

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 March 2008 No. 3



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
USPS #871620

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

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

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

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

PRAYER: If you need prayer, please phone or write:

Roger Decker, Pastor
83 Decrow Ave.
Newark, OH 43055

Email: pastor@church-of-god-online.com
Phone: 740-344-2543 or 1-888-730-0461
Fax: 740-344-4737
Print Shop Phone: 740-345-1312

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)

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

CONTENTS

God's Pattern for the House..... 3
The Binding Power of Sin..... 7
Especially for Young People..... 14
Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out..... 15
The Consequences of the Spirit
Not Striving..... 21
Announcements..... 27

Vol. 38 March 2008 No. 3

Guest Editorial

"Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery:
if riches increase, set not your heart upon them."

Psalm 62:10

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his
righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

Seeking Lasting Riches

Our society today seems to be steeped in a spirit of materialism. Many people are unable to be really satisfied with what they have. Some people continually yearn to reach out for more, thinking that it will bring them happiness, and others strive to gain fame and popularity among those around them.

The writer of the psalm was in no way saying that it is sinful to have wealth or material possessions. Also, being well off financially does not mean that a person is evil. Having the ability to be frugal in business matters is not necessarily a sign that a man or a woman is wicked or greedy. Just because a person holds a prominent position is no evidence that he or she is crooked in business dealings.

The evil comes whenever a person allows worldly riches or possessions or his position to gain control of his or her heart and life. Spending too much time seeking earthly gains that will soon rust or decay can become dangerous if one is not careful. These things can subtly take first place in a Christian's life if he or she does not guard against it. Anything that is placed ahead of Christ will soon rob the soul of peace and joy, thus rendering that soul shipwrecked.

Remember that worldly fame or wealth is never proof of an

individual being in a right relationship with the Lord. Sometimes riches have been mistaken for spirituality. Unfortunately, some people thought they were pleasing God because they had an abundance of wealth. God sheds His goodness on the unjust man as well as the just man. When the Lord sends the rain, it blesses the sinner's crops the same as it blesses the righteous man's crops.

In 1 Timothy 6:9-10 Paul tells us: "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Earthly riches can become a snare because men are tempted to place their trust in their riches instead of God who gave it, much like the rich, young ruler who came to Jesus seeking soul rest. He had obeyed all the commandments from his childhood, yet he lacked one thing; something was missing in his life. When Jesus required him to sell all he had and told him to go and share it with the poor, his flesh cringed. He went away empty and sad because he loved his wealth more than he loved or wanted Jesus.

[continued on page 13]

Ezekiel 43:10 Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

11 And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, show them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof,

and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof,

and do them.

12 This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.

God's Pattern for the House



Brother Roger L. Decker

Building According to God's Plan

God, speaking through the Prophet Ezekiel, told Ezekiel to show the house to the house of Israel so that they might have sorrow and measure to the pattern. God has always had a pattern. All through the Old Testament, the people had to build according to the pattern. Moses was given a pattern to build by, and anything that was not built according to the pattern, in God's eyes, was unacceptable. He is very

fussy when it comes to the pattern that He has laid out in His Word. God has a pattern for His church, and He will not accept just any old thing. We have to build according to the pattern that He has laid out before us.

God gave Moses instructions about how to build the tabernacle. Exodus 40:16 says, "Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he." When Moses built the tabernacle, he did everything according to the pattern.

Noah was given a pattern to build the ark, and building according to the pattern meant the salvation of his household. In Genesis 6:15 we read, "And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits." Noah was given a plan on how to build the ark. He could have paid no attention to the Lord, but had he disregarded what the Lord told him, no doubt he would have

lost his soul and his whole household.

Many people have lost their house today. They are in dire trouble because they did not build according to the pattern. In other words, they did not raise their household according to what God has laid out in His Word.

We have examples throughout the Old Testament. Genesis 6:22 reads, "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." Genesis 7:5 says, "And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him." Hebrews 11:7 reads, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

Noah moved with fear to the saving of his household. Many people have built carelessly and recklessly, and it has cost them their household. Parents mess around with temptation, not considering the little ones who are following them. They put a mark on their children's lives when they are careless. Some are careless about their worship, their church attendance, and the things they need to do to stay spiritual; that sets a mark on those who follow. Children know how spiritual their parents are.

Some parents never testify before the saints to thank God for anything, yet they expect their children to do so. In the factory where I used to work, there used to be a sign in the manufacturing manager's office that read, "You lead by example." Too many parents are not building according to the pattern, and it will cost them their household. God gives man the pattern to build his Christian life, and like the saints of old, we must build according to His plan to be successful. Surely you will have trials, adversities, and sicknesses; nevertheless, if you build according to the plan in this life, you will be successful.

Jesus Christ Is the Measuring Rod

Today it seems that people have their own patterns, their own ideas, their own ways, and their own standards. Second Corinthians 10:12 says, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

People may say: "So-and-So gets up and sings and doesn't do that" or "They do this and that, and they get by with it, so I can get by with it." No one is getting by with anything when he or she has the knowledge to do better, even if that person sings or preaches or whatever he does in the work of God. If that person has not measured to the Bible standard, he or she is not getting away with it. The measure that we are to measure ourselves with is Jesus Christ, not another brother or sister. Jesus Christ is the measuring rod.

Verse 10 of our Scripture text reads, "Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern." It still takes God's man to show the house to the house. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:14, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" This is still God's plan in speaking to His people. God wanted a prophet to show the house to the house to let them know that God still has a pattern and that He is still requiring men and women to measure to it.

In Revelation 11:1 John wrote, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein." God has always measured His people, and He is still measuring His people today under the seventh seal. If you are going to be the Church of God, you must take all the messages.

John was told in Revelation 11:1

to "Rise, and measure." The measuring has to come from the pulpit. Children should not whip or scold children. There is no use in someone saying something to get a chip off his or her shoulder. God is not in that, and that is uncalled for. If you do not have anything encouraging to say, then you should not say anything. If there is any measuring that needs to be done, God will speak to the pastor through prayer and tell him what to do.

There is only one thing that we can use to measure. We cannot use our feelings or our opinions. We must use God's Word; that is the rod. One should not get up and just spout off to get a chip off his shoulder. We must have God's Word to back us and support us.

The rod and the staff are the only things that will bring comfort to a fearful soul. Psalm 23:4 states, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

God Is Concerned About Your Worship

The man of God has to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm. He cannot get people to rally unless he blows the trumpet and sounds the alarm. Revelation 10:9-10 says this: "And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter."

Truth is sweet when you hear it, but it becomes bitter when you take it in and actually let it become a part of your life. Persecution does not come when you hear the Truth, but rather when you stand for the Truth. There is still measuring going on today under the light of the seventh seal, and to be the Church of God,

you must take all the messages. We have to eat all the Book, even the part that brings persecution.

What happens to a congregation when the people will not take the rod, or will not measure to the Word? It will defect from Truth and fall away. Once a congregation falls into apostasy, it rarely recovers. No one can force people to measure to the Truth. The Prophet Ezekiel said to "let them measure the pattern."

God's house was under the old Law in the Old Testament dispensation. The Bible says the Old Testament had laws, ordinances, forms, and fashions. Why? God wants His people to be holy. You cannot worship God without holiness. God is very concerned about your worship. If there were no laws, or commandments and ordinances, then His house would be a free for all, with people acting any way they want to, dressing any way they want to, and worshiping any way they want to. There would be no shame among the people.

When it comes to dressing in a godly fashion, the saints of God should not allow the sloppiness of the world to affect them. Today many people in the world dress in a sloppy manner. They often wear tee shirts, baggy pants, and dirty blue jeans that look as though they have never been washed. Child of God, do not let that affect you. When you go to the house of God, you ought to dress up and wear your best to worship God.

Young person, do not get caught up in how others dress in the schools. Often you can see young men walking down the street with pants that are so baggy that they can hardly walk. When you are entering the worship services, you are entering into the presence of the King. If you were to go to the White House, I am sure that you would have to dress up. There is an area in the White House where a man must wear a necktie to enter.

God wants His dwelling place to be a place where He is worshiped supremely. Consider the temple in

Jesus' day. We read in Matthew 21:13, "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Perhaps you know the story behind that. When the people came to the temple, they had to have sacrifices, so people sold sacrifices there. What did they do? They set their prices high and took advantage of the people, because the people who came without a sacrifice would have to buy one. The temple became a house of trade and bartering, but it should have been a house of prayer, Jesus said.

What Is the Law of the House?

Without a law people would not be ashamed of their iniquities. According to the Word of God, the law of the house is holiness. Verse 12 of our Scripture text states, "This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house." God has never changed His law. His law is the same: God requires holiness.

You need to be careful that you do not get caught in this modern-day trend of letting down the Bible standard. Many who call themselves the Church of God have let down along certain lines that they used to stand for. Do not let that affect you. We are in an evening-time apostasy. You need to stick with the Truth. You need to stay with the laws and the commandments, and the ordinances and the forms thereof, and build according to the pattern.

God requires His people to be holy. Psalm 93:5 reads, "Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever." God commands holiness. There are no true worshipers without holiness. You cannot offer God true worship without holiness. Psalm 96:9 says, "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth."

Ezekiel spoke of "the goings out

thereof" and "the comings in thereof." I repeat, God is concerned about your worship, and He is also concerned about you after you leave the worship services. He is concerned about your conduct in the world as well as at the house of God.

Most people know how to behave themselves in the house of God, but God is concerned about their "goings out thereof." You must measure to the pattern within the house and without the house. How about your business dealings? What does the world think of you as a Christian when it comes to the business aspect of your life? Are your business dealings shady? Do you have unpaid debts that you have walked away from? Do you run up bills and then walk away? Just keep this in mind: if you do that, that is shady, and you are going to reap it. There is going to be a day when someone is going to owe you something, and they will pull the same thing on you.

If you refuse to pay a bill, it will hinder your witness. You are certainly not going to be able to witness to those to whom you owe money when you have failed to pay your debt. All they have to do is run into one scoundrel, and they will brand all Christians that way. When you owe a debt, you are responsible for paying your debt. You have to build according to the pattern, according to "the fashion thereof."

Some people say, "I will give my all, but I am not giving my wallet." Well, God does not want your wallet, but He does want you to tithe 10 percent of what is in there. If you have young children, you should teach them when they are young to give 10 percent to the Lord. It is good to instill biblical principles in their minds.

Today many people are too lazy to work. They would rather have someone else support them. Second Thessalonians 3:10 says, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." I want you to notice that the Scripture

says "if any *would* not work"; it does not say *could* not work. He was speaking of those who refused to work when they were able. Some people cannot work, but they would if they could. God understands that. Those people are exceptions to the rule. To the person who can work but will not, Paul said he "should not eat."

Holiness and the Standard

God expects His people to live holy in all phases of their lives. First Corinthians 6:19-20 says this: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Holiness involves not only the spirit but also the body. Holiness glorifies and honors God. Without holiness you cannot please the Lord.

Some people have a real battle with holiness and the standard. They are constantly looking for a way out. God has a beautiful standard. Women can dress nice and look nice and still be modest. They do not have to conform to the world. Whatever garments you wear should cover you modestly. Every time you raise your hand, people should not have to look away. It looks so modest and nice when you take care of yourself and dress right. Child of God, you must let modesty be a part of your life, not just when you go to church, but wherever you go.

God has a pattern, and included in that pattern is modesty, and it is beautiful! Holiness is beautiful in worship. Although dressing modestly does not replace worship, it is a part of worship. God has a wonderful standard! God has had a dress standard for wearing modest apparel in every age of time. He is not trying to make the sisters look drab. A sister who is dressed modestly and clean and has her hair done nicely is very attractive.

Holiness involves the spirit and the body, and it glorifies God. He should be involved in all phases of your life. He is involved with young people at school. Young person, God is concerned about how you act in school, and He is concerned about your grades. He wants you to achieve good grades in school. Also, He is concerned about your dating. God is concerned about every phase of your life.

When you date, God is really concerned that you keep the relationship clean. What is needed in dating? Both of you need to be spiritual. You should pray before you go out. There are many good, clean things that you can do. You should not put yourself in the position where you are alone in a parked car, no matter how spiritual you are. The devil will work through that. Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own flesh. You need to keep yourself out of those areas where the devil can tempt you.

Walking As Christ Walked

I repeat, God commands holiness. If you are not living holy, then you are not pleasing God. He is displeased when someone is always looking for shortcuts. First John 2:6 says, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." How did Jesus walk? He was tempted in all points, yet without sin. Your spirit must be holy as well as your body. If your life does not display holiness, you need to be ashamed of your sin and measure to the law of the house.

Living for God is not difficult when you do it the right way. I have

never found it difficult to live for God. Serving Him is an enjoyable life. If you live for God and do it right, God will bless your life. He will bless your household just as He did Noah and Moses when they built according to the pattern and just as He did the Apostles when they built according to the pattern. God will do the same for you when you build according to the pattern. You should not take shortcuts. You are not fooling anyone. You may fool some people, but you cannot fool God. He is the One whose presence you are in continually.

If you have sin in your life, you really need to be honest about it. You should not try to cover it up. You need to get it out of your life. You cannot prosper with God with sin in your life. You need to confess your sin to Jesus Christ and be made holy. God can save you from all sin; He is able to deliver you. God wants to help you. He has a pattern for you to build upon, and that pattern is Jesus Christ. If you will build your spiritual house according to the pattern, your home will have the blessings of God resting upon it.

Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [What was He speaking of? He was talking about the things the Gentiles seek after: houses, clothes, food, raiment, and so on.] shall be added unto you." Are you building according to the pattern, or according to the Word of God? If you will build that way, I can guarantee you that you will be successful.

(Compact Disc TR-163E)

**With God one
is never lost
in the crowd.**

Proverbs 5:15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and

rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of man are before

the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

The Binding Power of Sin



Brother Esau Brooks

Regard Discretion

Notice what the writer said in verses 22-23: "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of

his folly he shall go astray." These are the words of an experienced man. They are not the words of someone who was experimenting with words or the words of what we call a "worldly-wise person." They came by divine inspiration and as words of caution from one who had

experience.

Again, verse 22 of our Scripture text tells us that "he shall be holden with the cords of his sins." Notice the many serious counsels concerning the far-reaching effects of sin that the wise man was declaring. First, he pleaded with man to regard

the warnings that were being given. In Proverbs 5:1-2 the writer stated: "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge."

If there is any admonition that we need to keep, it is the admonition regarding discretion. It would appear in these days that God is striving to reveal to lost mankind the disappointments that exist in the life of sin.

Once when I was at the airport in Miami, a certain crowd of people paraded through. At first I did not pay much attention to them, but as I stood at the counter, a man next to me said: "Do you see those people out there? They are all men."

I replied in astonishment, "What!"

"Yes, they are all men," he stated.

Had you seen them, you would not have believed it. They were clothed in dresses and wore earrings. They plainly looked like women. Everywhere you turned at that particular time, it seemed that the whole world had gone mad over that way of living. Then, all of a sudden, we heard of the discovery of the dreadful disease called AIDS. In the beginning doctors began to emphasize that those who indulged in homosexuality were more likely to contract the disease. Some people have sobered up, and now some people have become more restrained than they were back then. What am I saying? By bringing about that disease, God proved to man that wickedness does not pay.

Several years ago startling revelations were brought out regarding some well-known evangelists. That is another proof that wickedness does not pay. Therefore, if there is anything you need to do, it is to regard discretion. What more can God do to convince you that sin is the wrong way to live? How much has to happen to arouse your interest in the language of our Scripture text? The Word of God declares in

verse 22, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself [not the iniquity of someone else, but his *own* iniquities], and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

Hear the Voice of God

Sometimes I am made to wonder about what is holding people in sin. What is keeping people in sin? People are in sin because they are bound by sin's power; therefore, they cannot get out of it on their own. Sin is not an experience or a condition that you can walk out of any time you please. Years ago, when we were holding a revival in an area in Honduras, a certain individual sat in those meetings night after night and wept bitterly. We began to pray for her. One day in talking to one sister in the congregation, she informed me that this particular person was once saved. I inquired of her, "Why don't you talk to her and see if you can help her?"

The next night when the altar service began, the sister to whom I had spoken went over to speak to this woman. There they were, weeping their hearts out, and this is what the sister told me about her after the service. She said that she asked her, "Why don't you give your heart to God?" The reply that she gave the sister was, "You just can't walk out on God and then walk back whenever you like."

Many people sit around and think that whenever they feel like it, they can give their hearts to God, but that is not so. Sin carries a binding power with it, and the more one gives in to sin, the more bound that person becomes. The more one resists the call of God, the less likely it is that an individual will ever have another opportunity to surrender to the Lord. Sometimes as a service comes to a close and the altar call is given, someone will say, "I don't know why they won't leave me alone." We cannot afford to, because you are unaware of the destruction that sin is working in your life. I repeat, salvation is not an

experience that you can obtain any time you want. There is a limit as to how far one can go in sin and yet be able to return to God.

When the Apostle Paul was writing to the church at Corinth, after expressing himself along various lines, in 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 he said: "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

God has a time to deal with you, and a time for you to accept. Paul tells us quite clearly that the time to be saved is now. If you will read your Bible, you will find that when it comes to the accepted time of salvation with God, it is always "now." Paul, writing to the Hebrews in Hebrews 3:7-8, stated: "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts. . . ." Notice that it is not all the time that you are going to hear the voice of God. If you are unsaved, you are lost, and you are on your way to hell. If you should die, you would open your eyes in a devil's hell. Knowing that you are a sinner ought to be sufficient to motivate you to give your heart to God. Many people sit around and wait to be convicted. You may ask, "Don't you believe that people need to be convicted?" No, after they have resisted conviction repeatedly and know what they need to do, sometimes God is waiting on them to make a move.

Sin Is Working Your Destruction

Let us go back to the case of Judas. He had walked with the Lord and had seen the many miracles that Jesus had done. He had listened to all His preaching and teachings, yet he conspired against Him and sold Him out to His enemies. Oh, there is no doubt that he entertained the thought that all he would have to do

is beg God to forgive him and then forget about it. However, according to Matthew's account, recorded in Matthew, Chapter 27, when Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he went out and hanged himself. This account is not on record just to afford us reading material, but it has been recorded as a warning.

In Proverbs 5:7 the wise man said, "Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth." Again, verses 1-2 state: "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge." This was given as a warning of the far-reaching effects of sin. Many people have disregarded this, and as a result, now they are in misery, shame, and disgrace.

If you could see what your life would become as a result of your rejection of this message, no doubt you would not believe it because everything appears to be fine in your life right now. You may be inclined to believe that things are going to work out well, but all the while, sin is working your destruction. No one is safe under the influence of wickedness; therefore, the wise man made it plain that there is more to sin than the seasonal pleasure it brings.

There is a following up of serious consequences that will eventually affect the life of the sinner. Proverbs 5:9-12 reads: "Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof."

This describes the aftereffects of rebelling against God. Although this may seem remote as far as your thinking is concerned, it is constantly happening, and you cannot escape. That is the reason the Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 2:1-3:

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?"

How are you planning to escape the recompense of reward if you neglect so great salvation? If you neglect salvation, you have a dark future coming. I am saying this to warn you: *the ways of sin are the ways of death! The ways of rebelling against God are the ways of disappointments and regrets.*

"There's a Line That Is Drawn By Rejecting the Lord"

Consider the rich man spoken of by Jesus in Luke, Chapter 16. He opened his eyes in hell and saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. Verse 24 tells us that he began to implore Abraham for mercy, saying, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." What was he told? "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" (verse 25).

A young man who was wonderfully saved left the island and came to the United States "in search of a living," as he said. After a while, I was privileged to meet with him in America. In our conversation I discovered he had backslidden. I exhorted the brother, "You would be far better off to drop everything right now and get back to God."

He said, "I plan to do that. I don't mean to die lost; I am going to give my heart back to God." We separated, and it was a while before our paths crossed again. The next

time I saw him, he was not the robust, healthy individual that I had seen a few years before. He looked so weak and so sick, and I asked him, "What happened to you?"

He said, "I am sick."

I inquired, "Have you given yourself back to the Lord yet?"

He said, "Not yet."

I said, "Well, you had better hurry."

He said, "I'm going to the doctor, and I want you to pray for me."

I promised that I would do so, and I did. I did not hear anything more about his condition until he sent someone to my house. The man said that a young man had called for me, so I got a couple of brethren to go with me to the place where he was living, and as the boat landed nearby, we could hear the cries. I did not recognize the voice at the time as being the voice of that young man until I approached his home, and then I could distinctly tell that it was his voice.

We entered his house, and when we appeared in the door of his room, he looked up and said, "You came!"

I said, "Oh, yes."

He said, "Oh, I am dying, and I am lost. Pray for me."

I knelt and tried to pray, but Heaven was as if it was made of brass. I stood up and said, "You pray."

He said, "I've done it, I've done it, but I can't get anywhere!"

To make a long story short, the last words he uttered were these: "I'm dying, I'm lost, and I am going to hell! Pray for me!" Then he fell back and died. Little did he know that this was in the making from the moment he decided against living for God.

You see, life is so uncertain. No one knows when it will be too late to cry out to the Lord. Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. . . ." My friend, you can persist in living a sinful life and rebel against God to the point where you go beyond the reach of the mercies of God. One song says:

*There's a line that is drawn by
rejecting the Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is lost
And you hurry along with the
pleasure-mad throng,
Have you counted, have you counted
the cost?*

*You may barter your hope of eternity's
morn,
For a moment of joy at the most,
For the glitter of sin and the things it
will win,
Have you counted, have you counted
the cost?*

*While the door of His mercy is open to
you,
Ere the depth of His love you exhaust,
Won't you come and be healed, won't
you whisper, I yield,
Have you counted, have you counted
the cost?*

*Have you counted the cost if your soul
should be lost
Tho' you gain the whole world for
your own?
Even now it may be that the line you
have crossed,
Have you counted, have you counted
the cost?*

All the Ways of Man Are Before the Eyes of the Lord

The few fleeting enjoyments of sinful pleasures may be yours for the moment, but they will soon be gone, and they will leave you at the mercy of the wrath of God. We hear much today about the love of God. Many preachers are painting a picture that gives people the idea that God has no wrath and that God shows nothing but mercy and love. On the contrary, the Word of God tells us in Psalm 7:11 that "God is angry with the wicked every day."

I want you to notice that John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Paul spoke to the church at Thessalonica of being saved from the wrath to come.

In this age of pleasure-seeking and sinful enjoyment, we need to be reminded that the wrath of God is real. No wonder Paul, in writing to the Romans, said in Romans 11:22, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God." Again, he reminded them that God, willing to show His mercy, would bear with the vessel of wrath until that vessel was fit for destruction.

The people of the antediluvian world hoped that their day of judgment would never come. They persisted in their indulgence of wickedness, ignoring and disregarding the cries of the preaching of Noah, but little did they know that in the making was God's plan of dealing with their sins. The great Apostle Paul declared in Acts 17:30-31: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

God has a day appointed to deal with man concerning his sins. Therefore, in verse 21 of our Scripture lesson he said, "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings." If you think God is so busy taking care of the stars and the moon and this wonderful world that He has created and that He has no time to mark your iniquities, you are making a very sad mistake. All the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and God is considering man's goings. Therefore, He assures us in verse 22 of our Scripture text, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself."

Sin Is Not Your Friend

My friend, nothing you can see or do will make any difference when it comes down to that time when God will mete out His punishment for your life in sin. In Matthew

23:37-38 Jesus told those people of His time: "O Jerusalem, . . . how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Backing up to verses 32-33, Jesus said: "Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

When Moses was dealing with the Hebrew people in their march from Egypt to Canaan, he warned, "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). Sin will never go unpunished, friend. The popular notion of today might be to go on and enjoy yourself in sin, because God has no time to bother with you. Again, my friend, you need to heed the warnings given by the wise man, for he made it plain and quite certain that the Lord would bring punishment for all sins.

Many people may think that any time will do for salvation. Therefore, they procrastinate and put it off. They plan to seek the Lord at the last moment, just before they breathe their last breath. My dear heart, it is much too dangerous to do that. I want you to think about it in this light: If you make a mistake, you will not have time to correct that mistake. After all, the matter of going to Heaven is very serious, and it is going to require more than repeating the Shepherd's Psalms or the Lord's Prayer to get you by. Jesus warned in Luke 13:3, "Except you repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Let us look into this message of our Scripture text more closely. First of all, we find the very serious realization that "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself" (verse 22). In other words, your own wickedness will destroy you. My friend, notice closely that it is not your neighbor's, your friend's, or anyone else's iniquity, but your own. No matter how much you are embracing a life of wickedness, sin is not your friend. That is the reason the

wise man said that sin will take over if you give in to it, and once that happens, you will have trouble on your hands.

You can go so far in the life of sin that God's Word has no effect upon you and His Spirit will no longer strive with you. This happened in the antediluvian age. Jesus made it plain in John 8:34, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." One sin will take over your life; then you will become helpless as well as hopeless.

Are You Presuming on the Mercies of God?

The great Apostle Paul, in writing to the Roman brethren, stated in Romans 9:14-16: "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."

God would be willing to show mercy to you, but in your rejecting Him, you may be choosing to close the door of mercy on yourself. No amount of praying or crying will prevail against that. That is the reason Jesus warned in Luke 13:25, "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are."

In Matthew, Chapter 25, Jesus told of the ten virgins. They all went forth to meet the bridegroom. The bridegroom did not come at the time expected, so while he tarried, they all slumbered and slept. At midnight the cry was made that the bridegroom was coming, so all the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps, and the five foolish said to the wise, "Our lamps have gone out; give us of your oil." In so many words, the wise replied, "No,

because there may not be enough for us and you. Go to those who sell and buy of them." They went, but while they were gone, the bridegroom came.

Jesus told this story to illustrate the possibility of people missing out on their chance of getting saved. This is something that is established in the teachings of the Word of God. People can presume on the mercies of God to the extent that they end up being rejected. When the five foolish virgins returned, they began to knock on the door, because the bridegroom had come and the door was shut. They said, "Lord, Lord, open to us." He answered from within and said, "I know you not."

As human beings, it is hard for us to comprehend what it would be like to be shut out from God's favor, mercy, and love forever. We are well acquainted with His goodness and His providential mercies, and we cannot imagine what it would be like for His goodness and mercy to be cut off from us. Nevertheless, we are assured in the Word of God that such is in store for those who do not know God and who refuse to obey the Gospel. Paul said they would be punished with everlasting destruction. Although it is unpleasant to hear this and it is not enjoyable to think upon, we need to be made aware and forewarned.

Selling the Right to Be Born Again for the Enjoyment of Sin

We are part of a society today that is all out for nothing but pleasure. God's Word says that men will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Many people are concerned with making it big in this life. They have gone mad over the pleasures of sin. It has become popular to reject the Gospel and ignore Jesus Christ; however, we should not allow ourselves to believe that God is dead and that there will not be a time of recompensing from the Lord. There is no way that one can live in sin and escape the ravishes of sin.

Many times people are lured by the attractiveness of sin, but they fail to realize there are effects that follow the life of sin. We have a very wonderful example in the case of Esau and Jacob. When Esau came in from one of his hunting trips, he was so hungry, and his brother was engaged in making a broth. Esau requested some, and his brother replied by propositioning him. In essence, Jacob said to Esau, "I will give you something to eat if you will give me your birthright." At that time, Esau was so hungry that he thought: "What good is my birthright now? I need something to eat, lest I die." Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage.

For a while, nothing seemed to be wrong, but in the process of time it finally came around to where he desired his blessing but could not obtain it. Hebrews 12:16-17 tells us of Esau, "who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright," and when he would have received the blessing, he was rejected. Though he sought it carefully with tears, he found no place to repent over the wrong that he had done. Some would say that was just talking about a man in the Old Testament, but the account was recorded as a warning. It illustrates what many people today are doing: selling the right to be born again. For what? They are doing it for merely "a mess of pottage," for the pleasures of sin. In other words, they are selling the right to be a child of God for the fleeting enjoyment of sin.

"Choosing Rather to Suffer Affliction"

I like to read about the wise choice that Moses made. The Bible speaks about Moses in Hebrews 11:24-25, saying: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." What did Moses gain in return? It is unimaginable. Today he

is rejoicing and basking in the love and the glory of God up in Heaven.

Moses lived for God and was recompensed by God in such a remarkable way that when he died, he had no undertaker on this earth that was good enough to take care of his body; God did it Himself. When the time for his funeral arrived, there was no preacher around who was holy enough to take care of that funeral service. God presided over it Himself. When it was time for pallbearers, none were found worthy enough to bury the precious remains of that son of God. The angels were his pallbearers. That was one funeral that was handled completely by Heaven and God.

God called Moses up to the mountain, and until today, not even the devil knows the whereabouts of Moses' body. Jude said that the devil contended with Michael the Archangel about Moses' body. All Michael did was rebuke him in the name of the Lord, and Moses was taken to Heaven. Fifteen hundred years after that occurrence, after that wonderful funeral service, God needed to come down to deliver a special message for His Son Jesus Christ. Do you know whom He chose? He chose Moses and Elijah. That is right!

I will never forget the time back many years ago when Astronaut Gordon Cooper orbited the earth. The world was talking so much about that. I said, "That is nothing. A long time ago God sent two men to earth from Heaven. They were the first men that I know of who ever came down, delivered a message, and returned, not to the moon or to Mars or to Jupiter, but to Heaven." I would have liked to have been there that day! I am sure that was some time they had when they landed back here. Had those saints been able to think about things down here, no doubt, they would have gotten around and said, "Moses, how are things going?"

No doubt, he would have replied: "Wonderful, my friends! This thing pays!"

Moses became honored when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. At that time, Egypt was the leading country of the world. It contained the wealth of the world. To be a son of Pharaoh back in that day meant riches and honor beyond compare, but Moses simply refused. He saw a greater honor. The Bible says he had respect to the recompense of the reward.

No doubt, some said to him, "Moses, do you know what you are doing? Do you realize what you are turning down?"

"Yes!"

"Moses, where are you going to get another chance like this? This is the chance of a lifetime, and you are a Jew! Pharaoh wants to claim you as his son! That means you are an heir to Pharaoh's throne, Moses. Come on! What is wrong with you?"

Moses refused not only the throne but also the position and the privilege to be called Pharaoh's son. As they pressed him concerning this matter, I can imagine that he said: "I do not want to hear any of you mention it again about my having the right to be Pharaoh's son. I do not want this."

"What are you going to take instead?"

"I am going to suffer pain with those despised people." He chose rather to suffer affliction.

Moses chose the very thing that people are running from today. We need to review our lives and our priorities. The Bible still says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." You need not sell your soul, or your birthright, for them.

Sin Will Destroy You

I want to remind you that this business of living in sin will disappoint you in the end. Your own sin will take you for a ride to destruction. God is warning you.

The Bible has many examples of individuals who made the same

choice that many people today are making and who lived long enough to regret it. Friend, if you continue to live in sin, you are going to regret it too. You will regret turning God down and refusing to be saved. You may say, "It is not that I don't want to be saved, but you see, I don't think I could live for God now." Dear one, you do not have to think about living for God right now. Your job is to give Him your heart. He says, "Give Me your heart, and I will do the rest for you."

You may say, "Oh, but I have seen others who have started and turned back." I have seen others who have started and stayed true. The trouble is that people get their eyes on those who have failed, but thank God, in the midst of all the failures, many are succeeding.

Paul came to the end of life's way and said in 2 Timothy 4:7-8: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. . . ." Thank God, we do not have to fail. God is able to keep.

The condition that you need to be aware of is expressed in verse 22 of our Scripture text with these words: ". . . he shall be holden with the cords of his sins." He said the wicked "shall be holden." He did not say they might be or they may be, but he said they "shall be." This lets us know that sin is binding. Once you are held by sin's power, only God can free you. That is the reason Jesus said in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

All must be saved to get rid of sin. No amount of church attendance can do it. Also, shaking a preacher's hand, signing a card, or church joining cannot do it. Man must have deliverance, and only God can give it.

Sin will disappoint you and destroy you. Therefore, you need to seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near. Look at the bitterness you are beginning to experience in your

life as a result of sin. Look at what it has done to others around you.

Turn From Sin Before It Is Too Late

I remember years ago in the city of Chicago, I was walking down skid row on State Street, and as I looked and gazed at those human wrecks on the sidewalk, a brother pointed at a man and said: "Do you see that individual there? He was once a judge." To look at him, you would not have believed it. Then he pointed out another man and said, "This man was once a lawyer." He was nothing but a derelict, and his life was a complete disaster. What caused those men to end up on skid row? It was sin, friend.

In the Old Testament you can read of what sin did for Pharaoh, Samson, Nebuchadnezzar, and Belshazzar; then in the New Testament

you can read of Herod the Great and Judas. I could go on and on and show to you that sin holds its victims under its weight and power until it destroys them. This is what happens to the thief, the drunkard, the gambler, and everyone else who fails to give his life to God. Friend, this may be your only chance to escape, and to reject God's offer of mercy would mean being lost eternally. God is offering you mercy, but if it is going to do you any good, you must accept it. Now is the day of salvation. No matter what the devil is promising you, no matter how much pleasure and enjoyment you might think you are getting out of sin now, you are going to regret it and be sorry about it all. If not in this life, it will be in the life to come.

When the rich man was living on this earth, he had everything that money could buy. He faired sumptuously every day, and he was

clothed in fine linen. Lazarus was laying at his gate, full of sores, but when the end came and Lazarus was taken up to Abraham's bosom, the rich man opened his eyes in hell. He saw the mistake that he had made. Oh, how great a mistake he had made, but it was too late!

The thing about living wrong is that whenever you do come to the place where you are convinced of the wrongness of it, in most cases, it is too late. The person affected by AIDS today does not realize how terrible that disease is until it is too late. He has it, and there is no way of getting out from under it. Therefore, God is calling you to repent and to forsake sin. I would like to say to you, as He said to old Israel, "Turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die?" May God bless you.

(Cassette C-2071E)

*Prayer is a shield to the soul,
a delight to God,
and a scourge to Satan.*

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]

The Savior desires that all men seek the true and lasting riches. Those valuable riches that have been laid up in Heaven can never fade or be stolen from you. In Matthew 6:20 Jesus said, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

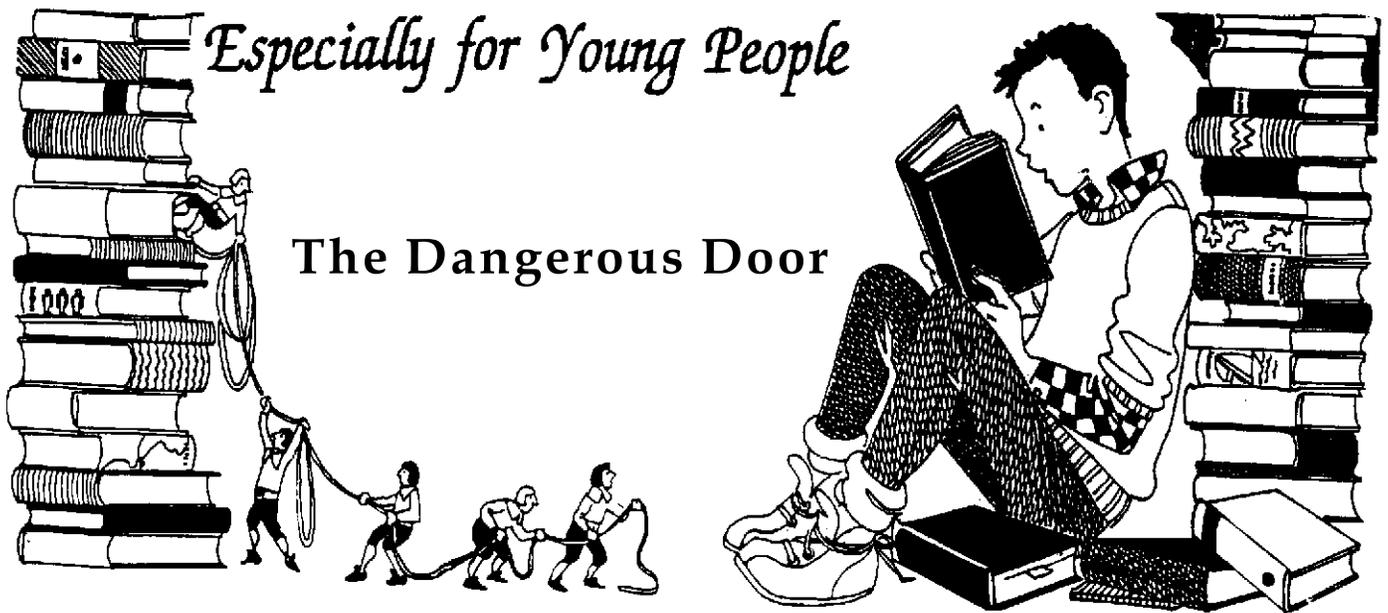
What are some of the precious riches that we can lay up for our-

selves? One is that we can live holy and consistent lives every day before God and our fellowman. Allowing our faith to be built up as we go through each test, trial, or hardship is very advantageous. Doing so helps to cause us to be more effective witnesses to the grace and power of God. Exercising our hearts to be kind and caring is essential. As Jesus came here to serve mankind, we must also be ready to serve wherever and when-

ever possible.

Let your heart be encouraged and challenged to seek the lasting riches. There is great joy in serving others and striving to be a blessing whenever opportunity presents itself. Being physically rich may be pleasing, but being spiritually rich is far greater and far more rewarding.

Selected



"Oh, Cousin Will, do tell us a story! There's just time before the school bell rings." Harry, Kate, Bob, and little Peace crowded about their older cousin until he declared himself ready to do anything they wished.

"Very well," said Cousin Will. "I will tell you about some dangerous doors I have seen."

"Oh, that's good!" exclaimed Bob. "Were they made of all iron with heavy bars? And if one passed in, did they shut and keep them there forever?"

"No, the doors I mean are pink or scarlet, and when they open, you can see a row of little servants standing, all in white, and behind them is a little lady dressed in crimson."

"What? That's splendid!" cried

Kate. "I should like to go in myself."

"Ah! it is what comes out of these doors that makes them so dangerous. They need a strong guard on each side or else there is great trouble."

"Why? What comes out?" said little Peace, with wondering eyes.

"When the guards are away," said Cousin Will, "I have known some things to come out sharper than arrows, and they make terrible wounds. Quite lately I saw two pretty little doors, and one opened and the little lady began to talk like this: 'What a stuck-up thing Lucy Waters is! And did you see that horrid dress made out of her sister's old one?' 'Oh, yes,' said the other little crimson lady from the other door, 'and what a turned up nose she has!'"

Then poor Lucy, who was around the corner, ran home and cried all evening."

"I know what you mean," cried Kate, coloring.

"Were you listening?"

"Oh, you mean our mouths are doors!" exclaimed Harry, "and the crimson lady is Miss Tongue; but who are the guards, and where do they come from?"

"You may ask the Great King. This is what you must say: 'Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth: keep the door of my lips.' Then He will send Patience to stand on one side and Love on the other, and no unkind word will dare come out."

Selected

"Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words."

Psalm 64:3

"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

James 3:5

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile."

1 Peter 3:10

Mark 7:14 *And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:*

15 *There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.*

16 *If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.*

17 *And when he was entered into*

the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

18 *And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;*

19 *Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?*

20 *And he said, That which cometh*

out of the man, that defileth the man.

21 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

22 *Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:*

23 *All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out



Brother Leamon Whitehead

Sin—A Condition of the Heart

In our Scripture text Jesus was letting people know that sin is a condition of the heart, which is the very seat of man's affection. We know that the physical heart is very vital. You cannot live without it. However, that was not what Jesus

was speaking of. He was talking about the very center of man's affection, that which motivates and regulates his whole life.

Sin cannot be covered for very long. After a while, it begins to cause a stink. At some point, it will come to the surface, and it will be manifested in the lives of men and

women. If it is hiding down inside them, it has a way of making itself known. The members of your body are as windows that reveal the condition of the soul. As you live in this world, people can look upon your life and see by your actions, by your deeds, and by your conversations what is going on inside your heart.

Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." You can only hide your sins from men for a little while, but you can *never* hide them before God. The Bible lets us know that each of our lives is as an open book to God. Hebrews 4:13 tells us, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." In our Scripture text Jesus revealed that man's real problem is sin, and the evil things come from the heart.

People know how you live. You may put on an act, but you cannot put on an act too well. There is just something about the truth. You see, if you tell the truth about something, you can tell it a thousand times, and tell it the same way every time and never get nervous about it. On the other hand, if you are trying to hide something, that will cause you to stutter and hesitate, and men can tell that something is not just right.

Your sins will find you out. In other words, you cannot cover sin deeply enough to keep it hid. You cannot be a hypocrite and get by. It is going to come to the surface. Many people have tried to feign old-time salvation. They have tried to make people think they had it, but in time the flesh always shows itself. If sin is on the inside, it will be made manifest. A person's true nature will come to light eventually. This is the reason that trying to do better, turning over a new leaf, or shaking hands with a preacher will not do the work. Man's problem is a sin problem, and it comes from the heart.

The Evidence of Wickedness

You might have heard someone say, "I don't know why I did that." Well, I can tell you why the person did that. It was due to the condition of his heart. Individuals in the penitentiaries will tell you, with tears streaming down their faces, "I don't know why I did what I did." It was due to the condition of the heart;

whatever is in the heart is going to be made manifest.

God has a way of uncovering the hypocrite, uncovering sin, and uncovering that which is not right. I believe that when people are not right with God, yet they try to make believe they are right when they get around the true saints of God and the Truth, they get nervous. Why? Because the Spirit of God and the preaching of the Word of God get close. When you are clean from the inside out, you do not have to worry. You can say: "Preach it, brother! Let it go! Thank God for it!" Why? It blesses your soul.

Sometimes when I preach to people, I can tell that some of them wonder what I am going to hit next, wondering if I am going to get in their sandbox, so to speak. They become so nervous that they can hardly stand it. They cannot even enjoy the service. When you have a new heart from God, my friend, your spirit has been changed and you do not have to worry that way. You can enjoy the good things of God. Glory be to God! He can clean you up and wash you in His own blood. He can free you from sin and give you a new heart. He can make you a new creature! You cannot join the Church of God. You must be born again. You must have the new birth and be filled with the Holy Spirit from on high; that will bring you into the family of God.

Again, Jesus said in verses 20-23 of our Scripture lesson: "And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." These evil things are down in the hearts of men who do not know God. Eventually, they will expose themselves and let people know what type of individual they are by their deeds.

If you have a wicked heart, the

evidence of that may come out through your hands, your mouth, your eyes, or your feet. Sin has a way of getting out. That is the reason unsaved people who try to do that which is good cannot do it. Thank God, when you get to Christ, you get far beyond just putting forth effort to do the right thing. You see, a bad tree cannot bring forth good fruit, even if it could try. However, after the tree is made good, then it can bear good fruit.

Being Made Holy by God

Living a holy life is not difficult after Jesus makes you holy. You cannot do enough good works to save you. You could not do enough good deeds or work hard enough to wash away your sins. Jesus has to make you good, and then you can do good works. Salvation is of the Lord, not of us. If you have never met the Lord, you have never received a new heart, and your life has not been changed. You may do many good things as far as society is concerned, and that is commendable. Certainly, we commend good, moral people and those who try to pay their bills, but that is a million miles from salvation.

There is a widespread teaching that says there is nothing to works. Certainly salvation is not of works, because it is the gift of God. You cannot do good works in sin, because sin causes you to be a bad tree. Salvation is not something out of reach. Living a holy life is reasonable. The key is to be made holy by God, and then you can live holy. When He makes a tree good, it bears good fruit without any problem.

The devil will tell you, "You will give up the best things in life if you get saved, and life will not be worth living." Friend, that is just another one of his lies that he is telling you, to try to keep you from coming to real life. Without God you cannot do what is right. You cannot really be a good husband or a good wife until you get saved.

Some people say, "Life begins at

forty." Life truly begins when you find Jesus, whether you are young, middle-aged, or old. I just began to live when I got right with God. I thank and praise Him for that! You cannot get more out of life than the true child of God is getting. When you look at all the benefits of serving God, you should not get hung up on the cost. Heaven is a bargain at any price. You will get the best of the deal.

A person who has dried up in his Christian experience may try to tell you how hard it is to serve God, moaning and groaning, but you need to get your eyes off that individual and get your eyes on those who have victory in their souls. They can show you how to live. You can go to bed being thankful and get up expecting a great day in God. The Christian life is not a dreary way to live.

I could never fully explain how wonderful, how good, and how blessed it is to be a child of God. You should not spend your time letting the devil worry you with what you cannot do. He will tell you that you have to give up this and give up that. Friend, everything you give up for God would have cost you your soul in hell. Sin will ruin your character, and it will ruin your life. The only thing that God asks you to give up is that which is bad for you. When you learn that, you can shout the victory and say: "Thank God, my sins are gone! My bad habits and the things that had me bound are gone! Glory to God! Praise God!"

As a Christian, I can drink all the alcohol I want to, but I just do not want to. I can go to all the movies that I want to, but I do not want to go. Why is that? I have found a fountain that is far richer; it is far better than anything this world has to offer. Old-time salvation will cause you to rejoice from the heart. When the preacher is preaching the Truth, you should amen the message. You ought to let people know where you stand, let them know that you are behind the message and that

it is true, and let them know that you believe it. You need to let people know that it is not a drudgery to live for God.

The Distinction Between Good Trees and Bad Trees

Old-time salvation is real! The devil would like to talk you out of it. The world is looking at the saints. They are the light of the world. Not many people would go to the stadium to watch a ball game if every time they looked at the people, they were crying, but that is not what they do. They holler and carry on: "Go get 'em! Win another one!" I am grateful for the living fountain that will never run dry. It blesses my soul and brings joy and peace to me.

If you are enjoying the milk and honey in Canaan, you will not be worried about the garlics and the cucumbers in Egypt, or sin. Too many people have never really made the journey. They are still in the wilderness. If they get over into Canaan, where the milk and honey flows, they will find joy and peace, and the glory of God will be there.

There is a distinction between the people of God and the people who do not know God. The people of God have been made good trees. The people who do not know God are bad trees, which bring forth bad fruit. They have bad hearts, and the condition of their hearts is made manifest.

In Luke 6:45 Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." Jesus let us know that within the heart of every individual is a treasure, and it is either a good treasure or a bad treasure. You cannot bring forth good treasure from a bad heart.

Some people think they can cover their sins, but do not forget that one gift of the Spirit is discernment. If God wants to, He can reveal

your condition to a man of God. He can let him see past the smile on your face and your good words and let him see your true spiritual condition down inside. People do not have things as covered as they think they do.

When God reveals something, it is as though He paints it on a canvas. We each need to be careful of how we live, of how we conduct ourselves, and of the attitudes we have, because godly discernment can reveal what is really in the heart.

Someone may say: "Well, you can't see my heart. You don't know what kind of person I am." However, being around a person and listening to his conversations will show the true condition of what is in the heart and will reveal what kind of person he is. Jesus let us know that the things down in the heart are going to come out. Sin is a heart problem, and that is where the work has to be done. You have to get rid of sin and turn away from it.

The Bondage of Sin

One time a man told me, "Preacher, I love my beer." I believe people love to do certain things because those things have them bound. Precious friend, you can be set free from the things that have you in bondage, and then you will hate those things that you once loved. Alcohol had that man by the nose, so to speak. It had hold of his heart. He thought that he could not live without it. He kept trying to tell me that he really loved it. Well, I want to tell you, I loved a lot of things before I got saved, but Jesus changed my life when He opened my eyes, He gave me a new heart, and showed me what life was about. I realized that I was traveling down the broad way and heading toward hell just as fast as time could take me.

One songwriter wrote, "*The things I once loved I now hate, and the things I once hated I now love.*" People are in love with sinful things be-

cause they do not have knowledge of the true things of God and the true life that God wants them to live. The devil has them bound. There is a bondage to sin. The devil will have them in awe of worldly allurements. Doctors sometimes tell people to quit smoking, yet people still do not see any wrong in tobacco, so they go get a box of snuff. They are still hung up on the habit.

Sinner friend, you can dump those old sinful habits of life, such as lying, stealing, and cursing. You can be free from every bad habit that the devil has pulled you into if you get right with God. You can be clean on the inside. It will be as if He has turned the light on in your soul. Glory be to God! The darkness will have to go. He will light your candle, and you will begin to see your real purpose in life.

It is sad to watch a world that is lost. They do not know where they came from, they do not know why they are here, and they do not know where they are going. Oh, what a blessing it is when the Lord turns the light on in your soul, gives you a purpose in life, and lets you know why you are here! How sweet and wonderful it is to live for God! I would not trade this life for ten thousand worlds like this one.

Do not let the devil beat you down, hold your nose to the grindstone, and tell you how hard it is to live for God. You can rejoice in the things of God right while you are performing the commandments of God. It is a trick of the enemy to cause you to think that living for God is a hard way.

Victory Is in Christ

This life does not have any meaning without Jesus. If you do not know God, the way is all downhill, and it will lead to disappointment. People in the world are seeking after this and that and running here and there, yet they are never satisfied. They are seeking to have a satisfied mind and some peace and joy, but all they have is temporal

joy. When good fortune comes their way, they are happy, and when bad fortune comes their way, they are sad. The saints of God have a joy that is not controlled by the things of this world, because it comes from above. This joy is not in whether or not you have a new home or a new car, the washing machine has broken down, or the clothesline has fallen. It comes from God. The saints have peace that God said they could have right in the midst of trouble; it is a peace that flows. Glory be to God!

Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The peace that Jesus gives is not like what the world has. Let me illustrate it this way: the joy that the world has is like two ball teams playing ball. At the end of the ball game, only one team will be happy, and even the fans will be split. The winning team and its fans will be the happy ones. That is the kind of joy that the world has. When they are winning, they are happy; when they are losing, they are sad. However, in Christ we all can be winners. In Him we cannot lose. There is no losing team in God. You can get on the winning side. The victory has already been determined. It does not matter what kind of arsenal the devil has, he is going to lose, not because of you or me, but because we have a Mighty Captain. Jesus has already defeated the devil, death, hell, and the grave. Our victory is in Him.

Sinner friend, you cannot keep your sin hid. It will be manifested in the life you are living, the attitude you show, and the countenance on your face. You cannot do wrong and get by. Did you know that many parents can tell when a child is lying? Whatever is down inside the heart just has a way of showing on the child's countenance. There is just something different about them. The same is true of an adult. When a person lies, that makes him nervous

and fidgety, and he can only put on so much.

The true child of God would not get nervous if a policeman were to pull into the parking lot where he works. However, if someone there were guilty of committing a crime, if you were to observe that person, you would notice his acting a little differently because he is nervous. Whatever is down inside will be manifested.

Godly Sorrow in the Heart

Salvation does a work on the heart of men. It changes the heart: it gets the evil out and puts in a good treasure. People cannot live right with a bad heart. That is the reason the Gospel has to reach you, sinner friend. It has to reach you and cause you to have godly sorrow. You cannot get saved for any other reason. Someone might have worldly sorrow and be broken up over that, but that will not work salvation. It takes the Gospel being preached. The Gospel will take away all your covering and leave you naked before God and in your own sight so that you might cry out to Him for mercy.

The Gospel brings men and women under conviction. It works godly sorrow in the heart. Friend, if you let it work on you, it will bring salvation to your soul, but you must meet every demand. You cannot go to the Lord with the attitude, "I'm just going to do this and that, and I'm not going to do the other." Conviction will cause you to say: "Whatever you say, Lord, I'm ready to do it. I know what a rascal I've been, but I just ask you to save me. Whatever it takes, Lord, I'm willing." You must surrender to God unconditionally, my friend. You cannot trust in anything that you have done or any good of your own, but you must trust in Him.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Someone may say: "Well, that sounds good. I'll just think I'm all right, and I'll be all right." No, that is not what the verse says. The Proverb

writer was letting us know that what you are in your heart, that is what type of person you really are. He was not saying that you are as you think you are.

Let us look at it this way: "If you do not even have two pennies in your pocket, yet you sit and think you are a millionaire, does that make you a millionaire?" Well, it is the same thing. If a person has sin in his life and is on his way to hell, lost and undone without God, and he thinks that he is a Christian and a good person, does that change him? No, it does not.

Keep Your Heart With All Diligence

In Galatians, Chapter 5, you can read of the works of the flesh. All those works are bound in the heart of the man or the woman who does not know God and who is walking after the flesh. The heart seems to be a small thing, but it has a great treasure. You do not need to wonder why bad people do bad things. On the other hand, you do not have to be amazed that the saints live good and do well. They are good because they have been made good.

A few years ago, someone came up with the concept of "Positive Thinking." They promoted the idea that if you think positively, you can accomplish anything. Well, it is good to think positively, but that does not solve all problems.

Someone may say, "I'm in the shape that I'm in because I'm not thinking positively; I'm thinking negatively." No, not necessarily. You can climb up on a cliff and think positively all you want to and say, "I can fly and light down to the bottom like a bird," but you would hit the ground like a rock if you were to jump off that cliff. Positive thinking is not a cure-all. With this teaching people think that their problem all along was that they were not thinking positively. Well, it is not that at all. The answer is in Jesus Christ. He can make all things new, and He can make all things right in your life.

Certainly, it is good to think positively, just as it is good to have some confidence in yourself. However, you can have too much confidence in yourself and not lean on God. You do need to have some confidence in yourself. You will never really do any good without it. However, you cannot do all things just because you have confidence in yourself.

If the devil cannot push you one way, he will push you another way. If he cannot keep you thinking negatively, he will try to tell you just to think positively. He pushes with all his might. He makes people think that it is a cure-all, but it is just to lead them away from God. You can be too pessimistic or too optimistic. You need to place your confidence in God. He will take care of things. He is the One who will do the work.

Proverbs 4:20-27 states: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. It is not a big put-on. Some people's actions speak so loudly that you cannot hear what they are saying.

Selling Out to God Completely

With salvation God does the work on the inside, and then we put it on and let it come to the outside. It is not confusing when the inside and the outside line up. Salvation is real; it is not make-believe. Dear one, God wants to change your life. Perhaps you have backslidden on God. Maybe you have made some attempts to live for God but have

failed. Do you really want to live for the Lord? You can get a wonderful experience if you will dig deep. Maybe you never really dug deeply enough to hit the Rock.

The devil will try to get you to keep back part of the price. He does not want you to really sell out. If you do not sell out completely, something along the way will knock you out of the race. If you will come to Christ without any reservations, lay all at His feet, and do whatever He says to do, He will give you an experience so that you can live right. He will give you the kind of experience that the devil really cannot do anything with. If you hold something in reserve, it gives the devil room to work. When your life is an open book, nothing is withheld from God, and Satan does not have any room to work.

When you have salvation in your soul, the peace that God gives is better than anything that the world has. It is better than any friend that you might have. The Lord will lift you up. The higher you get with God, as you look on the world, the more you can see the folly of it. If you cannot see the folly of the world, you are not truly living for God. When you see the folly of this old world, you do not try to get hold of it again to play around and flirt with it. You will run and stay as far away from it as you can. Something is lacking in people's experience when they play around close to the world. When you are right down among the world, you cannot really see. You may think that you are having a good time, and it may look as though everyone else is having a good time. Friend, you need to consider the end result of such living.

If you think that you can just do enough to get by, the devil has already worked a deception on you. You cannot cut it that close. That is the reason some people cannot rejoice. They profess Christianity, but they cannot rejoice because they do not really have anything to rejoice over when they are living so close to

the world. Salvation is good. There should be only one thing that your soul is longing after, and that is more of Christ.

The Work of Salvation

Again, Luke 6:45 says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

Sin in the heart and life of an individual is the reason they do wicked things and live as they live. Those wicked deeds are coming to the outside, marring their lives. The true child of God's deeds come to the outside also. However, the work of real salvation is done in the heart, and it takes away all the bad that

makes a person do things that are wrong. The Lord gives a person a new heart and a new treasure down on the inside. That is real salvation.

Praise the Lord for what He does for us. He has changed our lives and made it possible for us to enjoy the life that God intended for man to live from the very beginning. I tell people that you cannot beat the Christian way of living. The children of God are living two lives in one. They are getting the best out of this life, and they are living a spiritual life with God.

Sinner friend, you are just living for this time world, and you know nothing about spiritual life and fellowship with God. You cannot get more out of life than the true saints of God get. When I got saved, the only things that God told me to lay aside were the bad things, those things that would harm me, and He

told me how to enjoy this life to the fullest. He filled me with His Holy Spirit and made me a child of the King. Since then, I have enjoyed fellowship with God. Glory be to God! You cannot beat that!

The devil will tell you that you will lose everything, but that is not so. You are just losing those things that will damn your soul, but oh, the things you are gaining from our Eternal God! That is the reason you can have joy and a deep, settled peace down in your soul.

You can come to God and be fully confident that He will save you, if you will measure to His Word. You need to get on the winning side and go all the way with God. Heaven will be your eternal home if you will pay the price. May God bless your heart.

(Cassette C-2058E)

When It's the Other Fellow

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED?

When the other fellow acts a certain way, he is "ill-tempered"; when you do it, it is "nerves."

When the other fellow is set in his ways, he's "stubborn"; when you are, it is just "firmness."

When the other fellow does not like your friends, he is "prejudiced"; when you don't like his, you are simply showing that you are "a good judge of human nature."

When the other fellow tries to treat someone especially well, he is a "flatterer"; when you try the same thing, you are using "tact."

When the other fellow dresses extra well, he is proud; when you do, it is simply "a duty one owes to society."

When the other fellow says what he thinks, he is "spiteful"; when you do, you are "frank."

When the other fellow denounces your faults, he is throwing clubs; when you denounce his, you are just uncovering his sins.

When the other fellow disagrees with you, he is carnal; when he agrees with you, he has a sweet disposition.

When the other fellow does not approve of the one you picked, well the church is in a bad condition; when you don't approve of the one he picked, he has very poor judgment.

When the other fellow sees something differently than you do, he is off the track; when you do, it is just wisdom.

When the other fellow gets stirred up or gets his feelings hurt, he is carnal; when you do, you are just hurt.

When you think you can read the other fellow's face, don't forget that he can read yours just as easily.

When you think the other fellow gives you a cold handshake, it could be that you have a feeling worked up toward that person that it is just the coldness in your own heart that you feel.

There is surely a great difference when you look at the other fellow, but if you could see what the other fellow sees when he looks at you, no doubt you would not be so quick to criticize or judge the other fellow.

You cannot see your own faults and shortcomings, while in others you see the fault in its native ugliness, intensified by its unpleasant effects.

Your own faults come so natural and fit right in with your disposition, while the unaccustomed faults of others grate upon your mind. About the hardest part of correcting your own faults is finding them.

An ancient writer said that people carry faults in two bags: one containing their own faults is slung behind them out of sight, while the other, holding their neighbor's faults, is borne in front, even in sight, and often counted.

Ten thousand faults in my neighbor should be of less consequence to me than one of the smallest in myself. "He who lives in a glass house should throw no stones." There are two kinds of critics: those who complain that the rose

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

The Consequences of the Spirit Not Striving



Brother Larry Dishman

The Great Peril of Grieving the Spirit of God

In the Bible there are some very terrible words of warning, and they were inspired by God Himself as red warning signals to those who are traveling to eternity. Each of us is traveling to eternity. If God has been striving with you and you have been resisting, you should shudder at the thought of this Scripture as well as many others throughout the

Word of God. A great spiritual crisis came upon the earth before the Flood, and God solemnly warned, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." Man must learn that he is only flesh and that he cannot trifle with God forever. God will withdraw and cease to call, and He will leave men forever unconverted, forever damned, and forever unforgiven.

The people's sin in Noah's day and their rejection of the Spirit had

become so great that God withdrew His Spirit and His conviction. Once this took place, the people in that day crossed a deadline. Dear one, just as surely as the Lord withdrew His Spirit from the people back then, so He will withdraw His Spirit today from the sinner who deliberately rejects His call and who continually tramples the mercy and the grace of God under his feet. God will not strive forever.

The fact that God does strive

proves that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Sinner friend, no doubt, you can testify to the fact that God has been good to you. Perhaps He has dealt with you time after time. Maybe there have been times when you have fallen under heavy conviction, tears have fallen down your face, and you have seriously considered giving your heart and life to God. That was God striving with you. That would have never taken place if God were not striving with you. However, it is possible, and it does happen, that the Spirit withdraws Himself from individuals, and even from whole generations, as you will find in the Word of God. There are people who think that God has obligated Himself to them, but His Spirit does not always follow an individual to the grave. I have been to the hospital and talked to people and watched them leave this world unprepared to meet God. They wanted to get saved and get right with God, and they were praying, but they left this world without the testimony that the Lord had saved them by His grace.

Why Will the Spirit Not Always Strive?

It would be wise for every sinner and every backslider to understand the great peril of grieving the Spirit of God. All attempts at salvation by any other way are vain and worse than worthless if the Spirit ceases to strive with your soul.

Why will the Spirit not always strive? It is not because God is not compassionate. He is loving, gracious, and compassionate, according to many Scriptures in the Bible. In Psalm 103:8 we read, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." So if that is not the reason God ceases to strive, then what is the reason? First, the Spirit will not always strive with man because longer striving would not do the sinner any good. Conversion must be brought about through

the influence of Truth. This is God's plan. God is pleased through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. The Apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

When an individual resists Truth time and time again, it loses its power upon the mind of the person who resists. Every successful instance of resistance weakens the power of conviction. If Truth does not take hold with energy when it is fresh, it is not likely to do so in the future. Therefore, when the Spirit reveals Truth to the sinner and he hardens himself against it and resists the Spirit of God, little hope remains for that individual if he continues to go that way. We may expect that God will give him up for lost. This is what the Bible teaches, as I will prove to you by the Word of God.

I would like to share with you the consequences of the Spirit not striving. One consequence will be confirmed hardness of heart. An individual's heart will become more and more hardened, and more fully set to do evil. Many times the Spirit of God strives with individuals week after week and month after month and year after year, but as the years come and go, that person feels less and less conviction. Possibly you might have witnessed this with individuals who have attended church for a period of time. When they first sat under the sound of the Gospel, great conviction was upon them, but the longer they resisted and said no, they felt less and less conviction. That still, small voice of the Spirit of God became almost unheard, and the heart slowly but surely hardened.

Sinner friend, do you realize that could be what has taken place in your life? If God has spoken to your heart and you have refused His offer of mercy, do you realize what is taking place on the inside? Your heart is becoming harder and hard-

er. It is less likely that you will get saved in the future if you turn away from this great salvation. The heart is slowly but surely hardening, and your mind is becoming indifferent to spiritual things.

Have you ever been around an individual whose mind has become indifferent to spiritual things? The day will come when, without even knowing it, the sinner will have missed his last chance to become a Christian. Many souls have gone to hear the Word of God preached and the Spirit of God dealt with them in a very special way, and they did not realize that would be the last call they ever heard from God. They hardened themselves against that last call. That very time proved to be the last time God ever spoke to their hearts. When a person rejects that last call and God shuts the door of opportunity, they cross a deadline.

Hardness of Heart

I fear that too many people have the attitude: "I'll get saved when I get ready. I'll know when I'm ready, and when I'm ready, I can get saved." No, my friend, you must get saved when God is giving you the opportunity. Men cannot get saved on their own terms. They must get saved on the terms found in the Word of God, and those terms are: today is the day of salvation; now is the appointed time. Proverbs 29:1 says, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

The word *hardeneth* here implies an attitude of process, not an action. The verse speaks of being often reprov'd. Dear one, you might have been "often reprov'd." Perhaps you have a Christian mother and a Christian father, or maybe your husband or your wife is saved and is praying for you. No doubt, they have often talked to you about your soul. Often you have been reprov'd while you have listened to God's Word being preached. Undoubtedly, during the invitation God has often

reproved you. Friend, God's Word is true. Again, Proverbs 29:1 states, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

A couple of years ago, one brother's sister came to visit. She had been raised in the church as a little girl, but she got married and left the church and went out into the world. She attended several church services with him. I felt that God might have been dealing with her heart during those services, but she just stood during the invitations and failed to make a move toward God. A few months later I received a call telling me that this sister and her daughter were in a plane crash. Five people were killed. They were caught up in a terrible storm while on their way to the Bahamas.

The news report said that the plane disintegrated over a half mile area, and body parts were scattered around. They could not even gather up enough parts of the bodies to put in a casket. There was no casket at their funeral. The bodies were so torn up that they could not even find enough to identify them through dental records. Authorities just roped off the area and burned it.

You may ask, "Don't you think that since she was raised in church that possibly, when the plane started to go down, she might have repented?" That is possible, but not likely. Do you know why? Who is to say that God was pleading with her? The Bible says except the Spirit draw you, you cannot come. A selfish idea that many people have is this: "Just give me a few minutes before I die, and I will get saved." What if during those few last minutes, God was not calling her? A person must come to God when He is drawing him or her.

After I received the news of the plane crash, I had to contact this brother. He said, "You know, the sad thing about that is, there is no hope." When he said that, Proverbs 29:1 came to my mind: "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck,

shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Precious friend, you can come to a place of confirmed hardness of heart and be numbered with those whom the Bible talks about, whose "damnation slumbereth not" (2 Peter 2:3).

The Seriousness of Resisting God's Holy Spirit

Another consequence of the Spirit not striving is opposition to true religion. Many folks who used to attend the Church of God are opposed to true religion today, and it is likely to manifest itself. Often people dislike everything concerning the things of God. They do not want you to talk to them about church or mention anything about the Scriptures. They do not want to hear the songs of Zion. They show great impatience and irritability when pressed to pay attention to the subject seriously. Perhaps they refuse to have anything at all to do with anyone who is really saved and living for God and living a holy life.

Another mark of the Spirit not striving with a person is that person's opposition to the saints, especially the ministers. Usually such individuals become sour in their disposition toward all Christians, delighting in slander and the abuse of those whose spirituality annoys and disturbs them in their sin.

Another consequence of the Spirit not striving is that prayer cannot be offered. Often a Christian finds himself unable to pray in faith for such sinners. The Bible speaks of this in Jeremiah 7:13-16: "And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the

whole seed of Ephraim. Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee."

If God, through the Holy Ghost, does not inspire the saints of God to pray for you, they may say words, but they cannot pray for you if the Holy Spirit does not make intercession. I want you to know, sinner friend, that you can become so wretched, stiff-necked, rebellious, unclean, hardhearted, stubborn, proud, bitter, resentful, and self-willed that God will lift the burden for your soul from the saints, and they will not be able to pray for you. If God ever lifts the burden off your mother, your father, your Christian wife or husband, or your pastor, there is not much chance, if any, of your ever getting right with God. The Bible says that when Zion travails, she brings forth children. The saints cannot travail for an individual whom God has given up. It is more serious to resist God's Spirit than what most people believe.

Being Past Feeling

Another consequence of the Spirit not striving is that a person will have a seared conscience. One who has been left by God is distinguished by great insensitivity of mind. By one's own choice, he becomes spiritually blind and hardened in respect to the nature and guilt of sin. My friend, if you ignore God's Spirit and resist His Holy Spirit until your ears become dull to His pleading, you will not be saved, and you will not make Heaven your home. The Bible speaks of this condition in Ephesians 4:19 where the Apostle Paul said, "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

After you have hardened your heart for so long, you will come to a place where things that used to bother you will not bother you anymore. A man whose heart has been blinded sees no beauty in the Truth.

He feels not its force, and he is insensible to all of its appeals. An individual is to blame for the blindness of his own heart. God is not to blame. That one cannot blame anyone but himself for the blindness. Dear one, if you become wholly hardened in sin, your heart will become insensible and as hard as a rock.

I want to talk to you about another consequence of the Spirit not striving. Many times people escape to a refuge of lies, and this is a consequence of being forsaken by the Spirit. Men often escape to a refuge of lies and settle down in some fatal error. The Prophet Isaiah said it in this manner in Isaiah 28:15: "Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves."

Sometimes when people come in contact with the Truth, they come to the place where they are not willing to measure to the Word of God and to be what God wants them to be. Though God pleads and deals with them, they resist the Spirit of God and end up settling down in a form of false religion. Remember, my friend, before the Flood, God's Spirit quit calling men. He left them alone, doomed and damned. Again, our Scripture text warns, "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

In the Old Testament the people who resisted the Spirit's call, who would not trust in God's provisions for salvation, and who would not depend upon God and accept Him, died without Him. Unconverted, unrepentant sinners in all ages eventually came to a point when sin became unforgivable. They died unsaved, and there was no forgiveness for them.

"There Was No Remedy"

Let us consider some Old Testament Scriptures. First Samuel

3:14 says, "And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice . . . for ever." We read in 2 Chronicles 36:14-16: "Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy."

Zechariah 7:11 states, "But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear." My friend, have you been guilty of pulling your shoulder away, stopping your ears, and refusing to hear God's voice? In verse 12 you can read what happened to the people in Zechariah's day: "Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone. . . ." God did not do this. They made their own hearts as an adamant stone. Every time you go to the house of God and hear God's Word preached and God deals with your heart, if you say no to God, you are making your heart as an adamant stone. In other words, you are hardening your heart.

Verses 12-14 tell us what happened to those people: "Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through

nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate."

Have you been making your heart as an adamant stone? Someone may say: "Oh, that was in the Old Testament. We are under grace, and it is different in the new covenant." Christ, speaking in Luke 19:42-44, said: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

Think about that! The whole Jewish nation at that time was given up in unbelief and abandoned by the Spirit of God. God said, "Your house is left unto you desolate." If God could give up on an entire nation, what makes you think that you, as an individual, can continually resist God and that He will never give you up? When Stephen stood before the council on trial for his life, that Sanhedrin, headed by the high priest who had killed the Lord Jesus and intended to murder Stephen, bribed and perjured witnesses to blaspheme against Stephen. However, Stephen did not accuse them of murder or blasphemy or of corruption of office, though they were guilty of all these things. What did he accuse them of? He said, ". . . ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51).

Continual Rejection Will Bring God's Judgment

What other sin can a man commit that is so vile and terrible as resisting the pleadings of God's Spirit? An individual, unintentionally, in an unplanned rage of temper, can actually kill an individual, and he will then regret it for the

rest of his life. He might not have intended to do it, but sometimes a person's anger can get out of control. A man may commit adultery or be swept off his feet by a terrible temptation and live to regret it for the rest of his life.

Every individual who resists God's Spirit does it intentionally. He knows what he is doing when he resists God's Spirit. Little by little, he resists God's Spirit. What sin could be worse? What sin could a man commit that would be worse than to continue to sin against the Holy Ghost? I do not think there is a sin that is worse than continually sinning against the Holy Ghost.

Resistance tempts the patience of God. Never do sinners so grievously tempt the patience of God as when they resist the Holy Spirit. Your resistance of the Holy Spirit can test the patience of God until He can bear no more. There is a point beyond which patience is no virtue. This is true in all governments. No government could possibly be maintained that remained patient toward guilt beyond all limits. There must be a point beyond which God cannot go without peril to His government, and we may be assured that God will never pass over that point.

To prove this, I want to say, first of all, that I knew of a man who got saved when he was nearly one hundred years old; however, that is not common. You do not see as many people get saved in their seventies, eighties, or nineties as you do teenagers. Statistics prove that the longer a person resists God, the less likely he will ever get saved. Every year that you resist God's Spirit means it is less likely that you will ever make Heaven your home. God's Spirit can be spurned for too long. God's patience does wear out. The time may come when God's righteousness demands that God turn His back upon that scorning, unrepentant, resisting sinner.

Sinner, you need to be aware that light and guilt keep pace with each other. They are increased and

lessened together. There is a solemn responsibility of being under the light and the strivings of God's Spirit. We learn from many Scriptures that light often offered and continually rejected will bring the judgment of God. If a man resists light, God may give him up to darkness. If he has long resisted God's mercy, God may simply leave him to his sins. When one crosses the deadline, it is a sin against great light and long-extended mercy. The longer the time granted for repentance, the more severe the stripes of punishment for wasted opportunity.

The Solemn Destiny of the Soul

I believe it is a very common thing for sinners to grieve away the Spirit long before they die. Throughout all ages—in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, and in the day and time in which we are living—many sinners have crossed the deadline. They go from the realm of mercy to the realm of wrath. While they are yet living, they cross into the land of no forgiveness. People in every age have resisted the good Spirit of God until they never again heard the call of God and could no longer be moved to repent and get right with Him. No matter what age man has lived in, there has been a sin where no remedy could be offered, when man has turned down his only hope. When God ceases to strive with an individual, there are no means that can be effective in leading that individual to Christ. "My spirit shall not always strive with man" (Genesis 6:3). What a sad and frightful warning that is! If God's Spirit does not strive with you, you cannot come to Him. If God's Spirit does not plead with you, you cannot be saved. If God's Spirit does not call, the sinner cannot be saved, because John 6:44 says, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

There is no way for a sinner to be saved except as the Spirit of God convicts him and leads him to sur-

render to Christ. When the Spirit ceases to strive with an individual, no other power can draw that person to God. The solemn destiny of the soul is determined in this life. I do not believe that people say, "Tonight I have decided that I am going to step over the line." It does not happen that way. I do not believe that people go to church and say, "Tonight I am going to decide to go to hell." Yet sometimes after great enlightenment and continual rejection of Christ, after persistent rebellion and unbelief, men and women and young people step over the deadline.

This is such a slow process that people do not realize how hard their hearts have become. The Father has had His day, the Son has had His day, and the Holy Ghost is policing the highway of life, calling men and women and pleading with them to repent. In addition, God has sent the church out to beg you to go to Heaven with us. Saying no is more dangerous than you might realize. The Father's day and the Son's day are past, and the Holy Ghost is the only sure line you have between you and a lost eternity.

Are You Trifling With God's Final Call to You?

No man can tell how soon that last moment of the Spirit's striving will come. God only knows how many millions of people are in hell this very moment because they neglected the Spirit's call. They refused to be saved when God's Spirit invited them and pleaded with them to be saved. I have heard people testify of how the Spirit made them feel the danger of being given up by God. It often happens that the sinner is convicted by the Spirit and made to feel, "If I don't move now, there is a possibility that God will give up on me."

The idea that men and women and young people are in no danger of being given up by God is a false one, and it is based on a wrong interpretation of the Scriptures. The

Holy Spirit, who ceased to strive with wicked sinners before the Flood, today ceases to strive with certain individuals. Sinner friend, my prayer for you is that you will not reject God's Spirit until God takes His Spirit away. Friend, I beg of you, do not wait until your soul becomes deafened to the tender call of God's Spirit.

How long are you planning to trifle with your *last* invitation? "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Do you realize that the time will come when it will no longer be an accepted time with God? The day of mercy will be closed some day, and men will be removed to a world where mercy is not shown and compassion is unknown. The Judgment will be final, and the Bible does not offer a "second chance" of salvation beyond the grave.

Sinner, backslider, will you reason with me? If God could give up on the whole population in Noah's day and if God could give up on the entire Jewish nation for their rebellion, isn't it reasonable to think that He could give up on you? You have been given much greater opportunities than the people of Noah's day. You have greater light

than those people had. You have sinned against greater light than the people of Noah's day.

How blessed is the sinner who knows he is lost, who knows he is on his way to hell, who has a conscience that still tells him: "I'm doing wrong. I'm lost and on my way to hell. If God does not have mercy on me, I will be lost eternally." If you know that, then that means God has not given up on you. You may say: "That's my problem. I have already blasphemed against the Holy Ghost. I have gone too far. I can't be saved." If the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, you have not gone too far. If God is still dealing with your heart, that is proof to you that He will save you. If you feel any drawing whatsoever, that is proof that He is willing to save you.

How easily people's hearts become hardened when once their hearts were tender and impressionable. The hardening of one's neck is a sin that seals man's doom. The willful, knowing rejection of grace is the sin of all sins. To reject Christ and to go on rejecting Him will lead to a point where there can be no further remedy, and then it will be too late to come to Him.

People have said, "When I get ready, I will make that move." Isaiah

55:6 warns you to "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found." This verse of Scripture lets you see that there is a possibility of there being a time when you cannot find Him. I have visited people in the hospital who were searching, trying to find God, but they could not find Him. My friend, you must call upon Him while He is near. Everything in hell is settled; it is unchangeable. You must seek Him while He may be found. My mind goes to a song in the Evening Light songbook that reads: "*Thy conscience once so keen to hear God's voice sent to reprove No more is stirred at God's appeal To seek His pardoning love.*"

Are you going to wait until you lose your sensitivity? I repeat, the songwriter penned, "*Thy conscience once so keen to hear. . . .*" This also applies to the Christian as well. Child of God, when you have needs, you need to move to an altar of prayer. When God deals with you, you need to move. If you will listen to God and obey Him, His voice will become clearer and clearer. If you do not listen to Him and obey Him, His voice will become fainter and fainter until, finally, you cannot hear Him at all.

(Compact Disk TR-013E)

The Cross of Christ reveals
the love of God at its best
and the sin of men at its worst.

Don't miss these . . .

Upcoming Meetings

PHOENIX, AZ

March 12-16

REVIVAL: The Church of God, 3450 W. Grovers Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027
Evangelist: Bro. Leamon Whitehead
Service times: Wednesday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.;
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor C. H. Ferguson, 19237 N. 21st Drive,
Phoenix, AZ 85027. Telephone: 602-516-0836

SUMMERSVILLE, WV

March 31 - April 6

REVIVAL: The Church of God, 74 Armstrong Rd., Summersville, WV 26651
Evangelist: Brother Allen Polston, Mechanicsburg, Indiana
Service times: Monday -Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 6:00 p.m.;
Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders at telephone: 304-872-4047.
Visit our website @ www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com

MEDINA, OH

April 14-20

REVIVAL: The Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH 44256
Evangelist: Bro. Earl R. Borders, Heath, OH
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. & Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Daniel Webster, 92 W. Main St. Seville, OH 44273
Telephone: (Home) 330-435-6490 or (Church) 330-725-5993

MT. PLEASANT, PA

April 19

FELLOWSHIP MEETING: The Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA
Service time: 10:30 a.m. A meal served by the local congregation.
MOTELS: *Holiday Inn Express*, 724-547-2095 (This is on the same road as the church. Please mention that you are there for the church meeting.); *Super 8 Motel in New Stanton*, 724-925-8915 on I-70W, 10 miles north of the church); *Melody Motor Lodge*, 724-628-9600 on 119N in Connellsville).
For further information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666. Telephone: 724-547-2151

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

Postman send form 3579 to:

The Gospel Trumpeter

675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Ohio 43055 U.S.A.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
AT THE POST OFFICE IN
NEWARK, OH 43055
USPS # 871620

REQUEST FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTION, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR CANCELLATION

NEW SUBSCRIPTION: To receive *The Gospel Trumpeter*, we need your complete name and mailing address, including country.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you have moved or if your name or address is incorrect, please notify us as soon as possible.

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION: If you no longer wish to receive *The Gospel Trumpeter*, please contact us using one of the methods below.

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

Mail: *The Gospel Trumpeter* 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055 USA

E-mail: subscribe@gospeltrumpeter.com **Telephone:** (740) 345-1312

(Please Print or Type)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

Please check the appropriate box below, and for changes or cancellations return this entire page with the old address.