borders of their

garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

Many clergy want to go by titles such as Reverend, Rabbi, Master, Father, Pope, Cardinal, and Arch Bishop. They feed on high-sounding titles that are vanity, but in reality it mocks the true spirit of Christianity. A man of God is a servant. He is a preacher, and he may be a pastor, but he is a servant. We all are brethren. No where does the Bible say to call the man of God "Reverend," "Pope," "Cardinal," "Master," or "Rabbi."

Someone may ask, "Why are man-made titles wrong?" Hundreds of religious titles out there are unbiblical because they cannot be found in the Bible. If they cannot be found in the Bible, it is disrespectful and unwise to use them as the followers of Christ. The church goes by the Bible. Congregations should not call the church by any other name than what the Bible calls the church—the Church of God. We should not call the church Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Mormon, Catholic, or any other name not found in the Bible. We know that just having the right name does not mean that a congregation is the true church. You had better be careful of looking in your telephone directory to look for the right name, because that does not mean those people are the true church.

To give honor to a person, such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, or John the Baptist is to divert the honor that belongs to God. Thank God for those men, but people are diverting honor away from God and giving it to men. God is the first and the last, the begin-

ning and the end. Men die, but our Savior rose from the dead.

### **What Is in a Name?**

In the Scriptures we know that the church is referred to as the Church of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:2 we read, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." The writer of Hebrews wrote of the church of the firstborn in Hebrews 12:23, which states, "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

Paul mentioned the churches of Christ in Romans 16:16 when he stated, "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you." He spoke of the body of Christ in Colossians 1:24, which reads, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church." John wrote about the bride of Christ in Revelation 21:2 when he said, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Paul spoke of the house of God in 1 Timothy 3:15, which reads, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

I want you to notice that these references do not contain denominational names. They refer to only one church, and that is God's church. Jesus has only one church. When we talk to people in the world and religious people about Christ, they refer to their denominational name to express their beliefs and their convictions. They put much stock in their denomination. A person could say all kinds of bad things

about Jesus or about God and people would not even react; however, you had better not say anything about their denomination! They would be ready to fight someone for saying something bad about their denomination.

I believe the name Church of God sits above these other names because of what Jesus prayed. Jesus said in John 17:11-12: "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through *thine own name* those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

Jesus prayed that the Father would keep them through the Father's own name. In everything Jesus did, He said the Father had sent Him and that He was doing the work of the Father. Someone may question, "What is in a name?" Some people feel there is nothing in a name, but I disagree with that idea, based on Acts 4:12, which states, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." There *is* something in a name. If you want to be saved from your sins, you have to mention the name of Jesus. Jesus is the name whereby we *must* be saved.

This reminds me of a little story that I read. It told of a man who was arrested for making whiskey. They brought him before the judge. The man's name was Joshua. The judge was a churchgoing man, and he decided that he would have a little fun with old Joshua that day, so he asked him, "What is your name?"

He replied, "My name is Joshua."

Then the judge asked him, "Are you the Joshua that made the sun stand still?"

He answered, "No, I'm the Joshua that made the moonshine."

There is something in a name. Which Joshua are you? I have never known a mother yet who named her daughter Jezebel. I have never known a mother or a father who named their son Judas. You see, there is something in a name. When you write a check, it matters what name you write on it. Again, there is something in a name.

### Corrupting Christianity

Denominationalism, which is division, is condemned in the Scriptures. Men are always striving to start what they believe to be better denominations. Nevertheless, we cannot improve upon what God has already done. God established the church when she came down from Heaven. Denominationalism is nothing more than men competing against the true church. They are jealous of the true church, her message, her standard, and the lives of her members. They strive to compete against her. Many people are going to lose their souls because of fighting against God.

Martin Luther and John Calvin set out to reform the corruptness in the medieval Roman Catholic Church, but they learned quickly, as did other men of that time, that such institutions are incapable of being reformed. Likewise, you cannot reform any denomination. You would be wasting your time. I do not speak disrespectfully of the people in any of these religious organizations. Let us say, for instance, that Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others succeeded in reforming the Roman Catholic Church. Had they reformed it, it still would have been the Catholic Church. Therefore, if it is still the Catholic Church, it is not the church that Jesus built. You could spend your life and your health trying to reform them, but when you got through, they would still be what they were when you started.

People need to come back to the true Christianity that was preached and practiced by the Apostles. In

our times uninspired men are trying to modernize Christianity. This is the reason that some modern versions of the Bible change the meaning here and there. What they are doing is corrupting Christianity, getting people further away from the biblical Truths that made the church what it is today. The Lord is calling His people to unity with the Lord and with one another.

In John 17:20-21 Jesus said: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." God wants us to be one with Him and one with one another.

Can you imagine asking Jesus what to do to be saved and being told something different from what God would tell you? If you were to ask Jesus what to do to be saved, He would tell you the same thing that God would tell you. Yet in this religious division today all these different denominations will tell you something different. Then you will be so confused that you will not know what to do or what is right. God is not the author of confusion. Jesus Christ desires that we all unite, but we cannot unite with sin. Many denominations do not even believe in holiness! They do not believe in living a life free from sin.

### "Take Heed to Thyself"

Today we face a so-called Christian alliance. What is an alliance? An *alliance* is a union, or joining, as of families by marriage or a close association for a common objective, as of nations or political parties, a league or confederacy. Christ built only one church. Why do we need an alliance when we should be one? Why do people need all this interfaith business when we should be one? We should not settle for anything less than being one with a heart of love and a heart of all mental understanding. We must

read and pray and do whatever it takes, but we must work on being one. Many people do not want to do that.

How do you see holiness? That is the foundation of it all. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church [not churches]; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Church of God, we are in a glorious church that the gates of hell cannot prevail against. Let us march on, brothers and sisters! We are on the winning side. We are nondenominational.

We read in Matthew 17:1-5: "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

When Peter mentioned building three tabernacles, God put a stop to that. God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." In other words, God was saying: "We are not going to have division. We are not going to have three churches, or three tabernacles."

What did Jesus say? "Upon this rock I will build my church." Jesus built one church. We have to do it as the Bible says. In Exodus 23:31-33 the Lord said: "And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell

in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee." That is what the Lord told old Israel.

In Exodus 34:12-14 he said: "Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

God does not want you to flirt around with other gods. If you do not live holy, or free from sin, you are serving another god. If you have not been truly born again and had a miraculous change in your life, you are serving another god, even though you attend a congregation that has the name Church of God over the door. God is a jealous God!

If you start messing around with other gods, God will get jealous and angry. He does not want His children to flirt around with other gods. As good as He is to you and as many blessings as He has bestowed upon you, if you were to flirt around with any other god, God would not like that. He is jealous. Husband, how would you feel if your wife were to ride around in a car with

another brother to go shopping? Every good marriage has a little sprinkle of jealousy in it. Why? I will use myself as an example. If my wife wants to go shopping, I will take her. I do not want another brother to take her. She is my wife.

In 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Paul wrote: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." God said to come out from among them. Friend, you must stay with the Lord. You do not want to go faster than the Lord, and you do not want to get behind in your walk with the Lord. We all should work together with the Lord.

*(Cassette C-5310E)*

### **The Spirit of Jesus**

While conducting services among the soldiers in Egypt, Doctor Stuart Holden asked a big sergeant in the Highland regiment, a soldier with a bright testimony for the Lord, how he was led to Christ. Here is his answer: "There is a private in the same company who was converted in Malta before the regiment came to Egypt. We gave that fellow an awful time. One night, a terribly wet night, he came in very tired and wet, and before getting into bed, he got down to pray. My boots were heavy with rain and mud, and I let him have one on one side of the head and the other one on the other side of his head, but he just went on with his prayers. The next morning, I found those boots beautifully polished and standing by the side of my bed. That was his reply to me, and it just broke my heart. I was saved that day!"

How much like the Spirit of Jesus and what a good illustration of the extra mile that He would have us to go.

Selected

# The Blessedness of Prayer

Why are there so few who are often and long in secret prayer? It seems there can be but one answer. It is because so few have a relish for such prayer and find enjoyment in it. Men usually engage in that which they enjoy. When Christians get into the secrets of private prayer, they find in it the highest joy of which the human soul is capable. Then no other place is so dear to them as their place of retirement, and no other comfort is so sweet as that which they there receive. Alas! Secret prayer is a dull irksome duty to more than a few. It need not be so. Out of the fulness of our heart we can sing that old familiar hymn:

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of  
prayer,  
That calls me from a world of care  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known.*

*In seasons of distress and grief  
My soul has often found relief  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.*

God designed the place of secret communion with Him to be the nearest approach that a mortal could make to Heaven. It is the place where souls take on the image of God, the place where the smile of the Lord leaves its imprint on the heart. It is the place where shadows pass away and beams of light from the glory world peacefully steal over the soul. A few moments spent in prayer makes us more like God. The peace, the bliss, that fill the whole expanse of heaven is borne down to our souls by the angels as we are bowed in prayer, and on their return they convey the fragrance of praise from our hearts to the land beyond the sky. The angels that Jacob saw going up and down from earth to Heaven on a stairway were doubtless busily engaged in carrying blessings down to man and carrying praise and thanksgiving back to God.

Is it not true that too few of God's children find sensible enjoyment in the hour of prayer?

The world can sit for hours and tell of their pleasures, but how much have Christians to tell of the pleasures they find in a life of prayer? They can say that they find happiness in God, but can they tell when and the place where they found such blessedness in prayer? Can they talk of it, relating incident after incident of pleasureable communion with the Lord? Alas! Too few can talk about the joy they find in their private devotions. They have but little to tell of their friendship with Jesus and very little in their life to indicate that they find delights in companionship with God. Many hearts find more struggle, more dullness, more weariness, more difficulties, and less enjoyment in secret prayer than in all their religious life beside. It should be the place of freedom, of rest, of repose, and of joy.

Selected

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## Meeting Announcement

**SUMMERSVILLE, WV**  
January 1-4

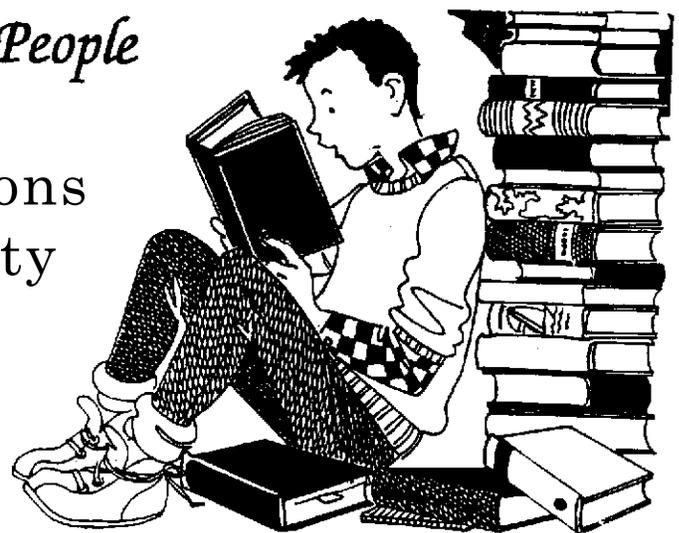
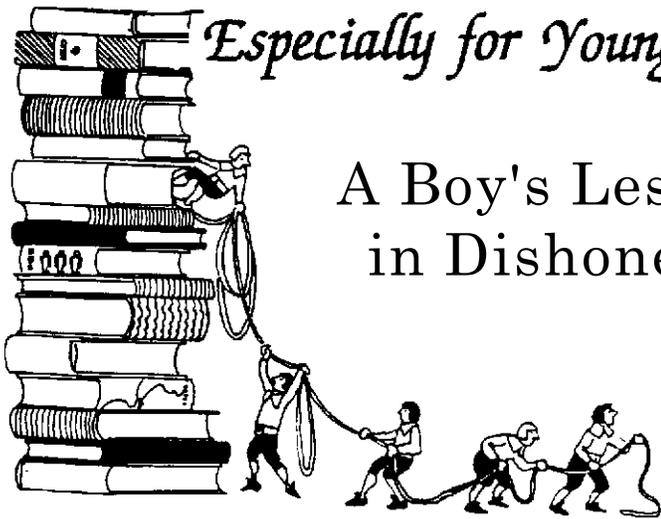
**REVIVAL:** The Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651  
Evangelist: Brother Aurelius Raines, Chicago, IL  
Service times: Thursday & Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Visit our website: [www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com](http://www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com)  
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders. Telephone: 304-872-4047

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*Especially for Young People*

## A Boy's Lessons in Dishonesty



Have you examined that bill, James?"

"Yes, sir."

"Anything wrong?"

"I found two errors."

"Ah, let me see."

The lad handed his employer a long bill that had been placed on his desk for examination.

"Here is an error of ten dollars in the calculation that they made against themselves, and another of ten dollars in the footing."

"Also against themselves?"

"Yes, sir."

The merchant smiled in a way that struck the lad as peculiar.

"Twenty dollars against themselves," he remarked in a kind of pleased surprise, "trusty clerks they must have!"

"Shall I correct the figures?" asked the lad.

"No, let them correct their own mistakes. We don't examine bill's for other people's benefit," replied the merchant. "It will be time to correct those errors when they find them out. All so much gain as it now stands."

The boy's delicate moral sense was shocked at so unexpected a remark. He was the son of a poor widow, who had taught him that to be just is the duty of man, and that "honesty is the best policy" always.

Mr. Carman, the merchant, in whose employment the lad James had been for only a few months, was

an old friend of James' father, and a man in whom he had always had the highest confidence. In fact, James had always looked upon him as a kind of model man. When Mr. Carman agreed to take him into his store, the lad felt that great good fortune was in his way.

"Let them correct their own mistakes." These words made a strong impression on the mind of James. When first spoken by Mr. Carman, with the meaning which he gave them, as we have said, he felt shocked. As he turned them over again in his thoughts, and remembered that this man stood very high in his mother's estimation, he began to think that perhaps the thing was fair enough in business. Mr. Carman was hardly the man to do wrong.

A few days after James had examined the bill, a clerk from the house which had sent it, called for settlement. The lad, who was present, waited with interest to see whether Mr. Carman would speak of the error, but he made no remark. A check for the amount of the bill as rendered, was filled up, and a receipt taken.

"Is that right?" James asked himself this question. His conscience said no. The fact that Mr. Carman had so acted, bewildered his mind.

"It may be the way in business," but it doesn't look honest. I wouldn't have believed it of him."

Mr. Carman had a way with

him that won the boy's heart, and naturally tended to make him judge of whatever he might do in a most favorable manner.

"I wish he had corrected that error," he said to himself a great many times when congratulating himself upon his own good fortune in having been received into Mr. Carman's employment. "It doesn't look right, but it may be in the way of business."

One day he went to the bank and drew the money for a check. In counting it over, he found that the teller had paid him fifty dollars too much. So he went back to the counter and told him of his mistake. The teller thanked him, and he returned to the store with the consciousness in his mind of having done right.

"The teller overpaid me fifty dollars," he said to Mr. Carman, as he handed him the money.

"Indeed," replied the latter, a light breaking over his countenance, and he hastily counted the bank bills.

The light faded as the last bill left his fingers.

"There's no mistake, James." A tone of disappointment was in his voice.

"Oh, I gave them back the fifty dollars. Wasn't that right?"

"You simpleton!" exclaimed Mr. Carman. "Don't you know that bank mistakes are never corrected? If the teller had paid you fifty dollars

short, he would not have made it right."

The warm blood mantled the cheeks of James under this reproof. It is often the case that more shame is felt for a blunder than for a crime. In this instance the lad felt a sort of mortification at having done what Mr. Carman was pleased to call a silly thing, and he made up his mind that if they should ever over-pay him a thousand dollars at the bank, he should bring the amount to his employer and let him do as he pleased with the money.

"Let people look out for their own mistakes," said Mr. Carman.

James pondered these things in his heart. The impression they made was too strong ever to be forgotten. "It may be right," he said, but he did not feel altogether satisfied.

A month or two after this last occurrence, as James counted over his weekly wages, just received from Mr. Carman, he saw that he had been paid a half dollar too much.

His first impulse was to return the half dollar to his employer, and it was on his lips to say, "You have given me a half dollar too much, sir," when the unforgotten words, "Let people look after their mistakes," flashing into his mind, made him hesitate. To parley with evil is to be overcome.

"I must think about this," said James, as he put the money into his pocket. "If it is right in one case, it is right in another. Mr. Carman doesn't correct mistakes that people make in his favor, and he can't complain when the rule works against himself." The boy was very far from being comfortable. He felt that to keep a half dollar would be a dishonest act. Still he could not make up his mind to return it, at least not then.

James did not return the half-dollar, but spent it for his gratification. After he had done this, it came suddenly into his head that Mr. Carman had only been trying him, and he was filled with anxiety and alarm.

Not long after this, Mr. Carman

repeated the same mistake. Again, James kept the half-dollar, and with less hesitation.

"Let him correct his own mistakes," said he resolutely. "That's the doctrine he acts upon with other people, and he can't complain if he gets paid in the same coin he puts in circulation."

From this time, the fine moral sense of James was blunted, and his conscience troubled him but little. He began to cherish a spirit of covetousness. He soon began to desire the possession of things for which he was not able to pay.

James had good business qualifications. This pleased Mr. Carman. He saw that the young man was intelligent, industrious, and tactful with customers. For this reason, he advanced him rapidly, and before he was eighteen years of age, he held the most responsible position in the store.

James had learned something more from his employer than the secret of doing business well. He had learned to be dishonest. He had never forgotten the first lesson he had received in the downward course. He acted upon this wicked instruction, not only in two instances, but in a hundred, and almost always to the injury of Mr. Carman.

The young man had long since given up waiting for mistakes to be made in his favor. He originated them in the varied and complicated transactions of a large business in which he saw trusted implicitly.

Of course, he grew to be sharp and cunning, always on the alert, always bright, and ready skillfully to meet any approaches toward a discovery of his wrongdoing by his employer, who held him in high regard.

In this way it went on until James was in his twentieth year. Then the merchant received a letter that aroused his suspicions. This letter spoke of the young man as not keeping the most respectable company, and as spending money too freely for a clerk on a moderate

salary.

Before this time, James and his mother had moved into a pleasant house, for which he paid a rent of four hundred yearly. His salary was only eight hundred dollars, but he deceived his mother by telling her that it was fifteen hundred. Every comfort that she needed was fully supplied, and she was beginning to feel that, after a long struggle with the world, her happier days had come.

James was at his desk when the letter was received by Mr. Carman. He looked at his employer and saw him change countenance suddenly. The letter was read twice, and James saw that the contents appeared to disturb his employer. Mr. Carman glanced toward the desk, and their eyes met. It was only for a moment, but the look that James received made his heart stop beating.

There was something about the movements of the merchant for the rest of the day that troubled the young man. It was plain to him that suspicion had been aroused by that letter. Oh, how bitterly now did he repent! How he dreaded discovery and punishment! Exposure would disgrace and ruin him and bow the head of his widowed mother even to the grave.

That evening at supper, James' mother noticed that her son did not eat and that his face was troubled.

"You are not well," she said. "Perhaps a rest will make you feel better."

"It's nothing but a headache. I'll lie down on the sofa in the parlor a little while."

She followed him into the parlor shortly and, sitting down on the sofa on which he was lying, placed her hand upon his head. Ah, it would take more than the loving pressure of a mother's hand to ease the pain which he was suffering. The touch of that pure hand increased the pain to agony.

"Do you feel better?" she asked. She remained some time with her hand on his forehead.

*[continued on page 25]*

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest

which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly

unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.



# The Sympathizing Christ

*Brother E. David Stegmeier*

## **Christ Is Still the Same Today**

I want you to consider the wonderful attributes in Christ. We need to lift Him up. We are serving a sympathizing Christ, One who really cares for us. I do not know what your burdens are, but I know this: *Jesus really cares*. He is concerned about you. When you are grieving, He suffers with you. He is compassionate, and He extends great mercy and pity to each of us. Sometimes people feel: "I'm all alone. Christ has never experienced what I am suffering." Friend, that is not true. He is concerned about everything you are going through.

Verse 15 of our Scripture text tells us, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." No matter what you experience in life, Christ has also experienced that. An infirmity is any weakness in character. Whether you have a defect, a disease, or anything else, you can rest assured that Christ has experienced it.

Saint of God, you must hold fast to your profession. Do not give up! If you have a little problem, you need to stay right in the race and ask God to help you. When little babies

begin to walk, often they stumble and fall, but we do not spank them. We dust them off, caress them a little, and say, "Try it again." Therefore, when you stumble and fall in your Christian experience, you need to stay in there and hold fast to your profession.

Most people in our world do not have much empathy or sympathy, but Jesus really cares. If you have the Spirit of God, you will really care for people. You will have a deep concern and a real empathy for others and their problems. Isaiah foretold of the work of Christ in Isaiah 53:4-5: "Surely he hath borne our griefs [whatever our sufferings,

our distresses, our injuries, our diseases] and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

I appreciate having a wonderful Christ like this. It gives me comfort. Sometimes I go through situations that no one seems to understand, but I know Jesus does. Therefore, I can go to the throne of grace boldly and say, "Father, help me, in Jesus' name!" Jesus empathized with the many spiritual and physical problems of humanity. Matthew 14:14 says, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick."

In Matthew, Chapter 20, you can read that two blind men who sat alongside the road cried out to Jesus and refused to keep still. As Jesus passed by, He had compassion on them and touched their eyes; immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

Throughout the Word of God, Scripture after Scripture affirms the fact that God is a compassionate Heavenly Father. Luke, Chapter 7, gives an account of when Jesus saw the bier with the widow's only son. Jesus had compassion on her. We read in verses 13-14: "[He] said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." Jesus had great compassion, great feeling, and deep understanding for all those who were in misery and suffering.

Is Jesus still the same today? Yes, He is! Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Is it unreasonable in this day and age to believe that Christ can still heal our bodies? No, it is not unreasonable to believe that! God created this universe from nothing. He created us, and in His Second Coming, He will recreate us.

If He can do this, surely He can heal our diseases today. He can, and He will!

### **Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?**

Sarah laughed after the Lord said she would have a child in her old age, but we read in Genesis 18:14 that He said, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" Nothing is too hard for Christ. Jesus said in Luke 5:23, "Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?" In other words, Jesus was saying, "Which is easier, to heal a diseased body or to save a diseased soul?" We think of one being harder than the other, but both are easy to Christ.

I was raised the old-fashioned way, and we practiced divine healing. I have never had a medicine cabinet in my entire life. God does all these things, and we leave everything to Him. My mother always took us to the house of worship and had the elders anoint us and pray for us, and God healed us.

The Bible says in Jeremiah 6:16, "Ask for the old paths." You may say, "Well, I know God can heal, but is it His will to heal me?" Yes, it is! This is the will of God. Jesus' ministry was a ministry of healing. We have the full Gospel, and Jesus still heals today. The Lord has made out a will, and divine healing is part of this will.

No matter what your situation is, Christ can take care of it. I encourage you to ask God to take care of that need, and He will. Whether you have a sin-sick soul or a diseased body, God will heal you. If it is in the Word of God, it is for you. When you were a child and your mother made a big meal, when it was time for dinner, she said, "Come and get it." Did you hesitate or wonder if she meant the meal was for you? No, you hurried in to eat. Divine healing is in the Word of God, and it is for you and me. The Bible says it is the children's bread. My mother used to make old-fashioned

bread, and it smelled wonderful! Monday was wash day, Tuesday was cleaning day, and so on. Saturday was baking day, and she made old-fashioned bread. We did not realize how good it was until we were older and began to eat store-bought bread. Healing is the children's bread, and when the Father says to come and get it, you need to go after it.

Healing is for us, Church of God. The ministry of Christ was a healing ministry, and so is the ministry of the Church of God. This will was sealed and ratified by the blood of Christ. After His death, it came into effect. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He said it was His will to do the will of the Father. You may say: "I believe that He can heal, and maybe He can heal me, but I do not know about this disease. I am down to the very end, and the doctors have given me up to die." Many times people get healed when they have no other avenues.

How about salvation? Why is it easier sometimes for people to get saved than to be healed? Well, Christ is our only salvation. With healing people can go here and there to seek medical help. In Exodus 15:26 you can read that when the Israelites were out in the desert, the Lord said to them, "If thou wilt diligently hearken [to Me] . . . I will put none of these diseases upon thee." Did they have clinics or hospitals there? No! They had to trust the Lord. We war against these things. I do not know what people take for their headaches, but we do not take anything around our home. We pray! That might seem strange to some, but I was brought up to pray. What is wrong with prayer? When people cannot pray or do not pray, either they do not have confidence in their own prayers or they do not have confidence in God.

### **A Ministry of Healing**

In Matthew 4:23-24 we read: "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and

preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness [cancer, tuberculosis, emphysema, high blood pressure, and so on] and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."

I have seen people delivered from demons, and I have seen people healed of diseases. We are serving a God who is the same today. He will take care of your needs, whatever they may be. The Bible tells us that when Jesus ascended to Heaven, He gave this power to the disciples. Matthew 10:1 states, "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Jesus' ministry was a ministry of healing, and so was the ministry of the Apostles. I do not see where these gifts have ever been rescinded. God still has them for His people today.

The commission of the seventy was similar. Luke 10:8-9 reads: "And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein. . . ." I believe that is a command. I do not believe that as Church of God ministers we can come short. I believe that is part of the ministry. More and more people are leaning on the arm of flesh. I am not being critical, but it is true.

Jesus stated in Luke 18:8, "Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" We find the great commission in Mark, Chapter 16. We read in verses 14-18: "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye

into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

### **God Has Infinite Power**

The Lord spoke with authority, and a man of God has authority. Luke 4:36 tells us, ". . . for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out." In my early ministry I knew a woman who was possessed with a demon for thirty-five years. In casting out that demon, we did not merely say, "Devil, come out." With authority we said, "*In the name of God, come out!*" We had to rebuke that spirit with authority. In the process she told us, "The devil said he would not come out and that he would kill me in the process." An older minister said: "If he kills you, God will raise you back to life. Let's keep going."

We are serving a God of infinite power. There is nothing too hard for our God. May God help us. The early ministers had this same power. In Acts 14:10 Paul said to a crippled man: "Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." Paul did this with authority.

I try to be very careful never to abuse my authority, but I believe that a minister of God has some authority. Titus 2:15a says, "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority." The early Apostles were representatives of Christ, and Christ gave them authority. His ministers today have that same authority. When we speak in the name of Christ, sick bodies will be healed and demon spirits will come out. It happens just that way. You will never get healed unless you have the proper respect for the

man of God.

Today we are living in a time when people have more confidence and faith in the doctors than they have in the man of God. James 5:13-14 reads: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." Someone may say that the oil is not really significant, but oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. It is a tangible substance that helps to inspire the faith of the one who is coming.

The woman who had the issue of blood merely touched the hem of Christ's garment, and she was healed. In the New Testament you can read that as Peter passed by, merely getting into his shadow created a power that healed those who were there. Although the healing is not in the oil, it is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, who does the work.

### **Meeting God's Conditions for Divine Healing**

We read in James 5:15-16: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

If you are sick, God will heal you. It is part of His will. What are some conditions that you must meet before you can be healed? First of all, you must believe that healing is still for you today. You must believe. Second, you must abide in Him. John 15:7 says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." What does that mean? It means you must have a vital touch, a vital communion with God. You must be walking in obedience to His Word. If you abide in Him, when you ask, you shall receive.

Earnestness is also a necessary condition. You must be sincere. Again, James 5:16b says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Fervent, earnest prayer is necessary.

Next, you must come with a positive frame of mind. You must come knowing that God will heal you and that He will complete the work. Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 17:14, "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise." That is very positive. What could be more positive than that?

My family came to the Church of God when I was five years of age, and I developed a very bad case of appendicitis. My parents asked me one day, "Dave, what do you want us to do?" I said, "Take me to Brother Watson," who was our pastor at that time. So they took me to Brother Watson, and he anointed me and prayed for me. I have never had another problem with it to this day. God healed me instantaneously.

Our second son had polio when he was small. I will not go into all the details, but he got to the place where he could no longer walk. He had been walking, but he reverted back to where he could not walk and had to be diapered, but God healed him! Sometimes God heals instantaneously, and sometimes it is over a process of time. Nevertheless, it is still God's work. He was very sick with a high fever from that polio, and he was in bed for many, many days. We became very concerned. We asked folks to pray, and God eventually touched him so that he could crawl, but he could not walk.

Finally, he began to walk, but he had a terrible limp, and he could not support himself with one leg very well. One time Brother Emerson Wilson came for a revival meeting, and he anointed him and prayed for him, and that limp went away immediately. Sometimes he would tell me as he was playing, "Dad, my legs really hurt sometimes." We continued to pray, and today there is no sign of that whatsoever. We are serv-

ing a great and wonderful God. He has never failed us, and He never will!

### **Be Careful of How You Live**

In order to claim healing, you have to be very careful of how you walk. We read in 2 Kings 20:1 that the Lord told Hezekiah, "Set thine house in order," and that is still good admonition for each of us. We never know what will happen from day to day. I live every moment with my house in order. This is important. We never know when we will need God in a very serious moment of life. We never know when the telephone will ring, and someone will say, "Your son was in a fatal accident."

One time as I was teaching a business class, the principal walked in and said: "Dave, your wife was involved in a car accident. You are wanted on the phone immediately." My heart pounded and I became weak. All the way to the phone I was praying: "God, You know we are serving You. You have always helped us." My legs hardly supported me, but thank God, He spared her life. She was not hurt badly. We never know when we will have to call on God in a very serious moment of life.

The Bible says that Hezekiah turned to the wall and, in essence, said, "Lord, You know how I have been living." What a wonderful consolation! There is not a person in the world whom I would not want to face. In fact, I like to face people. I like to give a God-given answer for everything I have said and done. Proverbs 28:1 tells us, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." That is the way we have to live, dear one. The husband and the wife must have a good relationship. The effectiveness of your prayers are contingent upon how you treat your husband or your wife.

The Word of God covers everything about our lives and that which goes on in the secret chambers of the

heart and mind. It covers the treatment of your companion and your children. It covers how you act in school and in town. I want to be effective with God, and I want my prayers to be effective. Not everyone who prays is getting audience with God. The only prayers of sinners that God is hearing are those that lead to repentance. Then, if those who profess to be Christians are walking in obedience to Him, He listens. Otherwise, people are just praying into the air.

### **Exercising Faith for Healing**

You may say, "I need more faith." Sometimes we sing a song that says, "If our faith were but more simple." It does not mean that we do not need more faith, but that we need simple, childlike faith. My little grandson comes to my home and says, "Pawpaw, will you give me something to drink?" He knows I will. If you use the faith that you have, God will give you more.

Another condition necessary to receive healing is that you must climb over all obstacles and let nothing hinder you. We think of the account in Mark, Chapter 2, of the man sick of the palsy. His friends could not get him in the house to see Jesus because of the crowd, so they let him down through the roof. Some people will not even get up out of their seats and go forward so the man of God can anoint them and pray for them. Do not hold the man of God responsible if you have not called him. Sometimes people say, "Well, the pastor never prayed for me" or "The pastor never came over." The Bible says to "call for the elders of the church." Sometimes the man of God does not know that a person is sick because he has not been called. Some people exercise faith in everything but God. We exercise faith in our postal system by mailing letters. We exercise faith in the grocery stores by purchasing our food from them. We place a great deal of faith in nature by planting gardens in the spring.

God can heal your body. He is true to His Word. He still heals today. Faith for healing is no different from the faith that we exercise in salvation. The faith that we use when we go to an altar of prayer to seek God for salvation is the same faith that we use when we go for the healing of the body. Why do people receive salvation? They know that the only way they can get salvation is through Christ. When you get to the place where you say there is no other way to obtain healing but through Christ, you will be healed. You must blot out all other ways and trust in God.

Many years ago our oldest daughter Korine had pneumonia during a camp meeting in Newark, Ohio. She lay very ill for nearly the entire camp meeting. One night she got very low, and we did not know whether or not she would live until the morning. That night God touched her and healed her, and today she is as healthy as she can be.

God is still a miracle-working God. In Acts 19:12 we read, "So that from his body [the antecedent is Paul] were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Until Sister Faye Green passed away, she carried a little handkerchief that Brother E. E. Byrum had anointed and sent to her parents when she was a baby dying from blood poisoning. She was healed, and she kept that handkerchief as a reminder of what God had done for her.

Years ago a very dear sister had a running sore on her leg for many years. She called and said, "Brother Stegmeier, would you please send an anointed handkerchief?" We did and she placed it on that sore and God took it away. God healed her, even though she had the sore for many years. He is still the same. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We are serving the same God.

One young man was in an accident at his place of employment, and he lost the use of one eye. He

had no sight in the eye, and it became cloudy. The doctors said he would need an eye transplant. He said, "No, I want to trust the Lord." The doctors continued to say that the only way he would ever see out of that eye was to have a transplant, but today he sees almost perfectly out of that eye. God still does miracles!

### The Prayer of Faith

We are living in a day when people want to reason away divine healing. Some people say: "God does not heal today. The gifts of healing have been taken from the church. God's people had those gifts in the first century, but they are no longer in operation today." Dear one, that is not true! God can heal, and He *will* heal you today if you will come to Him by faith.

Our third son was born with a dislocated hip. We prayed immediately, and the doctor came back in the room and said, "I don't know what happened, but that hip is fine." We knew what had happened—God healed him! Dear one, I am living my best to please God. I want to grow in faith. Do you? I thank God for Jesus! I have had some serious problems in my life and God has helped me in wonderful ways and He will help you too.

In closing, I want you to read James 5:13-16 one more time: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Whatever the problem is in your spiritual experience, God will help you. Perhaps you are having a

problem in the home. We sing a song that says, "Sweeter is the journey every day." That is the way your married life should be. God can help you. If you are up and down in your Christian experience, God can help you. If you have a physical affliction, no matter what it is, God can help you. God can heal you. If you will meet the conditions that are brought out in the Word of God, Christ *will* heal you.

I would like to tell you of one more healing that happened in our family. When our oldest daughter was going to have a baby, while she was in labor, the baby swallowed her bowel movement. The doctor told my daughter that he did not know how it would turn out, but that some babies have died as a result of that. However, God touched her miraculously. In a very short time, she took her baby home. We thank God for the way He has come to our rescue!

God will help you. God loves you! Whatever your problem is, do not be discouraged. The devil is a liar. Do not listen to him! Do not invite the devil into your home in any way. You must rebuke him! You need to tell him that he is an old liar and send him down the road. If you have a problem, bring it to Christ. He is concerned about you, and He will meet your need. Won't you seek Him for your need?

(Cassette C-4029E)

**Five things keep  
meekly hid:  
MYSELF  
and I  
and MINE  
and MY,  
and what I SAID AND  
DID.**

*Isaiah 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!*

*2 Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them*

*that work iniquity.*

*3 Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.*

*4 For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth*

*against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.*

*5 As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.*

# LOOK TO THE HOLY ONE



*Brother Irwin Seshier*

## **A Better Way to Live**

I do not know where I would be today if I did not have the Lord looking out for me, One who cares for me in times of need. We all are very needy creatures. Dear one, you cannot go this way on your own. You need God's direction in every aspect of your life. You need God to help you, to preserve you, and to

uplift you. We are going through perilous times as children of God, and we need an uplifter who will be there for us.

Friend, you need to look to the Holy One. He knows what you are going through, and He knows what trials you face. I am thankful that we have One who looks out for us and provides protective mercy for us. You may think you are having a

good time living in sin, but you are going further away from God's mercy. There is a better way, and thank the Lord that way is with Christ. He is One who will stick closer than a brother. He will be there for you. He will strengthen you in your most desperate time of need.

The Lord's line is never busy. You will never be put on hold when

you call on Him, and He knows exactly who is calling. The Lord is our deliverer, our rock, and our fortress. As the people of God, we need to lift up our voices and let the world know of the joy in serving Jesus.

The world is quick to let you know what they think about things, but too often the child of God is slow to tell others of his deliverance from the bondage of sin. We need to stand up and let the world know there is happiness with Jesus. Let the world know what God has done for you and how He delivered you from those old sinful habits. There is peace, joy, and contentment in going this way! Is your Christian experience up to date?

Salvation is something that you put on and wear in this world. It is easy to go to church and act saintly around the people of God, but you are going to be put to the test out in the world when you rub shoulders with others. Jesus Christ will give you a love down deep in your heart so that you can be long-suffering with people and pray for them.

You are to be a light to the world. The world sees your actions and your reactions in different situations. Honest hearts are seeking something different from what they have. If they do not see it in those who claim to be God's people, they are not going to see it anywhere. If you claim to be a child of God, you need to live the life consistently. You should not be up and down or in and out in your Christian experience. True religion will keep you steadfast in the things of God.

### **Whose Approval Are You Seeking?**

Friend, the world has nothing to offer you. If you are going to be anything for the Lord, you must look to Him and not man. Too many people are trying to seek the approval of men. Men can fail you, but God never fails. Men will try to deceive you, but God will not deceive you. Men can discourage you,

but God will not discourage you. He will be true to your soul.

Many people fear what men can do to them or what men might say about them; however, they should be more concerned about what God thinks of them. You need to get your eyes off people. You should not pattern your life after someone else. You should ask the Lord to give you the strength to be what you should be for Him. God can do a miraculous work in you. He is no respecter of persons. You need to trust God and lean upon Him.

Psalm 118:5-6 reads: "I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" That is the testimony of every saint of God. God will uplift you, protect you, and take you all the way. If you are not doing well spiritually, who is the hold up? It is the one you look at in the mirror. You may wonder why some people have difficulties in their Christian lives. Many difficulties that they have are unnecessary, but they allow things to work on them. If they were where they needed to be with God, they would not have such a struggle with those things. They are not looking to the Holy One.

Friend, when you do not look to the Holy One, you will start to seek man's counsel. Human reasoning will work on your mind, and then you will begin to have problems with the standard. You may think that you do not have to believe every Scripture in the Word of God, but if you want to make Heaven your home, you must obey God's Word. On the Day of Judgment you will be judged by the Word of God, not man's ideas.

Some people have trouble with the dress standard because they are not looking to the Holy One. Instead, they look to Hollywood for the latest dress styles. If you look to the Holy One, you will not care about what Hollywood has to say concerning the latest styles. The church sets the standard of

dress for the world. The world does not set the dress standard for the church.

What happens when individuals do not look to the Holy One? They continually go out and spend money that they do not have to keep up with the fashions of the world. True children of God should not try to keep up with the worldly fashions. Hollywood wants to expose just about everything. Sometimes in the stores you have to turn your head away from those who dress so immodestly. Sometimes you cannot even go through the checkout without seeing ungodly magazines. You ought to dress the way the Lord expects a child of God to dress. A true child of God wants to dress modestly and glorify God in the way he or she dresses.

Have you ever wondered why there are so many violent crimes, even against young children? Look how the parents allow their children to dress. The styles of this ungodly world for young ladies show too much flesh. Why is that? People do not look to the Holy One. They look to the worldly fashions.

### **Are You Depending on the World for Satisfaction?**

Young person, in seeking a boyfriend or a girlfriend, are you looking to the Holy One for direction or are you looking for the one with good looks? Are you seeking counsel from your pastor about whom you should date? Do you want that one who is always flirting with the opposite sex? You need to seek the Lord's face when it comes to finding the right companion. It is better not to marry at all than to marry the wrong one. When you marry, you are committing your life to that individual. Marriage is a life-long commitment that you make before witnesses and before God. He will help you to work out difficulties that arise when you seek His counsel.

In a marriage you must work together as husband and wife. Are

you having problems in your marriage? You can work it out with the help of the Lord. If it is the Lord that brought you together as man and wife, He will be there for you to work out those problems in your marriage. Why do some people have a lot of problems in marriage? They do not look to the Holy One; they listen to everyone else's advice. God can help you in your marriage.

You need to go to God in prayer if you are having problems in your marriage. You might have disagreements in your marriage, but you should pray together and work them out. He can help you in those times of need. He can help you in those struggles if you will seek His face. You need to lean upon Him for guidance and direction. Too often people rely on books written by marriage counselors who do not honor God and do not even know what salvation is. There is a better way; it is the Bible way. Many people do not seek God's face, and then they seek other things to try to satisfy their souls.

If you start to depend on the world for satisfaction, it may not be long until you forget God and get involved in things that you thought you would never get involved in. Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay. That is how sin works. The enemy of souls knows he does not have much time, so he is using many things to hinder people in their walk with God. He wants them to look to other things rather than looking to the Holy One.

I have no desire to return to sin. Those sinful habits that I once enjoyed have been replaced with godly things. I want to be in the house of God, and I want to be around the people of God. I want to hear spirit-led singing and the Word of God. I want to do what is right. When you were living in sin, it was natural to do wrong, but now that you are saved, you want to magnify and glorify God. Sin will take a toll on your body, friend. Often a person

who is thirty or forty years old looks much older when he or she has been living in sin. It works on the body and takes people down physically, mentally, spiritually, and financially.

### **The Devil's Deception**

The devil wants to destroy you and cause you to spend all you have, just as the prodigal son did. Luke 15:11-13 reads: "And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living [when one gets lean in his soul, he becomes more demanding in his ways]. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living."

Riotous living is immoral. The prodigal son probably did things that he had never been exposed to. No doubt, he saw things that he had never seen. He kept company with people with whom he had never associated. Sin will expose you to riotous living and draw you into environments where you do not want to be, but when you do not seek the Holy One, you will conform to the worldly environment. You will get used to your surroundings and the people you are around. For example, at one time you could not stand the smell of alcohol, but now it does not seem to be so bad. In the past you could not stand to be around people who told dirty, smutty jokes, but now you enjoy being around that kind of environment. That is what happens when you are drawn to a far country. You will go away from those who care about you and pray for you.

The prodigal son experienced things he thought he never would because he did not look to the Holy One. Verses 14-16 continue: "And when he had spent all [that is what the devil wants you to do], there arose a mighty famine in that land;

and he began to be in want. [There was a famine not only in the land but also in his soul. He became headstrong and proud.] And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him."

This young man never wanted to be in the field with the swine, but he was there. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the husks that the swine ate, but no one gave him any. This is a very sad picture of one who started out very productive in life, but he fell into a pit of moral decay. That is what Satan wants sin to do to you, friend. If you do not look to the Holy One, you are not immune to sin.

### **Leave the Pathway of Sin**

The story of the prodigal son portrays how sin can take one from the heights of Mount Zion to the depths of sin in a very short time. Nominal religion can cause you to think that your problem is just part of life and that you do not have a need. That is the deception of false religion. The enemy can easily get you to think that you can join a church and do sinful things and yet go to Heaven. That is not how it works, friend.

When the Lord exposed my sin, He showed me what I really needed in my life. I needed help, but the last thing on my mind was joining a church. Nevertheless, I needed help for my unworthy soul. When I got saved, I did not have to choose a church to join. The choice was already made for me. You see, man can give you many choices, and it would be easy to make a wrong choice, but God only gives you one clear choice.

If more people would look to the Bible for direction in their lives and seek the Holy One, there would be much less bitterness, strife, pride, and envy. If more men who claim to be preachers would look to the Holy

One for the leadership of the Holy Spirit, more people would dress right, act right, and walk as they should. Where is the let down? It is behind the sacred desks across our land. When people do not hear what the Word of God says, they are going to do what they want to do, go where they want to go, dress the way they want to dress, and talk the way they want to talk. When people do not hear the Word preached, they will lean to their own understanding. They will look to man rather than the Holy One.

God's people are a holy people, clean and upright. True Christians follow Christ all the way. As God's people, we are not moved by every wind of doctrine. We are rooted and established in the things of God.

In Luke 15:17 we read, "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." In other words, the prodigal son was saying: "Do not even consider me to be one of your sons. I do not deserve it."

None of us deserves this great salvation, but God loved and cared for us so much that He gave His only Son so that we could be free. This young man was truly repentant of what he had done. He did not expect his father to have anything to do with him; nevertheless, he wanted to go back home. Sinner friend, that is what God wants you to do. He wants you to leave the pathway of sin today and come home to Christ and find rest, peace, and contentment in your soul.

Young person, you might think that you can hardly wait until you become eighteen years of age so that you can get out of the home, but you do not realize how good you have it at home. You need to understand that is the trick of the old enemy to get you away from home and into a

far country, away from the spiritual influence of your Christian parents. It is much different when you have to get out there and pay your own rent, your own utilities, your own grocery bill, and all the other bills that come in your mail.

Luke 15:20-24 tells us: "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand [he put a ring on his hand so that he could conduct family business, for the signing of official documents], and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

I thank God for Jesus and His mercy unto me. That parable always brings to my mind the song that reads, "There's joy in the camp, a sinner has come home." There is joy in the camp every time a sinner makes his way to Christ. Oh, the joy of knowing Jesus! Friend, you can know Him as your *personal* Savior.

Many people in the world say they know Jesus. They know the story of His birth, of His being laid in a manger, and of the Crucifixion, but they do not know Him personally as the One who has delivered them from their sins.

Dear one, you need to look to the Holy One. In our Father's house there is peace, joy, and contentment. Moreover, there is spiritual manna to feast upon. You do not have to fill your belly with the husks of this old world. The worldly allurements cannot bring fulfillment to your soul. I am thankful that one day I looked to the Holy One and sought His help for my never-dying soul.

To whom are you looking for peace and satisfaction? Are you trying to pattern your life after a famous actor or actress? You would be surprised at the number of people who are doing that. Materialism, worldly lusts, and worldly entertainment cannot satisfy your soul. Nothing can satisfy you the way Jesus can. Won't you look to Him today? If you are in a state of depression, you do not have to stay there. You can look to Jesus. If you do not know Him as your personal Savior, you can today. Won't you seek Him with your whole heart, while He may be found?

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***FAITH — Makes all things possible.***

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*[Especially for Young People—contin. from page 15]*

"Not much," he replied. "I think a walk in the open air will do me good."

"Don't go out, James," said his mother, a troubled feeling coming into her heart.

"I'll only walk a few squares," he replied, as he hurried down the street.

"There is something more than a headache the matter with him," she thought.

For half an hour James walked without any purpose in his mind beyond the escape from the presence of his mother. At last his walk brought him near Mr. Carman's store, and in passing, he was surprised at seeing a light within.

"What can this mean?" he asked himself, a new fear creeping into his trembling heart.

He listened by the door and windows, but he could hear no sound within.

"There's something wrong," he said. "What can it be? If this is discovered, what will be the end of it? Ruin! Ruin! Oh my poor mother!"

The wretched young man hastened on, walking the streets for two hours, when he returned home. His mother met him when he entered and, with unconcealed anxiety, asked him if he were better. He said yes, but in a manner that only increased the trouble she felt. He then passed hastily to his own room.

In the morning the strangely altered face of her son, as he met his mother at the breakfast table, struck alarm to her heart. He was silent and evaded all her questions. While they still sat at the table, the doorbell rang loudly. The sound startled James, and he turned his head nervously to listen.

James rose instantly and went out into the hall, shutting the dining room door as he did so. His mother sat waiting for her son's return. She heard him coming back in a few moments, but he did not enter the dining room. Then he returned along the hall to the street door, and

she heard it shut. All was silent. She ran to the passage, but James was not there. He had gone away with the person who called.

Ah, that was a sad home leaving. Mr. Carman had spent half the night in examining the accounts that had been kept by James. He discovered frauds of over six thousand dollars. Blindly indignant, he had sent an officer to arrest James early in the morning. It was with this officer that he went away from his mother, never to return.

"The young villain shall lie in the bed he has made for himself!" exclaimed Mr. Carman, in his bitter indignation. He made a complete exposure. At the trial he showed an eager desire to have him convicted and presented such an array of evidence that the jury could not give any other verdict than guilty.

The poor mother was in court and sobbed as she heard the evidences of the guilt of her son. The presiding judge addressed the culprit, and asked if he had anything to say why the sentence should not be pronounced against him. The prisoner arose, and said:

"Will it please Your Honor to ask my prosecutor to come a little nearer, so that I can look at him and Your Honor at the same time?"

Mr. Carman was directed to come forward. James looked at him a few moments and turned to the judge.

"What I have to say to Your Honor is this" (he spoke calmly and distinctly), "and it may, in a degree, excuse, though it cannot justify, my crime. I went into that man's store an innocent boy. If he had been an honest man, I would not stand before you today as a criminal!"

Mr. Carman appealed to the court for protection against that which he called an outrageous attack upon his character, but he was ordered to be silent. James went on in a firm voice:

"Only a few weeks after I began work in this man's store, I examined a bill, by his direction, and discovered an error of twenty dollars."

The face of Mr. Carman was crimson.

"You remember it, I see," said James, "and I shall have cause to remember it as long as I live. I asked if I should correct the figures, and you answered, 'No. Let them correct their own mistakes. We don't examine bills for other people's benefit.'"

"It was my first lesson in dishonesty. I saw the bill settled, and Mr. Carman took twenty dollars that was not his own. I felt shocked at first. It seemed such a wrong thing. Soon after this, he called me a simpleton for handing back a fifty-dollar bill to the teller of a bank, which he had overpaid me on a check, and then"—

"May I ask the protection of the court?" asked Mr. Carman.

"Is the story of the lad true?" asked the judge.

Mr. Carman looked confused. All felt certain that he was guilty of leading the unhappy young man astray.

"Not long afterward," resumed the young man, "in receiving my wages, I found that Mr. Carman had paid me fifty cents too much. I was about to give it back to him, when I remembered his remark about letting people correct their own mistakes, and I said to myself, 'Let him discover and correct his own errors.' Then I dishonestly kept the money.

"Again, the same thing happened, and again I kept the money that did not belong to me. This was the beginning of evil, and here I am. If he had shown any mercy to me, I might have kept silent and made no defense."

The young man covered his face with his hands and sat down, overpowered with his feelings. His mother who was near him, sobbed aloud, and bending over, laid her hands on his head. "My poor boy! My poor boy!" she murmured.

There were few undimmed eyes in the courtroom. In the silence that followed, Mr. Carman exclaimed: "Is my character to be thus blasted on

the word of a criminal, Your Honor? Is this right?"

"Your solemn oath that this charge is untrue," said the judge, "will clear your reputation in the eyes of the people."

At these words, James stood up again instantly. It was the unhappy boy's only opportunity, and the court felt bound in humanity to hear him. Turning his eyes upon Mr. Carman, he exclaimed, "Let him take his oath if he dare!"

Mr. Carman consulted with his counsel and withdrew.

The judge then arose to pass sentence.

"In consideration of your youth, and the temptation to which in tender years you were subjected, the court gives you a lightest

sentence, one year of imprisonment. But let me solemnly warn you against any further steps in the way you have taken. Crime can have no valid excuse. It is evil in the sight of God and man and leads only to suffering. When you come forth again after your imprisonment, may it be with the resolution to die rather than commit crime!"

A year afterward, when James came from prison, his mother was dead. From the day her pale face faded from his vision as he passed from the courtroom, he never saw her again.

Ten years thereafter, a man was reading a newspaper in a far western town. He had a calm, serious face and looked like one who had known suffering and trial.

"Brought to justice at last!" he said to himself, with deep emotion. "Convicted on the charge of open insolvency, and sent to state prison. So much for the man who gave me in tender years the first lessons in wrongdoing. But thank God, another lesson—the words of the judge, spoken to me so many years ago—have been remembered. 'When you come forth again, may it be with the resolution to die rather than commit crime!' and I have kept these words in my heart when there seemed no way of escaping except through crime. And God helping me, I will remember them as long as I live."

Selected

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[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2] was not interested in receiving The Gospel Trumpeter. Dear one, we do not want to refuse any soul from receiving this paper, but we do feel that God expects us to be wise as to where and to whom we send it. Unfortunately, some people are neither concerned about spiritual things nor interested enough in their own soul's eternal welfare to read this religious periodical. Endeavoring to send the paper to that one may only aggravate him or her and cause the Gospel to be evil spoken of.

Many honest hearts out there are seeking and searching for the good news of the Gospel. There are individuals who are asking for the old paths and are looking for the

good way so they can walk in the Truth. You can be assured that they are out there. It is going to take the Spirit of God to lead someone to where they are.

Allow me to remind you that this is a united effort. We all are workers together with the Lord for the purpose of winning souls to Christ. Please do not ever feel that your efforts or help is unneeded, unnecessary, or insignificant. Many hands are needed to accomplish the task, along with much prayer. May God guide and direct those who are financially able to support this work in this financially unstable time in which we live.

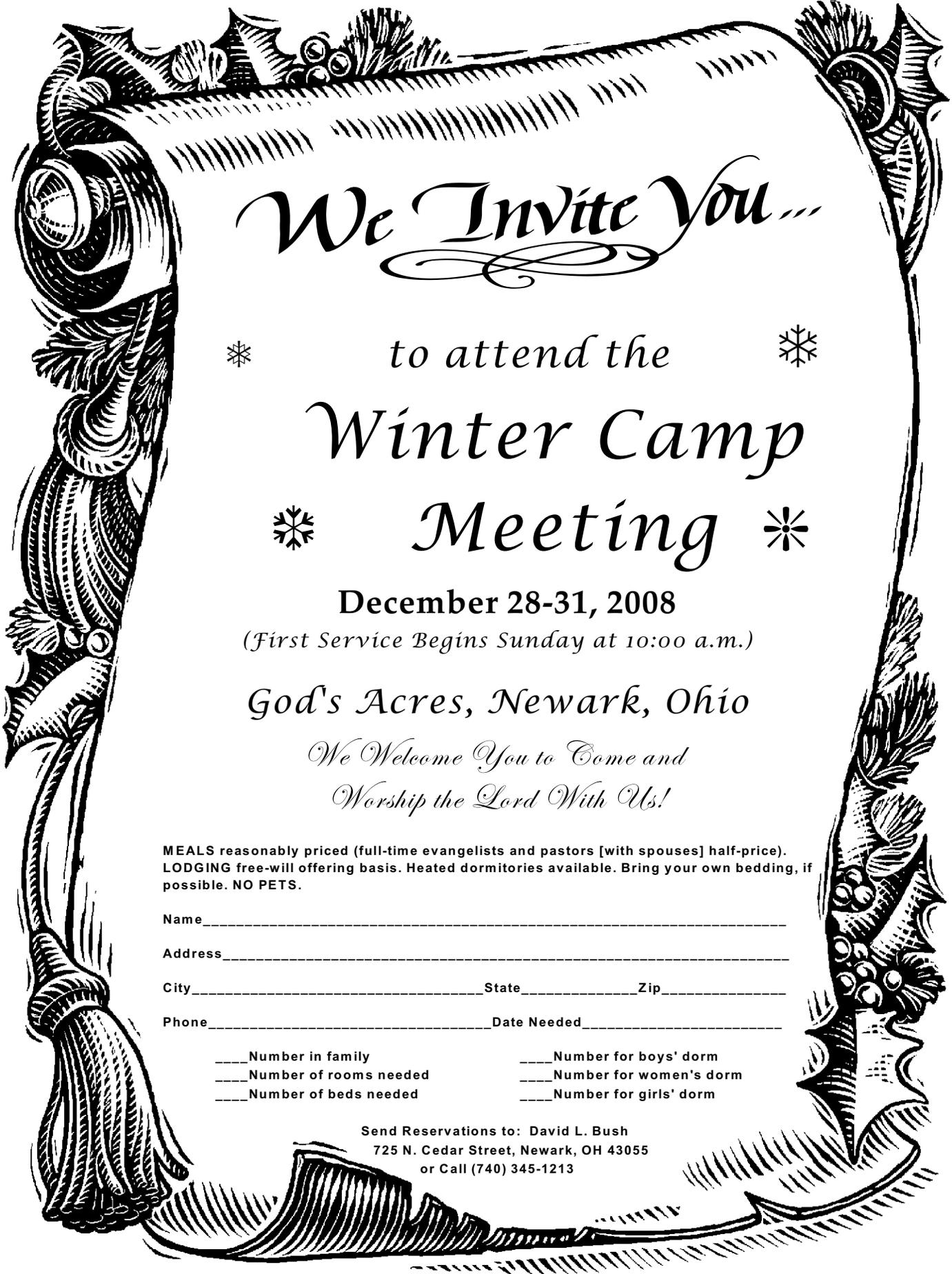
When this life is finished and the rewards are given, each one will be grateful to have had a part in

winning men and women to Christ and to His true church. Our desire and intention is for this publication to be a means to "proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1), to cry aloud, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city" (Revelation 14:8). Also, it is to see the people of God "stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:2).

If you are not all ready carrying a burden for this work of publishing the good news, we sincerely ask you to join us now. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated! Again, we say, "A special thanks to you."

The Staff

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