

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. 41 February 2010 No. 2



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@godsacres.us
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)

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Vol. 41 February 2011 No. 2

Guest Editorial

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."

Hebrews 3:13-14

BEING STEADFAST

In this Scripture Paul was exhorting the saints to be "stedfast unto the end." Why? Lest we fall away, as so many others have done. We need to be reminded that no one has it made! There is always the possibility of losing out with God. A person may be saved today and be in good spiritual condition, but if a man or a woman is not careful, that can change. One can fail the grace of God by neglecting to be steadfast in his relationship with the Lord. If others have lost out, it can happen to any one of us. Satan ever seeks an opportunity to turn the child of God from the strait and narrow way.

It is so important to be sober minded toward the things of God and our soul's welfare. I ask you to seriously consider the many traps that others have fallen into through the deceitfulness of sin. Multitudes who started out well in this Christian race have become entangled with the things of this world. The cares of life have caused many to swerve from the pathway of holiness and righteousness. To keep this from taking place in our lives requires putting forth much effort.

We must keep in mind that this battle in which we, as saints, are engaged is largely fought in the mind. It is over the faith, and it concerns the Truth and the right. One day this life will come to an end; life's race will be over, and only those who have been faithful to God, who have stood firm and endured, will obtain the

final reward—Heaven.

The Old Testament contains many examples of where the children of Israel failed and turned back on the Lord. Oftentimes Israel provoked God to anger by their unbelief. They refused to believe that He would carry them through and supply all their needs. When in the wilderness, the Israelites complained and murmured against God and His man. They complained of having no food to eat, so God sent manna from heaven, but that soon became distasteful. They murmured and complained because they had no water to drink, so God sent forth water from a rock. When the Israelites came to the place of entering Canaan land, which God had promised, they did not believe that He would destroy the giants who lived there. Their unbelief caused them to send spies to seek out the land. God's wrath was stirred to the degree that He said in Hebrews 3:11, "They shall not enter into my rest."

Unbelief working in the heart stirs the wrath of God. There is no sound reason for anyone to disbelieve God. The Lord performed many mighty miracles before their eyes. He is still doing great things today, yet some people grow careless in their souls. Because things do not go the way they think things should go or because God does not answer as quickly as they feel He should, they are ready to give up on God.

[continued on page 24]

Luke 14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them [He was not just addressing multitudes; He was coming right down to personal relationships],

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be

my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not

down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Being a Follower of Jesus



Brother Roger L. Decker

Loyalty to God Must Be First

Jesus spoke some very strong words, and if you do not rightly understand the Word of Truth, those words might be very upsetting to you. Although His words are strong, they are necessary. Jesus was dealing with things that sepa-

rate many people from God. When Jesus uttered those words, He was on the road to Jerusalem on His way to the Cross. The crowds were with Him, and they thought He was on His way to rule over an empire. This was the reason He spoke to them in the plainest manner possible. He told those who followed

Him that He would not be going the way of worldly power and glory. Also, He let them know that they needed to be ready in their loyalty to God, which would require them to sacrifice the dearest things in life, and to be ready for suffering that would be as the agony of a man upon a cross.

When Jesus used the word "hate" in verse 26, He mentioned the nearest and dearest of earthly ties, but He did not literally mean that you should hate your family. He meant that no love in life can compare with the love that you must have toward Him. A truth stands out in this passage. It is said there are three main areas of importance in a man's life: family, self, and possessions. These are the things that Jesus continued to put before His disciples and those who followed Him. It is within these three areas that the most difficulty comes in following Jesus Christ. Jesus said anyone who places these relationships and things before the Lord cannot be His disciple.

Let us look at these three areas of life for a little while. First, we will consider family. Verse 26 of the Scripture text reads: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." In this verse lies one of the toughest decisions ever placed before mankind.

Jesus was saying that you must not let those who are dearest and nearest—those who raised you, those with whom you were raised, those to whom you gave birth and nourished up from an infant, those with whom you sat around the table and talked over personal things that you could not tell anyone else, those with whom you went through tough times and shared childhood memories—come between you and your love to God. Do not take the message wrong. God wants you to love your family, to reach out to them, to treat them right, to be there to help in the time of need, and to help in every way that you possibly can; nevertheless, God does not want you to compromise your stand for Truth to be accepted with them.

Many a wife has caved to the standard of the world to keep her husband. Dear one, if God cannot keep him, he cannot be kept. Hollywood is a perfect example of infi-

delity. They have divorce after divorce, lawsuit after lawsuit, affair after affair. They supposedly have everything that a person could attain in this world. They have abundant finance, beauty, prestige, a high place in society, and their names in neon lights; however, it takes more than those things to keep a marriage together.

The world can never satisfy the longing in your soul. In James 4:4 James wrote, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

God does not want you to follow your family pertaining to spiritual things if they are spiritually wrong. In Deuteronomy 27:16 we read, "Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen." Following anyone blindly is not good.

Our Love for God Must Be Supreme

Matthew 10:34-39 reads: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Jesus pointed out those areas in life that are nearest to us. When a person gets saved, it is an individual matter. Normally an entire family is not saved at the same time. Often when an individual gets saved, it causes a breach in the home or in the family circle, and

persecution may arise in that family. The Christian life is very demanding, and it is very uncompromising.

The Christian is in a warfare. We read in 1 Timothy 1:18, "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare." Again, Matthew 10:36 states, "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." A man or a woman might have to choose between the closest ties on earth and loyalty to Jesus Christ. It is difficult to choose between the closest and the dearest ones to you or your loyalty to Jesus Christ. That is not an easy call, but it is a call that must be made. You must not allow your family to interfere in your walk with God.

Have you ever heard of John Bunyan? He had to make that call. He knew all about this choice. The thing that troubled him most about his imprisonment was the effect it would have upon his wife and children. John Bunyan spent at least twelve years of his life in jail, and he was concerned about what would happen to his wife and children without his support. He said, "The parting with my wife and children hath often been to me in this place as the pulling the flesh from my bones." The separation got to him.

At home John Bunyan had a family that was poor and dependent on him for their needs. Also, he had a blind child who laid nearer to his heart than all that he had. With his heart breaking in pieces, he thought, "I was as a man who was pulling down his house upon the head of his wife and children, yet, thought I, I must do it. I must do it." God used John Bunyan in a marvelous way. Although he spent many years of his life in prison, dying at the young age of sixty, he penned the books, "Grace Abounding" and "Pilgrim's Progress," which we enjoy yet today.

Hopefully, you will never have

to encounter what John Bunyan had to suffer, but your love for God must be supreme when compared with your love for family. The family of God is closer than your immediate fleshly family.

Your Worst Enemy

The second area we want to consider is self. Self is a real tormenter of living spiritually. Matthew 16:24 says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." Having love for self diminishes the love for one another. Self is your worst enemy and the hardest to rid yourself of. It sticks up its ugly head in marriages. It sticks up its ugly head in finances, in disagreements, and in possessions. Self keeps many a sinner locked in his world of thoughts.

Naaman was a leper who traveled to stand before Elisha, desiring to be healed of leprosy. In 2 Kings 5:11 the Scripture says that he "was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper."

Naaman had certain thoughts, and his thoughts were contrary to God's thoughts. He was told to go and dip in the Jordan River seven times, and then he would go away clean. God, through Elisha, pronounced the Word of God for him to follow. God knew what was affecting Naaman. He was a proud individual, and he was captain of the host of Syria. Syria had just finished whipping Israel, and now God was telling him to go right back to Israel and dip in their dirty river. In verse 12 he asked, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?" Surely they were, but they would not do for Naaman what the Jordan River would do.

God's way was to humble Naaman, and Naaman did humble himself. Naaman had his thoughts, but it was only when he obeyed

God that he got the victory. That is what is holding people yet today. They have their own thoughts about when they want to get saved, how they are going to do it, and when they are going to do it. God's thoughts are far superior and as high above our thoughts as the Heavens are above the earth. Only when Naaman obeyed the words of the Prophet did the healing results come. Self is a destroyer, and Jesus said if self is not hated, then one cannot be His disciple.

I read the following little story. A rich man decided to take up fishing, so he bought the most expensive fishing equipment and bait that the store had, but he caught nothing. He happened to pass by a little farm boy. That farm boy had an old stick and an old rusty hook, but he had a big string of fish. "How did you manage to catch so many when I could not catch a single one?" he asked.

"Oh," said the boy, "I try to keep out of sight so the fish do not see me. Perhaps you show yourself too much."

"Beware of Covetousness"

The third area we want to consider is our possessions. Jesus said in Luke 12:15, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." What things was He talking about? In verse 31 of that chapter He said, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

What was the Lord saying in this chapter? It is God who gives life. Can He not give us what is needed to sustain this life? It is God who created the body. Can He not give us what is needed to clothe and to nourish that same body? When Jesus said, "Take no thought" He

was talking about anxious thought or worry. Again, speaking of possessions, in Luke 12:15 Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Matthew 19:22 says, "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." The reason some people do not come to God is that they have so many possessions. They are afraid that God will require them to give up some of their possessions. Dear one, if what you have is good for you, God will help you to keep it. If what you want is good for you, God will help you to attain it. It is only those things that are a detriment to you that God expects you to rid yourself of. The rich young man went away sorrowfully because he had great possessions.

The Lord never taught reckless abandonment of self, relatives, or possessions; however, He wants you, as a believer, to put them where they belong. They should always come *after* Christ. Christ should be first in your life. God does not mind that you have family and that you love your family. No, He will help you to love them more. If you are truly a child of God, you will love them more. A certain part of self is going to be involved, and you are going to have possessions. As I said, God is not against those things, but if family, self, or possessions come between you and God, that is wrong for you to allow those things to hinder you in your walk with God.

The Christian's Duty

Your loyalty to God is going to be tested. Some people follow their friends or their family instead of praying and getting the mind of God, and then they end up in division. Division is still sin; this has not changed. Many people want their own way, but they do not want to give up church entirely. They do

not want anyone to upset their mode of living. Isaiah 4:1 says, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach."

Today many people want to live the way they want to live, yet they want to be called by His name to take away their reproach. Some people say, "We are still Church of God." The Church of God is more than a name above a door. The Church of God is a way of life, an individual commitment to Jesus Christ, and a walk with God. The church is the people, not a building. The word *church* comes from the word *ecclesia*, and that word in the Greek means "called out."

Some of us have been called out of Babylon, some have been called out of deep sin, and others have been called out of confusion; we all became a part of the body of Christ, the Church of the Living God. You are not going to live for Jesus Christ the way you lived before you were saved. A change is going to take place. Old things pass away, and all things become new. That old nasty spirit has to leave you.

We should never love God with a love that belongs to self, family, and possessions. The love we have for Jesus Christ should be unique; it is a different type of love. It is a committed love with a strong desire to obey every command that God speaks. It is a desire to please Him, and it leads you to worship Him. When you give Him the proper love, then your love for others and your temporary possessions will be held in their proper places. You see, all these other things are temporary: your family is temporary, your possessions are temporary, and your flesh is temporary.

The Christian's first duty is to count the cost. Jesus mentioned counting the cost of following Him. The tower that a man was going to build in Luke 14:28 was probably a vineyard tower. In those days vine-

yards were often equipped with towers from which watch was kept against thieves who might steal the harvest. When following Jesus, usually one of the following three things may cause a separation. First, a husband may become concerned about what the unsaved wife might do if she gets saved. Second, a wife may become concerned about what the husband might do if she serves God. Third, there is the fear of what friends might think: "What would my friends say if I were to serve God? What would people think if I were to carry a Bible to church? Will they think that I have gone off the deep end? In a restaurant what would my friends think if I said, 'Let's take time to pray first?'" You see, when those hindrances begin to multiply in your life, if you allow those things to hinder you, your walk with God will get weaker and weaker.

The Christian's Path

In the Book of Acts, Chapter 8, you can read about a brother named Philip who went down to Samaria and preached the Gospel to them. That same brother was called to a desert in Gaza to preach to an Ethiopian. Those who are used of God are busy in the things of God. Their minds are already turned toward the things of God, and it is easy for God to talk to them. They do not have many things covering their thoughts. They do not have worldly thoughts continually. We need to keep in mind that God does not ask us to walk the Christian path alone.

Abraham left Ur of Chaldees and obeyed the call of God, and God blessed him. Joseph stood true, even in prison, and God was with him. Eventually Pharaoh placed him second in command in Egypt to carry out the providence of God. Job stood true, even when losing his family and his possessions. People like to read the first part of the Book of Job, but I also like to read about the latter end of Job's life. Job 42:10 says, "And the LORD turned the

captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before."

God wants you to love your family and friends, and He wants you to be blessed and to have possessions. However, He wants you to prioritize your love for God above them. Every man of God who loved God supremely and who put Him first was never disappointed in his walk with God.

The demands of Christ may be high, but it is a meager price to pay when you consider what you receive from Him. Dear one, when you live for God, you do not have to live in sin any longer. Is that not wonderful? You can have peace in your soul! If an accident should happen, you will be ready to meet God.

You do not have to obey the devil when you serve God. The devil will tempt you, but you do not have to do what the devil says. These are just some of the things that God gives you when you walk the path of holiness with Him. When you come down to the end of life's journey, whenever that might be, those things that I mentioned become of lesser value. Those things will not be as dear to the heart as they once were, because in eternity it is just you and God. It is not you and your family and your possessions. He who calls you to the steep road will walk with you every step of the way and will be there at the end to meet you.

Jesus mentioned family, self, and possessions because these areas of life can be a hindrance to people living for God. It is a tough call many times, but it is a call that you must make if your love for God is supreme.

(Compact Disc TR-571M)

**The Christian's
walk and talk
must go together.**

Luke 13:23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

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 an-

swer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all

the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

What Happens When God Turns His Back on a People?



Brother E. David Stegmeier

Counting the Cost

We need to consider some things carefully. The devil is out to trip us up. We have not made it to Heaven yet. We have a race to run and a victory to be won. Those who want to be saved must strive to enter at the strait gate. Entering this strait gate is a difficult and labori-

ous endeavor. It takes effort to be a Christian. There is no room in the Christian life for any type of idol worship. There is only room for you and Jesus, or as the songwriter says, "Just Jesus and Me." Anything that you put before Jesus or your attendance in the house of God is an idol to you. If you should stay home to play golf, to go fishing, or to do

something else, that is an idol to you.

I was taught that you should never miss attending the services at the house of worship. You may say, "I was sick." Could you have gone to a doctor's office? If you could have, then you ought to have been able to go to the house of worship and ask your pastor to pray for you.

The way to Heaven is not a broad way; it is a strait and narrow way. Jesus said in Matthew 7:14, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Very few people really find eternal life in Christ Jesus. The word *strait* also means "strict, rigorous, and exacting." The Webster's Dictionary says the word *exacting* means "exhibiting or characterized by strict, particular, and complete accordance with facts, truths, or established standards."

God has Truth, and when He brings it to us, He expects us to walk in it. We must either walk in it or go into darkness. That is what happens when a person turns down or turns away from Truth. When a person rejects God and turns his back on Him, he goes into darkness. The Bible says how great is that darkness! Those who will be saved must subject themselves to rigorous discipline. It takes discipline to be a Christian, and it begins in the mind. That is where temptation starts, and that is where the devil begins his work. An individual who gets saved must subject himself to rigorous discipline and obey godly requirements. If you desire to do your own thing, you cannot be a Christian. You will not be one of His chosen disciples.

Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" If you are going to walk with Christ, you must agree with Him 100 percent. It is going to take much effort to get to Heaven. An old adage says, "A dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream." Many people put forth little or no effort into being a Christian, but it is going to take your very best effort to serve God.

Paul said in Philippians 2:12, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Today the majority of people have very weak convictions. You need to

have strong convictions. Too many people's desire for spiritual things is very cold. They can take it or leave it. Their efforts to further the Kingdom of God are very feeble. Their efforts to further the Kingdom of God ought to be their very best. Sad to say, they do not remain steadfast. God wants a steadfast people.

When I was a young person, I always wanted to serve the Lord. As a small child, I remember how I watched the people of God. I always said that I did not want "yo-yo religion"; in other words, I did not want to be up and down and in and out. I decided that when I got saved, I would be saved forever, by the grace of God. One songwriter wrote: "*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* [if you are going to be a Christian, you have to yield to Him your soul, mind, and body], *I have counted, I have counted the cost.*" The door of mercy and grace will be open only for a season; it will not be open forever.

God controls the door of mercy. He may shut off some people while they are yet living. It could be that the door is shut for them now. The Bible portrays Jesus as now sitting on the throne of mercy. He is now your advocate, pleading for your cause, or one who defends you. Some day, however, He will stand and He will be your judge.

Strive to Enter the Strait Gate

In our Scripture text one person asked Jesus, "Are there few that be saved?" The Bible says that few really find this way of living. Few find the Truth and the righteousness that we find in Christ Jesus. Few people strive to enter in. The word *strive* means "to contend as for mastery." You want to strive to be a real Christian. You need to be a Christian in such a way that you will be able to stand even though the whole world stands against you.

You need to stand regardless of who stands with you. You must have the stamina to stand alone if need be.

Matthew 7:13-14 reads: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Jesus was comparing this way of living to an entrance through a very, very confined, narrow gate, where it is difficult to gain entrance. You cannot take everything through it. You have to clean up your act. You must be exactly what God wants you to be in order to get through the strait gate. No sin is allowed.

When Jesus said that "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way," He meant that the entrance is very close. It is not wide or thronged with many people. One individual said that the Lord was referring the likeness of it to the gates in the ancient cities. The cities were surrounded by walls, and those who entered had to go through the gates. Some of those gates connected to broad roads and were committed to throngs of people. Others were for private purposes and were narrow, and few entered them. The path to Heaven is narrow, and few go through the gate. Here and there, one may be seen traveling, perhaps in solitude. On the other road, the way is broad, and multitudes are on that highway. They glide in easily without effort and go without thought. Jesus said to strive to enter at the strait gate.

The Road That Leads to Death

A great man by the name of Isaac Watts wrote, "*Broad is the road that leads to death, And thousands walk together there; But wisdom shows that on a narrower path, With here and there a traveler.*" May God help us. Matthew 7:21 reads, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." You may say something, but are you doing it? Are you living God's way?

In our text of Scripture, verses 25-27 read: "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: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity."

The Holocaust was a state-sponsored, systematic, persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany, and it collaborated between 1943-1945. The Jews were the primary victims, and six million people were murdered. As you visit the Holocaust memorial, there is a very solemn, serious, and sober attitude permeating every one who is there.

A former President, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, said on April 15, 1945: "The things I saw beggar description . . . the visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty, and bestiality were so overpowering . . . I made the visit deliberately in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future there develops a tendency to charge allegations to propaganda."

Thousands of people were shot to death, many were hanged, and thousands were killed in gas chambers, thinking they were walking into a large building to take a bath. Countless victims were burned to death—children, young people, women, men, and older people. Others were worked until they were no longer able to go, and then they were left to die. Hunger, starvation, and diseases ravaged the camps.

I think of what Jesus said in

Luke 23:28-29: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck."

Someone may ask, "Why are you bringing this up?" Because we are the New Testament Israel, and we are to listen to Jesus Christ. We are not infallible. Many people have sat in God's presence and listened to the Gospel since that time. On the Day of Judgment, thousands will be ushered into God's presence. On that day Jesus will say, "I never knew you." I am a positive person, but an aura of fear hangs over me continually, because I do not want to be lost. We have a tremendous legacy as the Church of God. We are the New Testament Israel.

Many fathers and mothers are sending their children to gas chambers, spiritually speaking. They go to church half-heartedly and show indifference. Dear one, you need to be awake spiritually and do your best for God. One writer who won a Nobel Peace prize wrote a book in which he said: "Everything dies. Even God dies." Contrariwise, God is not dead, and He never will die. However, He has turned His back on disobedient people. God does not put up with any old thing. He demands our best.

The Vengeance of an Angry God

Again, Jesus said in Luke 23:28, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." How serious are you about the things of God? You need to go to church, get a hymnal, get involved, and lay the temporal things aside. As the Church of God, we have the ultimate truth. There are truths along many lines: scientific truths, mathematical truths, and historical truths. We have spiritual truths. Why are we here? We are to glorify God and to give Him our all. When I go into

museums, I see the most ridiculous things about the theory of evolution. God created us, and there is order in the laws of the universe, the laws that govern the universe, just as there are laws that govern God's people.

I have read much about the Holocaust. When I was a child in school, we did not hear much about it. I remember going to some of the homes in our community of military people, and I remember a neighbor who showed us pictures of big heaps of bodies, bones, and emaciated bodies. That happened to a people who were blessed with the greatest blessings of any people. We, too, are blessed more than any people in the world.

It is told of one woman who went to a concentration camp that they told her, "You have two children, but you can only bring one in. One has to go to the gas chamber." How could she choose between her seven-year-old boy and her three-year-old girl? She paused for a moment and said, "Let the little girl go to the gas chamber." She took her seven-year-old boy to the concentration camp, but she lost her mind. There ought to be a serious aura about every one of us.

The historian Flavius Josephus told the story concerning the literal destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 when the Roman General Titus came in and destroyed Jerusalem. Josephus said, "Surely this is the vengeance of an angry God against a disobedient people." My subject is: What happens when God turns His back on a people? You are not invincible. You can only remain standing by obedience and by the grace of God. You should not think that you are a privileged character. God does not overlook sin, disobedience, or rebellion.

Walk Humbly With Reverential Fear

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 11:21, "For if God spared not the natural branches [the Jews],

take heed lest he also spare not thee." I read that President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked all the dignitaries to go to the museum. I saw a picture of him standing there and looking them over. He told the dignitaries, in so many words, "I want you to see this, because some day people will deny that this ever happened," and today there are such people. Verse 22 says, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

First Corinthians 10:11 states, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." I know that I am not a privileged character. I can only stand by the grace of God, and only if I am 100 percent obedient. You are not a privileged character, even though you might have been saved for ten, twenty, or thirty years. Are you living as you should be living, walking humbly with God with reverential fear? You should fear to talk against the man of God, to run down the church, or to make light of the Bible standard. There is a reason that the church has a standard. As God's people, we should be very grateful. We should have much appreciation for what God has done for us.

The word *severity* in Romans 11:28 suggests that God can be very harsh if need be. Your faith and your conduct should be what it ought to be. As a Christian, you must be totally obedient to God. Your favor with God is dependant upon your obedience. You need to remember that God has two sides. The Apostle Paul was speaking of the literal Jews and the Gentiles. God can be severe and harsh, and He will turn His back on the disobedient.

People may sit and do their own thing day in and day out. They may even stick their tongue out at the man of God and say hurtful

things, but God has their number. The Church of God is the New Testament Israel, and what happened to the Old Testament literal Israel could happen to us if we do not heed the warnings of God and take heed to those lessons.

You may inquire, "What is the New Testament Israel?" Romans 2:28-29 tells us: "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

More than anything else, I want God to be pleased with me. I have gotten beyond the opinions of men. God wants a holy people and a completely obedient people. Jesus said that someday we are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and He is going to divide the sheep from the goats. I want to be with the sheep on the right hand, don't you? What does God think of you?

Left Desolate

Galatians 6:15-16 reads: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." What happens to a people upon whom God turns His back? Let us consider literal Israel for a moment. According to Webster's Dictionary to turn one's back upon someone means "to put behind them, depart from them, reject them, treat them with contempt, abandon them, forsake, and desert them."

The Bible says that spiritual blindness came to literal Israel. When people hear the wonderful teachings of God's Word and they make light of them and turn from them, they go into spiritual darkness. People who leave thriving Church of God congregations find that God turns His back on them,

and they go into spiritual darkness because He is the light. Romans 11:25 states: "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

What else happened to Israel? Her house was left desolate, or deserted. In other words, God was not there. It takes more than having the name Church of God to have God's approval. Roman Catholics say they are the Church of God, but that is false. Some people think every church is the Church of God, but that is not so either. The Church of God is responsible to God to preach the Truth.

Concerning Israel, we read in Daniel 9:27, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

Daniel said her house would be desolate until the consummation. The word *desolate* means "deserted," and the word *consummation* means "the ultimate end." God is through with literal Israel, and He will be through with you if you turn down the Truth of the message of the Church of God. After the end of the seventy weeks, spoken of in Daniel's prophecy, literal Israel was no longer God's special people. Why were they persecuted? They turned from the righteous principles of God's eternal Word and rejected the Messiah.

I do not like to see people persecuted. I feel for people. I studied the Holocaust for many hours. I believe the leaders of those people were the ones who were the most responsible. As a leader, I am extremely responsible for my congregation, by what I preach and by how I live. A Church of God

minister has a greater responsibility placed upon his shoulders than any other person in the world.

The literal Jews were also left desolate because of unbelief. Romans 11:20 reads, "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear." You should not be high-minded, or proud, but you must be humble. You had better be careful of the wrong kind of pride and be extremely careful of how you live.

What happens to a people when they reject the principles of God's eternal Word and turn down the Truth? They come under a spirit of lethargy. They come under a spirit of slumbering. Romans 11:8 says, "God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear; unto this day." The word *slumber* means "to sleep lightly, doze, to remain in a slothful state." A spirit of slumbering, lethargy, indifference, and complacency comes upon a people when God turns His back on them. I grew up in a very vibrant Church of God congregation. God's people are lively stones. You should awaken yourself when you feel drowsiness, indifference, or complacency working on you.

I want the best for my children, don't you? It starts with the man as the head of the house, and with praying, reading the Bible, a family altar, and making sure you are at the house of worship. You must be sure to carry a burden for the work of God. Luke 13:34-35 reads: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

The Way of Truth

The Bible says there was a remnant. Romans 11:5 reads, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." God has a people; He has a remnant yet today. Many people are storing up the vengeance of God. They are spurning the grace of God and the goodness of God. Thousands and thousands of people have heard the Gospel and have come and gone. Our Scripture reading says in verses 26-27: "Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity." I grew up in a Church of God congregation, and I was taught that you do not go down to Babylon. How many young people in Church of God congregations know what Babylon really is? Many people have been exposed to the Truth; however, they have turned from it.

John 6:60 tells us, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this [Jesus spoke of eating his flesh and of drinking his blood, speaking of the Word and the Spirit], said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" Verse 66 says, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." The way of Truth is the only way to find satisfaction and peace. It is the only way that will take you to Heaven.

We read in 2 Timothy 4:10, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Nothing in this world is an attraction to me. When you compare the things of the world with the things of God, there is no comparison. Proverbs 23:23 reads, "Buy the truth, and sell it not."

Israel was once an example of those who lived the Truth and enjoyed the blessings of the God of Truth. They had all the blessings of God. God led them, and they had His protection. As God's people, we

have an awesome legacy! Our forefathers have been led into what we have today. The reason our nation has been blessed so much is due to the Truth. However, many people are throwing the Truth to the ground and stomping it under their feet. Our country is suffering because many people are relegating truths to man's ideas. I repeat, the Church of God has the ultimate Truth.

Many of our forefathers were good men, but some of those men did not live as Church of God men ought to live today. In the Old Testament you can read that Abraham did some things that we cannot do, and Noah did some things that we cannot do. Church of God men and women must be holy. God blessed the forefathers of this country as they were coming out of darkness.

Today we have Truth that they did not have. There are things that we cannot do that our forefathers did. For example, they say it has been proven through DNA that Thomas Jefferson had children by a black slave. He might have been able to do that back then, but one cannot do that today. Those men came out of the darkness of Roman Catholicism and the Church of England.

Reaping the Results of Disobedience

I have often thought that we have been climbing up the mountain of Truth for centuries. The church had to fight in the Dark Ages. It was secluded, but God blesses us with what the early church understood. Sad to say, some people who used to worship with us have digressed rather than progressed. Israel was once an example of those who enjoyed the blessings of the God of Truth. They had all the blessings of God, His leading, His protection, and His Word; however, they became unthankful, ungrateful, disobedient, and rebellious. We see that same thing in the lives of people today.

They say they do not have to dress modestly, or that they do not have to do this or that. No, they do not, but they will if they want God's approval. They will have to do as the songwriter penned: they must whisper "I yield." God's people should be an example of obedience and faithfulness. God has entrusted us with the most beautiful truths of any people that stood for God in the New Testament history. When God turns His back on a people, the heavens become brass, and their prayers will not be heard, so they think God is dead. Why? They are reaping the results of disobedience.

Proverbs 29:1 reads, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Proverbs

1:24-26 states: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh."

As I was thinking about what happened to the Jews during the Holocaust, it was beyond my imagination. How could God laugh at that? It was due to a culmination of years and years of disobedience. People may laugh at the Bible standard of the Church of God and laugh at the Truth, but a payday is coming. As God's people, we have an awesome responsibility! We ought to be very thankful for those who have taught the Truth.

Years ago, Brother Emerson Wilson said, "The Jews do not need to move from New York to Palestine, but they need to move from unbelief to belief." Every one needs to turn from unbelief to belief. Paul wrote in Romans 11:32, "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all."

One songwriter wrote: "I am trusting in Jesus alone, Trusting now his salvation known; And his blood doth so fully atone, I am washed and made whiter than snow. I believe that Jesus saves, And his blood washes whiter than snow; I believe Jesus saves, And his blood washes whiter than snow."

(Compact Disc TR-469E)

Brotherly Kindness

*A man may make a few mistakes,
Regardless of his aim.
But never, never criticize
And cloud him over with blame;
For all have failed in some things
And keenly feel the smarting strings,
Which haunt the mind by day and night
Till they have made offensives right.*

*So considerate be with those you meet
E'en thought they may offend,
And wish them well and on they go
Till all the journey end.*

*Sometimes we think our honors hurt
When someone speaks a little pert;
But never mind, just hear the good,
And ever stand where Patience stood.*



*Look for the good, the true, the grand
And those you wish to shun,
And you will be surprised to find
Some good in everyone;
Then help the man who makes mistakes
To rise above his little quakes,
To build anew with courage strong
And fit himself a battle wrong.*

Selected

Do Not Drift

Yes, it is the drifting that is most to be feared. Men do not become atheists and swindlers at a leap. For every one who resolutely sets his face against God, there are hundreds who drift from Him. Young people go to great centers of population from holy and blessed homes where they have been born and raised. They are nice, amiable, and well-meaning individuals with no intention of wrongdoing, with perhaps no very strong resolution to go right. The last words of their fathers and mothers ring in their ears, urging them to keep up good habits, in which they have been trained since childhood, and they intend to conform to these. If such a young person falls into company with those who have good influence, it is very likely that he or she will turn out well, but if that person goes into an establishment or a house where there is a fast, lively set, where the Lord's day is unkept, where filthy allusions pollute the talk and gambling fills the leisure hours, after the first momentary shock is over, that person is apt to give up to the strong prevailing current and begin insensibly to swiftly drift away. It is not necessary at first that he or she should commit some flagrant sins. It is enough that this person ceases to resist the insidious influence around.

Is this a true picture of your condition? If so, you need to heed the advice of the writer, one who is interested in your eternal welfare. It is so important that you do not drift into loose companionship. A person is made or marred by his or her friends. Beware of the one who talks slightly of mother, father, or home.

Many men ridicule any allusion

to the purity and tenderness of the home circle, and apparently have no belief that women can be other than a toy or victim of man, never his equal and confidant and friend. Beware of such men.

Do not drift into extravagant expenditure. It is better to live on oatmeal porridge and bread than to spend more than you can afford or drift into debt. The pleasure of a day's outing or of an evening's gaiety has a nasty aftertaste when for weeks or months you have to avoid certain people because you owe them money that you cannot repay. A person can sometimes spend in a single evening money enough to fill his heart with anxiety for many a weary day and may be tempted to take money which does not belong to him in order to stay pressing demands and in hope of the opportunity of repayment, which never comes. Friend, take warning!

Do not drift into the habit of gambling. There is plenty of it all around us today. A person may feel rather lonely when he or she refuses to join in. It would be better for you to feel lonely than to join in. How much better to put the foot down and refuse the first invitation! You might mean to refuse the second invitation; but if you are going to refuse at all, it will be unspeakably easier to refuse at first than afterward. Betting is a bad thing and should be avoided. Love and home are sacrificed to the companions of the betting ring. Business is neglected because they live in the feverish hope of coming in for a windfall and of getting money without giving any equivalent of any sort.

Do not drift into habits of drinking. Nothing is easier than to

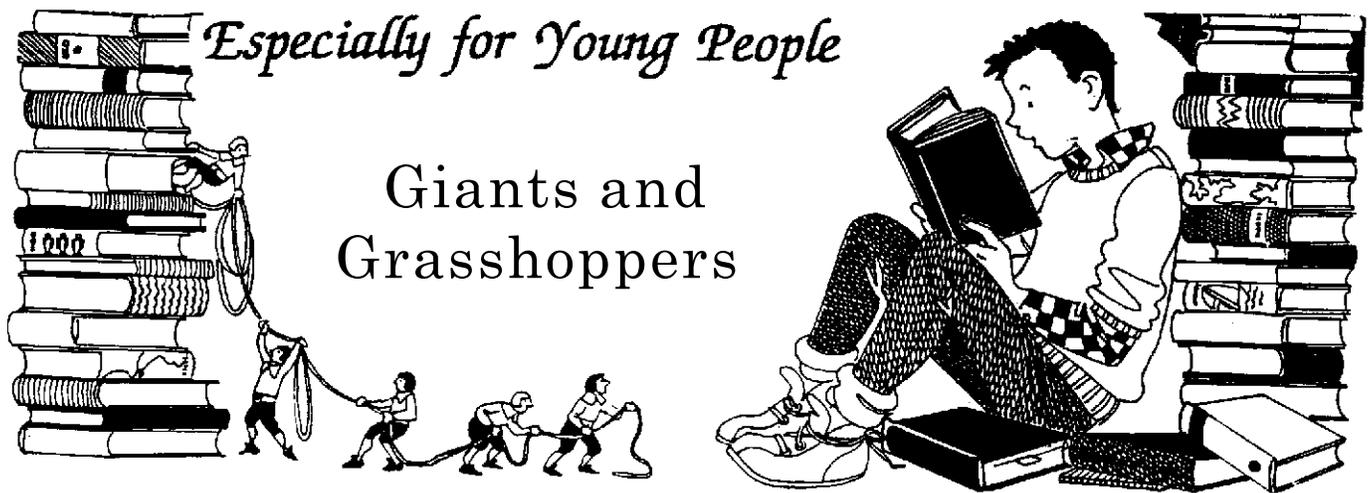
do this. No one means to be a drunkard when he or she starts drinking. Those who are now in the agony of delirium were once as pure and true as you are; but they were carried down an almost insensible gradient. Beware of their fate and do not follow their earlier steps, lest you acquire a momentum that you cannot arrest and go down to hell. There is no better safeguard to an individual than to avoid the first drink.

Some experts say that smoking leads to drinking. If so, it would be well to avoid the first cigarette. Is it wise to begin a habit for which you cannot plead any good reason except that others do it, and which may lead you into drinking, bad companionship, and other detrimental things?

Do not drift into habits of impurity. In all of us there are appetites and desires which are beautiful and innocent enough when kept in their right place; but they are very reluctant to be kept there and are ever chafing to ascend the throne of being and assume the mastership of the life. Who shall depict the horrors of the wreckage of all that is bright and beautiful and happy in the life of the miserable victim who has yielded to their first suggestion? Beware of the society of those who are familiar with the ways of darkness and impurity. Beware of spectacles and pictures, of amusements and books, that excite the lower passions. Never go to a place to which you could not take your godly mother. Never become familiar with a girl whom you could not introduce to the purest woman you know. Never treat a girl in another way than you would like a man to treat your own sister.

It is not necessary to yield to temptation. Ask Jesus to help you to be an overcomer. This He will gladly do. One earnest, believing cry for help will bring Him near, and when He comes on the scene, impurity can no more stand His indwelling than straw before fire or darkness before day. I wish you a pure and noble life.

Selected



Especially for Young People

Giants and Grasshoppers

"What is the matter?" asked Mrs. Hamlin. "What is hindering the work?"

Mr. Hamlin glanced up from his paper. "The work?" he said. "Oh, the old story. There are 'giants' in the land, and the committee feels like 'grasshoppers'!"

It was Earle's turn to look up. Earle was reading, but he generally had one ear for any conversation that was going on about him. His eyes went back to his book, but he kept wondering just what his father meant. Of course there were no giants in these days! He waited until his father was turning the paper to another page, then put in his question: "Father, what do you mean about 'giants' and 'grasshoppers'?"

Mr. Hamlin laughed. "Your ears heard that, did they? Why, I meant what the ten spies did when they whined about giants and called themselves 'grasshoppers' instead of seizing their chance, as the other two wanted them to do. Don't you remember the story? I fear you are not so well posted on the Old Testament history as you are in your school history. The report of the spies makes very interesting reading. You should look it up."

"I remember about it now," said Earle, "and I can guess what you mean about the committee. There are lots of giants around nowadays, aren't there?"

"Plenty of them!" said his father. "Look out that none of them scare

you away from an opportunity."

Earle laughed and went back to his book. He knew he was the sort of boy of whom the other boys said that he did not "scare worth a cent."

It was nearly twenty-four hours afterward that he was in the dining room, which was his evening study, bent over his slate, his pencil moving rapidly. His friend and classmate, Howard Eastman, sat on the arm of the large rocker, tearing bits from a newspaper wrapper and chewing them, while he waited for Earle.

"I do wish you would come on!" he said, between the bites of paper. "The boys will be waiting for us. I told them I would bring you right along, and the fun will all be over before we get there."

"Bother!" said Earle, consulting his book. "That is not anywhere near right."

"Of course, it is not. I knew it would not be. There is not a fellow in the class, nor a girl, either, for that matter, who has got that example. Why, I know, because I heard them talking about that very one, and haven't I done that seventy-five times myself? My brother Dick tried to do it for me, and he did not get it either. He said there was some catch about it."

"I would like to find the catch," said Earle, wistfully.

"Well, you can't. I tell you there is not one of them who can. You need not think you are smarter than anybody else. We won't get marked

on that example. They do not expect us to have it. I heard Professor Bowen tell Miss Andrews that there would not be a pupil in the room who could conquer it."

"Is that so?" said Earle, running his fingers through his hair, and looking wearily at the long rows of figures on his slate.

"I have not got it, that is certain, and I have tried it in every way I can think of. I do not know as there is any use of my going over it again."

"Of course there is not! It is just one of those mean old catch problems that nobody is expected to get. So just put up your tools, and come on. I know the boys are out of all patience with us for being so late."

It happened that Cousin Carrol was in the library, which opened from the dining room. Cousin Carrol was seventeen, and her thirteen-year-old cousin admired her extremely. He had known her but three weeks, and already they were the best of friends. He valued her good opinion next to his father's and mother's. At that moment, her face appeared in the doorway, and she said in the sweetest and gentlest of tones, "And there we saw the giants."

Howard Eastman made haste to take the wads of paper out of his mouth and to get off the arm of the chair, but Miss Carrol's face vanished, and they heard her open the hall door and pass out. Earle's face, meantime, had reddened to his hair.

"What did she say?" inquired Howard, his eyes big with wonder.

"Oh, never mind what she said! She was talking to me. Look here, Howard Eastman, you may as well cut down to Timmy's and tell the boys that I cannot come. They need not wait for me any longer. There is no use in talking. I am going to conquer that example if I have to sit up all night to do it. I am no grasshopper, and it has got to be done!"

"Oh, say now! I think that is mean!" growled Howard. "There won't be half so much fun without you, and besides, why, you almost got started. You began to put up your books."

"I know I did, but I am not starting now, and there is no hope of me. Skip along, and tell the boys I am sorry, but it is my fault. It is this old giant of a problem that is trying to beat me, and he can't. I do not feel a bit like a grasshopper."

"Say," said Howard, "what have giants to do with that example? *She* said something about them."

"They have not a thing to do with it," said Earle, with energy, "and I will prove that they have not. Now you skip, Howard. That's a good fellow, and let me alone. I have a battle to fight."

Howard groaned and growled and "skipped." Next morning, just as the hour for recitation arrived and the arithmetic class were filing in, company was announced.

"Just our luck!" muttered Howard Eastman. "Any other morning this term I should have been ready for them. Did you know they were coming, Earle?"

No, Earle did not. He looked up in surprise. There were not only his father and Cousin Carrol, but a stranger, a fine-looking man, who, it was presently telegraphed through the class, was Judge Dennison of Buffalo, who used to attend this school when he was a boy. Then, behold, came Principal Bowen, who stood talking with his guests a moment, after which they all took seats and stayed through the entire hour.

Work went on well until that fatal thirty-ninth example was reached, and Howard Eastman was called upon to go to the board and perform it.

"I cannot do it, Miss Andrews," he said. "I tried it as many as fifty times, I think, in fifty different ways, and I could not get near the answer."

"That is very sad!" said Miss Andrews, trying not to laugh. "If you had not tried so many ways, but worked faithfully at one, you might have done better."

Then she called on the boy next to him, with no better success. A long row of downcast eyes and flushing faces. Some of the pupils confessed that they had not even attempted the problem, but had been discouraged by the reports of others.

"Is there no one who is willing to go to the board," said Miss Andrews, "and attempt the work, carrying it as far as he can?"

At just that moment, she caught sight of Earle Hamlin's face and spoke to him.

"Will you try it, Earle?"

Earle went. Silence was in the classroom. All eyes were on the blackboard, and the quick fingers of one boy handling the chalk. How fast he worked! Had he multiplied right? Yes, that was right. Oh, but he blundered in subtraction! No, he had not; every figure was right. Ah! now he had reached the place where none of them knew what to do next. But he knew! Without pause or confusion, he moved on, through to the very last figure, which he made with a flourish. Moreover, he knew how to explain his work, just what he did, and why he did it. As he turned to take his seat, the admiring class, whose honor he had saved, broke into applause, which the smiling teacher did not attempt to check.

"I think we owe Earle a vote of thanks," she said. "I confess my surprise as well as pleasure in his work. I did not expect any of you to succeed. In truth, I gave you the

example rather as a trial of patience that in the hope that you could conquer it. You remember, however, that I gave you permission to secure help if you utterly failed. Will you tell us, Earle, if you had any help?"

"Yes'm," said Earle. "My Cousin Carrol helped me."

Then Cousin Carrol's astonishment suddenly broke into laughter.

"I have not the least idea what he means," she said, in her clear silvery voice. "I was so far from helping him that I tried all by myself to do the example, and failed."

The class began to cheer again, but hushed suddenly to hear what Earle was saying.

"All the same, she helped me," he said, sturdily. Then, seeing that he must explain, he added, hurriedly: "We had been talking about giants, you know, and the grasshoppers, just the night before, and I thought to myself then that I was not a grasshopper, anyhow; but I never thought about the example being a giant, and I was just going to quit it when Cousin Carrol came to the door and spoke about the giants, and then I went at it again."

Some of the pupils looked hopelessly puzzled. Mr. Hamlin's face was one broad smile. "Students of Old Testament history have the advantage here today, I fancy," he said.

"Earle," said Miss Andrews, "are you willing to tell us how long you worked on the example?"

"I began it at six o'clock," said Earle, "and I got it just as the clock struck eleven."

There was no use in trying to keep that class from cheering. They felt that their defeat had been forgotten in Earle's victory.

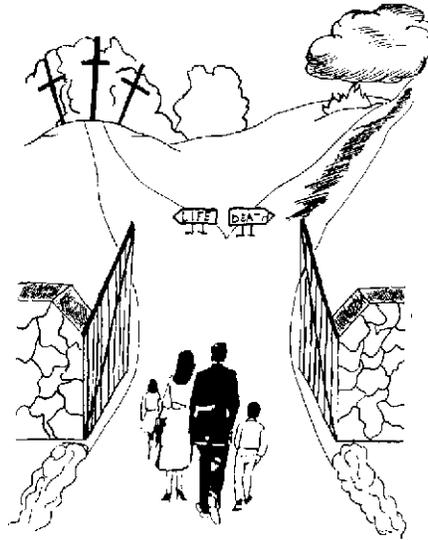
Mr. Hamlin and Judge Dennison stood talking together after the class was dismissed.

"Do you know, I like best of all that word of his about his cousin's helping him?" said Judge Dennison.

[continued on page 27]

John 3:36 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.

Eternal Life or the Wrath of God



Which Will It Be?

Brother Larry Dishman

The Valley of Decision

We have in these words of God a most vivid contrast, and I know of no other verse in the Bible that is so full of glory in the first part and so full of the darkest despair in the last part. It presents God's alternative, which is open to all: eternal life for those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ or the wrath of God for those who fail and refuse to believe on Him. It leaves each of us a choice.

Every individual will choose either the wrath of God or eternal life. Some people have already made that choice. Others are in the valley of decision and are still thinking about it. Dear one, one of the most meaningful and glorious

phrases ever uttered so often upon the lips of our Lord Jesus Christ was the phrase "eternal life." One of the most awful and appalling phrases ever uttered is the phrase that occurs in our Scripture text: "the wrath of God."

Those who believe in eternal security ignore the condition in the present progressive tense of this word "believeth." The word *believeth* represents a condition. The believer has eternal life only as he continues to believe. Believing is the one act that assures a person of eternal life. With the same consistency and logic, one who "believeth not" would exercise the one act that insures eternal damnation.

On the other hand, eternal

security believers will tell you that if an *unbeliever* does not continue in his unbelief, he can be saved. We know that part is true. So they admit that there is a condition. How can they admit a condition in reference to the unbeliever and yet deny that condition with the believer? If no condition were associated with the unbeliever, one could get saved. Therefore, believing or disbelieving is the determining factor. This is so with everyone. Believing or refusing to believe is the determining factor of whether you will have eternal life or the wrath of God abiding upon you.

Eternal security believers say that eternal life cannot be eternal if you can lose it. Some teach that our

initial act of faith secures an irrevocable guarantee of salvation. They claim that eternal life resides as possession within all those who once trusted Christ, whether they remain close to God or end up living in the depths of sin. They say it makes no difference because at one time they believed on the Lord Jesus.

Friend, this error places security in man's own initial act of faith rather than in Him who is our life. Eternal security believers ask the question, "If eternal life can be terminated, then how is it eternal?" I believe the Bible answers that question very clearly. First John 5:11 says, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." In other words, friend, we do not receive eternal life as a coin to spend or as a heavenly credit card to use indiscriminately and charge to Christ's account, but as a branch whose life depends on remaining attached to the vine.

In the Word of God Jesus likened Himself to a vine of which His followers were the branches. We live spiritually because we are tapping into the life of Jesus Christ. That is how we have eternal life. The Bible makes it very clear that it is possible to be spewed out of His mouth. Jesus said: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16). If you no longer abide in Him, then you cease to have eternal life.

Life Is in Jesus Christ

Life is in the Son, and you can only maintain that continued covenant relationship as you abide in Jesus Christ. Hebrews 3:14 lets us know that "we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." As long as you are a partaker of that eternal life, *then and only*

then, can you have that unending quality of life. If a person turns his back on God and ceases to be a partaker of eternal life, then he cannot be saved in the end.

Many years ago I read a true story about an individual who had been saved as a young person. When he was up in years, he went into sin after that profession of religion, and for the rest of his life, he lived in the depths of sin. On his deathbed, this individual called a preacher. He said: "I want to know, is it true and are you sure that once a person is saved, he is always saved? Are you positive that once a person receives eternal life he can never lose it? Is it true that an individual is eternally secure once saved?"

The denominational preacher assured the man on his dying bed that doctrine was true. The dying man said, "Okay, then, I am ready to die, because I am sure that I was once in such a state of grace."

You see, dear one, this is the problem with that doctrine. This individual, from his own testimony, was not trusting in Christ at that time, but he was trusting in a doctrine. His hope and his belief was in the fact that at one time he had gotten saved. Friend, your hope cannot rest in the fact that you knelt at an altar of prayer thirty or forty years ago. One song says, "*My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*"

Eternal life or the wrath of God – which will it be for you? We each are making choices. Eternal life is real life. Much of what the world calls life is not life at all. I call it death. They say, "Oh, this is life!" No, friend, as far as I am concerned, it is death. Many a young person, even raised in the church, comes to a time in life when he says: "I am going to go out and sow my wild oats. I am going to find out what life is all about."

Friend, if that is the road you are traveling, you are not going to

find out what life is all about; you are going to find what death is all about. Paul was right when he said, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Timothy 5:6). Life is not found in the barroom, life is not found in smoking a marijuana joint, life is not found in a pill, life is not found in a shot in the arm, life is not found in gambling or in the dance hall. Friend, life is in Jesus Christ. You cannot find life in the things of the world.

I was once out in the world, and I tried to find something that was lasting, something that would satisfy my soul. I am telling you, friend, none of the things that the world had to offer me could give me the deep satisfaction of soul that I have in Christ. Eternal life is fullness of life; it is abundant life. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). I thank God that He has life. If you think you are living now, just get saved and you will find that He gives more abundant life. The Bible lets us know that eternal life is full of beauty, full of peace, full of joy, full of power, and full of glory. It is abundant life; it is an overflowing life! The Psalmist said that it made his cup run over. Praise God forever!

What Is Eternal Life?

Eternal life is a satisfying life. No life but eternal life can really satisfy the longing and the capacity of the soul, which was created in the very image of God. No life but eternal life can satisfy the infinite yearnings of these spirits of ours that were made in the image of God.

I often think of this old song because it seems so real in my own personal testimony: "*I searched for Him and knew not what I searched for. I longed for Him, and knew not what I longed for. Then I found Jesus, I knew that I would search no more. He filled that longing down in my soul.*"

Many people try to search for Him in a bottle of liquor, in a

marijuana joint, in a pill, or in the pleasures of this life; but these vices cannot satisfy. If you partake of any of these things, you will still be empty; your soul will still be hungry. Thank God, I found something that truly satisfies. What is it? It is endless life; it is everlasting life. I thank God for something that never ends, something that is always fresh. This everlasting life that we have in Jesus Christ is as the freshness of the dawn, thank God.

Friend, it is just what the word expresses: *eternal* life. It means "the intense, settled pleasure of God throughout the ceaseless age of eternity." Eternal life or the wrath of God – which shall it be? He put the choice before us very plainly, did He not?

What Is the Wrath of God?

The wrath of God means, "the intense displeasure of God." Every true and wise citizen dreads the displeasure of the government. Every true son dreads the displeasure of his father. However, every man of understanding and every man of character will much more dread the wrath of God.

Before I was converted, as a young person being raised in the church, I really did dread the wrath of God. When I went to church and listened to the preached messages and heard the songs of invitation about eternity, such as "*Oh, eternity! Long eternity! Hear the solemn footsteps of eternity.*" When I heard those songs, I was fearful of dying unsaved. No songs bring the fear of God upon a sinner like those songs that the sixth-seal brethren wrote. They were inspired of God, and they made me dread the wrath of God. Oh, friend, nothing is more terrible than the wrath of God. Someone once asked Daniel Webster, "Mr. Webster, what is the greatest thought that has ever entered your mind?"

Daniel Webster answered that question, "I have thought about many things, but the most awe-

some, the most terrifying, the most shattering thought that I have ever had is my personal accountability to God one day." Friend, it truly is an awesome, shattering, terrifying thought to think about your personal accountability to God.

Hebrews 9:27 tells us, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." There is much in the Word of God about the wrath of God, but you do not hear much spoken about that side of God. God is good and loving; He cares about you, He loves you, and He wants you to be saved. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

My friend, there is another side to this, and it is called the wrath of God. Psalm 76:7 says, "Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?" We read in Psalm 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalm 90:11 says, "Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath." Jeremiah 10:10 states, "But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation." The latter part of Ezra 8:22 reads, "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him."

I do not want to forsake God, because the Bible says that God's power and God's wrath is against all those who forsake Him. I want to stay true to God. You may say, "Oh, I don't worry about it. God is a good God." Yes, but the Bible says in Romans 11:22, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God." You had better look at both sides of this. Just as God has a side of goodness, He also has a side of severity.

What Will Be Your Portion?

Eternal life or the wrath of God – which shall it be? This is an important choice. Friend, those who

are in hell made a choice. By refusing to give their hearts to God, they chose the wrath of God. If you leave this world unprepared to meet God, you will end up in the awful place that the Bible calls hell. Then you will realize and understand that you chose the wrath of God, but it will be too late to change your mind. Perhaps you have faced some bad situations in life, but you are not going to be able to blame anyone but yourself for choosing the wrath of God.

I want you to notice that our Scripture text says that "the wrath of God abideth on him." Not only will the wrath of God be on the sinner on Judgment Day, but it will be on the sinner in hell and throughout the ceaseless age of eternity. The Bible lets us know that although God loves you, if you are not saved, the wrath of God is abiding on you. Sin will take you further than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay. Friend, do not forget that the Bible says in Hebrews 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Though this verse of Scripture was written hundreds of years ago, it is still a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

How does one determine whether eternal life or the wrath of God will be his portion? By what act do you determine whether eternal life or the wrath of God shall be your portion? Friend, you will find the answer in the words of our Scripture text: "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." Nothing could be simpler or more unmistakable than this answer. The act by which we get eternal life is the act of believing on the Son of God, or believing on Jesus Christ. Certainly, along with that is repentance.

The act by which you lose eternal life and bring upon yourself the abiding wrath of God is by refusing to believe on Jesus Christ.

Whosoever believes on Jesus Christ receives eternal life. There it stands in God's sure Word in a language that even a child can understand: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life," irrespective of who he is or what he is or what he has been. He may be a millionaire or a pauper. He may be a scholar or he may not be able to read or write. He may be a moral, upright, clean individual or he may be vile, one who is in the depths of sin. The very moment that a man, a woman, or a young person believes on the Son of God, he has eternal life.

What is the act by which you can bring upon yourself the wrath of God? "He that believeth not the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Friend, it cannot be put in words or even conceived in our fancy the will of the glory that is wrapped up in the two words *everlasting life*, or *eternal life*. It can be neither put in words nor conceived by human imagination the debt, the dishonor, the horror, the shame, the woe, and the despair that is wrapped up in the other phrase, "the wrath of God." No one can put that in words.

Harden Not Your Heart

Each of us is called upon to make a choice between these two—the utterly eternal life and the immeasurably, unspeakable, awful wrath of God. Again, our Scripture text says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." The question, then, that confronts you is this: eternal life or the wrath of God—which shall it be? Which one will you choose? Friend, that should not be a difficult question to answer. If you are a wise individual, certainly you will choose eternal life rather than the wrath of God. If you are a wise individual, you will cry out to God, "Lord, give me eternal life. Save me, Lord, from the wrath of God!"

Let us look more closely at the

two possibilities that are put in such vivid contrast in John 3:36. We cannot possibly conceive the glory of the one and the horror of the other, but we can get some hint as to what it means. What stares into the face of some is the wrath of God. You need to gather your thoughts together and think about it. Are you really going to choose the wrath of God? Before you are two alternatives. On the one hand is eternal life, everlasting life, real life, satisfying life. On the other hand is the wrath of God. Which will you choose? Will you take that decisive step?

Dear one, if you choose the wrath of God, Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 5:31, "What will ye do in the end thereof?" What are you going to do when you come to the end of life's journey and you have chosen the wrath of God? On the Day of Judgment the verdict will be *final*. God will say to some, "Come, ye blessed"; but to others He will say, "Depart from me; I never knew you."

I have often heard people say, "I don't intend to be lost." I say to those individuals: "You don't have to do another thing to be lost; you are already lost. If you are not

saved, you are already lost." However, at this point you are not irrevocably lost. You still have an opportunity to choose eternal life. When the end of time comes, when you breathe out your last breath and enter into the next world, you will be irrevocably lost; but then it will be too late to pray.

Friend, do not forget that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. I do not believe there is a person with a sound mind who would say, "I'm planning to choose the wrath of God; that's my choice, and that is what I want." No, you do not, friend. You plan to get saved. Often sinners say, "I'll get saved some day." You don't know that. The devil will let you think that. The devil knows how to lead you step by step, past opportunity after opportunity, until you turn down God for the last time.

Friend, today is the day of salvation. Do not harden your heart. Which will you choose? If you will give your heart to God and really mean business with Him, you will never regret it.

(Compact Disc TR-555E)

How Wonderful!

He answered all my prayer abundantly,
And crowned the work that to His feet I brought,
With blessing more than I had asked or thought,—
A blessing undisguised, and fair, and free.
I stood amazed, and whispered, "Can it be
That He hath granted all the boon I sought?
How wonderful that He for me hath wrought!
How wonderful that He hath answered me!"
O faithless heart! He said that He would hear
And answer thy poor prayer, and He hath heard
And proved His promise. Wherefore didst thou fear?
Why marvel that thy Lord hath kept His Word?
More wonderful if He should fail to bless
Expectant faith and prayer with good success!

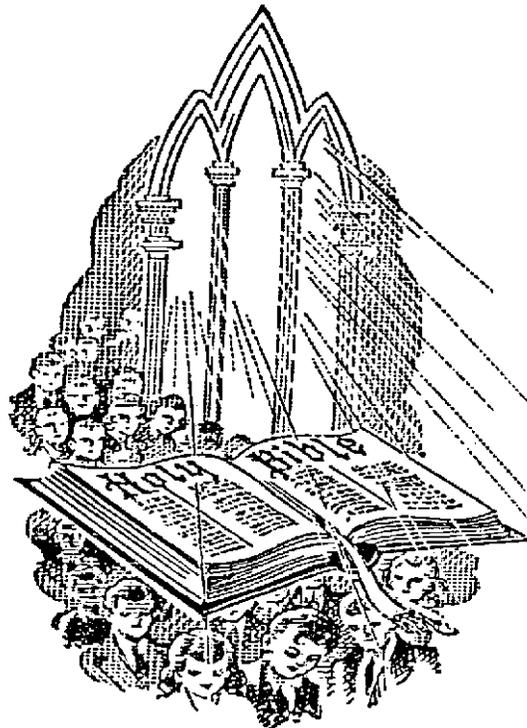
Selected

*Haggai 2:1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,
2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son*

*of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,
3 Who is left among you that saw*

this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

How Do You See the Church?



Brother Aurelius Raines

Remembering the Former House

The Prophet Haggai was talking about the temple that was rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity was over and the people were allowed to return to Jerusalem. They set to work to rebuild the house of God. Along the way, they ran into opposition and complacency, and the work of building the house ceased.

God raised up two men, Haggai and Zechariah, and had them prophesy to get the people back to work. When they built the temple and were ready to present it, they looked out and said, "Who are the ancient men here?" We might call them the "old-timers" today. I thank God for those who have gone before us and can tell of the former days. I do not mean to be disrespectful, but

the ancients had a place in the Bible. Haggai wanted to know about those who had lived long enough to see the first temple before it was destroyed.

Ezra, Chapter 3, is a companion Scripture, which tells how they got the priests together and sanctified the people. They came with singing and rejoicing, but the ancients remembered the former house. Some

of them began to weep and others began to shout for joy. Some people who were shouting for joy did not know what they were shouting about. Those who had the experience of seeing the former glory were probably thankful that they had a temple. However, it was not like the one that they used to visit. So it is in the Church of God today. Those who have been around have seen many struggles and many battles. They have seen people come and go. However, no matter how times change, how people change, or how circumstances change, the Church of God is not changing. The Church of God is not going to compromise or allow people to influence her to depart from the things of God.

There is a spirit that is trying to convince people that the church is going down. That is the reason I would like to ask you, "How do you see the church?" If you do not see the church in her former glory, you are looking at the wrong one. The Church of God is made up of folks who have been called out of a life of sin and separated from the world. They have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and filled with the Holy Spirit. They are committed and surrendered to the Lord.

Often people think the Church of God is the church because the people believe in certain doctrines. Doctrine is important, but it is not what makes people Church of God folks. You see, you can know what the truth is and know what is right and then not do it. You may stand against false teachings, but if you are not living the Truth either, then you cannot be in the church. May God help us to see the former glory.

A Vision of the Church

I am using our Scripture text to get you to think about how you see the church now. Brother, I have seen the vision of the Church of God. The saints submit to the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the man of God. They let the Spirit of

God and the Word of God have free reign in their lives. We have to stop making excuses for folks who will not walk in the light yet say they are Church of God.

If your best friend were to compromise on the Truth, would you say of him, "Well, he is Church of God, but he might not have the light that I have"? How is he living? That is the test. What is he showing the world? God wants to use His people. He did not save people so they could strut around in their best Sunday clothes with their chests stuck out.

God left His people in this world to win others to Christ. I am convinced that more people are not going to be won to Christ until they see the former glory. I have watched people down through the years who held to certain standards of holiness, but over time they have become more like the world. Those people are walking in the flesh, walking contrary to God's Word and doing whatever they feel they want to do.

Zechariah lived at the same time that Haggai lived. He was dealing with the same issue of building the temple of God. Today what has happened? God has already laid the foundation of the temple, and now He is asking folks to come and build up the temple. Everybody who is saved is building up the temple. Christ set the foundation, and I am going to show you in the Scripture that God said He was going to call people from all over the world to come and build up His temple. That is the reason I ask you the question, "How do you see the church now?"

Following the Blueprint

If you do not see the church in her former glory, you are not going to see the pattern. If you do not know what the blueprint says, you are not going to build as God would have you to build. Whether you believe it or not, you are building. If you say, "Well, I am not doing any-

thing," I would suggest that you are building with stubble. When the Scripture lists what we are building with, it starts with the most durable, which is gold, and ends up with the least durable, which is stubble. It also lets you know that God is going to test how you have been building. God is going to send fire.

You may wonder why some people become devilish and backslide. Some folks say the ministry does not do this and that. Everybody wants to blame somebody. The spirit of Adam is still alive. Folks are not going back on God because they are not hearing the Word or because it is not being lived by example. They are going back on God because they do not want to obey the Word of God. Jesus said in John 3:19, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." They will not come to the light because it re-proves their deeds. Somewhere along the line, they have lost their vision. They do not know the former glory.

That is the reason it is so important for the saints who have been around to show folks the former glory, to show others how they have trusted God and how they have believed in God. They are living for God one day at a time. In every situation in their lives, they trust God. They do not take anything for granted. They pray, they fast, and they do what they ought to do so that they might please God and be found in the center of His will. They accept what God has for them.

People do not want to suffer today. I am telling you, the only way to really go through the fire is to jump in and go through it. Folks patting your back and telling you that it is going to be all right might bring encouragement, but you cannot run from the trial. You have to stand and depend on God. Then people will start to see the glory.

A Glory That Cannot Be Diminished

Zechariah 6:9-11 says: "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest."

The gold represents the crown of a king. The silver, which is redemption, represents the crown of a priest. The man of God was told to take both of those crowns and make them into one. So the one who wears this crown is going to be a king and a priest. He is going to have the ability to reign and rule and intercede with God on behalf of others.

Verse 12 says, "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD." The Branch is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He told His disciples in Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In other words, He was letting the disciples know that He was going to put some glory in that church that even the powers of hell would not be able to put out.

There is a song about how Jesus is stronger than all the darkness. I am not a country boy, but what I found out in the country is that the darker the night, the brighter the light. If the moon is full and you can see the stars, you could walk a country road in the middle of the night and see where you are going, because the moon and the stars light up everything. Therefore, the darker things get, the brighter the saints should be shining.

Zechariah 6:13 states, "Even he

shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory. . . ." The Branch is the One who is going to bear the glory. People need to come back to the old-time understanding that they had in the Church of God, that the church is the body of Christ. All the glory of the church is everyone who is in Christ. This is a glory that cannot be diminished. So I ask you this question: how do you see the church now?

Verse 13 continues, ". . . he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." This verse is talking about a glorious Christ who will reign on the throne as both King and Priest.

Take Heed According to the Word

I believe beyond a shadow of doubt that we have to go back and look at the former glory. Too many things have come up and tried their best to shield the glory that is in the Church of God. People are getting distracted from what God has established, and they are looking at something that man has established. They have taken their gaze off the Source. That is the reason you must ask yourself, "How do I see the church now?"

If you see the church as being weak and struggling with no real victory, you are looking at the wrong thing. If you are looking at it and it seems that the devil is running rampant, you are looking at the wrong thing. I am going to show you that the Word is what makes the difference.

In Psalm 119:11 the Psalmist cried, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:9 reads, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." A young person who will let the Word of God have free reign in his life will have victory, no matter what is going on around him and no matter

how much temptation is set before him. My Bible tells me in Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Nothing should offend them or cause them to fail.

Instead of dealing with their problems, some people want to say, "Well, maybe it is the ministry." If a brother is preaching the Word, I highly recommend that you pay attention to what he is saying. This attitude of "Well, that is his opinion" will get you in trouble.

Since God showed me the Church of God, I have not been the same. Down through the years, the Spirit of God has been so faithful. He will tell you where you ought to be looking. He will let you know that you ought to be looking at Jesus, who is the Author and the Finisher of your faith. You should consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself. You should look at the One who saved you, the One who started this thing and the One who is going to finish it.

Peter was walking on the water until he took his eyes off Jesus and started looking at the waves. There was no glory in the waves. The glory was in walking on the water, but Peter was looking at the waves. Even then he did not just go straight down, but he began to sink. As his faith started to get low, he began to sink. At least Peter knew what to do, he said, in essence, "Jesus, save me!" Jesus was walking on the water just as Peter was. You would have thought that He would have yelled over to the fellows in the boat, "Throw out a life preserver! I am going down, boys." Instead, Peter called out to Jesus. Peter knew where he could receive help. Many people do not know where their help is, so they start looking for other means. People need to refocus.

Carnality

Paul had to deal with the saints at Corinth. When I read through

1 Corinthians, I noticed that those people did not have a very good testimony. The Bible says the Corinthians were sanctified in Christ Jesus, yet Paul said they were carnal.

Paul wrote to those carnal folks. Do you know any of the characteristics of the saints at Corinth? They were fussing, fighting, and carrying on among themselves. In the first five chapters of the Book, Paul told them to cut out that foolishness, because they were saints. He would not go along with it. Dealing with that in 1 Corinthians 1:26-28, Paul said: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."

Paul was letting those folks know, in no uncertain terms, that God reserves the right to use what He wants to use and how He wants to use it. He will do what needs to be done. Some people have gotten too "wise," and in all their wisdom they figure that they can work through this and that problem on their own. God is saying: "Wait a minute! That is not the way I want to work it out." Then later they are discouraged because they wonder why God did not help them or why they had to suffer some things. In reality, God tried to get their attention to say, "Get your hands off, because you are in the way."

In verse 29 he says, "That no flesh should glory in his presence." God has put all the glory in Jesus Christ, and He does not want humans to get any of it. Sometimes He works the opposite way than you think He is going to work. Verses 30-31 continue: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righ-

teousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." This is what the world needs to see.

First Corinthians 2:1-2 reads: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." I am more concerned about how Christ is crucified in your life than what you believe. There are things that people fuss over that have absolutely nothing to do with salvation.

Set Apart From the World

In the Book of John, we do not read that Jesus had any real opposition to His ministry until Chapter 5. What did Jesus do that stirred up the Pharisees? He healed a man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years, but He did it on the Sabbath Day. Folks ran and told the Pharisees that Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath Day, and that became the headline news, not the fact that a man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years was healed. They challenged Jesus, and they were against Him.

In John 17:14 Jesus said, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them [the world hates the church because the church's deeds are light and the world's deeds are darkness], because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." The Word of God will bring you out of the world. Jesus was saying that you are in the world but not of the world.

Verse 15 reads, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." In other words, He prayed that God would not let the world influence them. Saints do not conduct themselves as the world does. If a married couple professes to be saved yet they want to get a divorce, you can believe

what you want to believe, but I believe that one of the two is not saved. Someone is not following the Word. Every solution for every problem in a marriage is in the Word. The world says if certain things happen, get a divorce, but we are not of the world. You ought to handle things God's way to resolve issues if you say that you are saved.

Verses 16-17 continue: "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." Can you see how you get back to the glory? Jesus asked the Father to sanctify them through the Truth. The way He wanted them to be sanctified was through the Word.

When you obey the Word of God, it has a sanctifying effect upon your life. If you obey the Word of God, it will separate you from the world. The word *sanctify* means, "To set apart; to free from sin." People need to stop sinning and ask God to help them. They need to break off their sin and fall on the grace of God.

We read in verse 18, "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." The reason that Jesus sent His disciples out into the world was to win the world, because that is where sinners are. As a Christian, you must have something so that when you go out among the world, you do not become as they are. Jesus is going to sanctify you first. He will separate you from worldly things.

Christ Is Our Example

John 17:19 says, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." Jesus lived a life that He expects us to live. He was our example, and He showed us how to do it. He did it so that we could be like Him. Verse 20 reads, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." As the Word of

God passes from generation to generation and people accept and obey it, we all were in Jesus' prayer. All the saints today and all the future saints were included in Jesus' prayer.

Jesus said in verse 21, "That they all may be one [sanctification and walking in the truth brings the saints together]; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." God in Jesus, Jesus in God, and then we all are one in God and Jesus. That is the mystery of godliness. We are so entwined in God and Jesus that we cannot help ourselves. The world is going to see the same glory that God gave Jesus shining through us. I ask the question again,

how do you see the church now? Verse 22 states, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one."

When we start being one, we will convince our children. In my generation I had seen so many people turned off from going to church because of what they had seen from people who said they were saved. Somehow, somehow, I had to make my children understand the true glory, the former glory, the real glory of the church so they could distinguish it from the fake glory. Thank God, my children have followed the Lord from their youth. It might not work exactly that way for you, but if you do it right, the leaf will never fall far from the tree; just

keep believing God. Jesus has given us His glory so that people can see the former glory.

Saint, how do you see the church now? Do you see the church in all her glory? Are you striving to be all that God calls for or are you content with looking at that which distracts? Do you have a vision of what God really wants to do in your home, at work, and where you live? Do you see the glory? Do you see the possibilities of what God can do? Do you see what God wants to do through you? May God bless you.

(Compact Disc TR-261M)

[Guest Editorial— continued from p. 2]

A desire to turn back to the old life of sin seems to overtake them. Entertaining the thought of turning back to the old sinful life and the things one was once delivered from arouses God's displeasure. Unless those thoughts are quickly cast aside, one may find himself in serious trouble with the Lord. Jesus stated in Luke 9:62, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Days of temptation can be a time of great danger. God allows every person to be tested and proven to see what is truly in the heart. This time of testing is also a good opportunity for each one to see what is really motivating his or her life. Is it true love for God and His way or does one just follow Him for the many blessings he can receive? In Deuteronomy 8:2 we read, "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no."

The danger in temptation is the possibility of becoming disgruntled

and actually thinking the old life was a better way to live, a time when you had more pleasure and things went better. This is what the people of Israel thought when facing the hardships they encountered. They began to accuse God of mistreating them and making the way hard. They also accused Moses of bringing them to the wilderness so that God could destroy them. These accusations no doubt hurt God and also stirred His wrath. The Scripture verifies the fact that Israel's unbelief and disobedience in following God in faith prevented them from ever gaining the rest that He had promised.

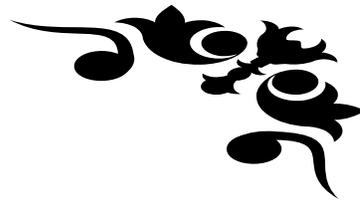
This same condition can fall, and is falling, on mankind today. Some people grumble over the way God chooses to lead them. Others dislike the way God requires them to live and conduct themselves. They reject His standard and His man. This is dangerous! What happened to the Israelites can happen to us yet today. God wants a willing and obedient people to serve Him. If you will do things God's way, you will be blessed, and you will prosper in your soul. In Isaiah 1:19-20 we read, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse

and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

Friend, if you allow an evil heart of unbelief to take hold of you and remain, you will end up departing from the Lord, even as old Israel did. It would be well for each one to heed the Word of God and believe it. That which has been sent to be a blessing and a guide through this life can become a curse that destroys if disbelieved. You can overcome all doubts and unbelief through faith. You must reject any thought of ever turning away from God and going back to the old life. Do not allow Satan to entertain you with the thought that you had it better when you were living in sin. The Christian life is the best life to live, and it is the only way that will assure you entrance into Heaven!

Regardless of the trials, the persecutions, the upsets, the misfortunes, the afflictions, and the frustrations that may come your way, the Christ-filled life is by far the best way and the only way for man to live. There is really nothing to go back to!

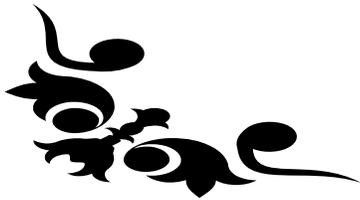
Selected



Divine Healing

*"The prayer of faith shall save the sick"
(James 5:15)*

*The Remarkable Story of E Faith Stewart's
Illness and Healing.*



Some of we brethren who were eye witnesses of Sister Stewart's serious illness and her remarkable healing in the spring of 1945 feel constrained by the Spirit of God to write some of the facts concerning this healing as an inspiration to the faith of those who shall read it. However, let us say that it will be quite impossible for anyone who did not see her during her illness to really comprehend just what God did do for her. Our only desire in writing this is that God's name may be glorified and that poor, discouraged, suffering ones reading this may be encouraged to put their trust in One who never fails.

On December 29, 1944, Sister Stewart, in closing a three day ministers' meeting (in Havana, Cuba) preached the most powerful sermon on divine healing that we had ever heard her preach in the fourteen years that she had been here in missionary work (up to that date). In her message she urged the brethren to lay hold and maintain at any cost the blessed doctrines of the Church of the Living God. She spoke strongly of how the doctrines of the

Bible had been lowered in the church in many places, but that we here in Cuba must see to it that every Bible doctrine be definitely taught and practiced. She said that we as God's people must hold the standard, even at the very greatest cost, and that many times God had to let suffering ones come to the faithful ones so that His Word would be preserved, as the Lord had to have instruments through which He could work. Sister Stewart continued saying that if God ever wanted her as an instrument through which to work out His glory, she wanted to be submissive and true.

She continued saying, "My brethren, if I ever get so sick that I am unconscious, where I cannot fight 'the good fight of faith' myself, I urge you for Jesus' sake and for the sake of my reputation as one who for many years has definitely trusted in God alone as my healer, to just leave me entirely in His hands. If I ever get to where you feel that medical help is the only thing that would save my life, then just let me die, going into His pres-

ence just as I have lived. For I would choose death in His will rather than to extend life in any other way."

The day after having put this solemn charge on the church, she left for Punto San Juan Camaguey, a distance of some four hundred miles from Havana to hold a two day assembly meeting with a few congregations in that district. She returned from there on January 3, and two days later was taken very ill. As we saw from the first that her illness was serious, a doctor was called just to examine her (to

comply with the law). He said that her condition was very grave indeed. He said her's was a case of gallstones and that to save her life an immediate operation would be necessary, but he also said that her heart condition was so serious that it would not permit operating. What a sad condition she would have been in if her trust had been in the uncertain arm of flesh. How thankful we all were that we knew her trust was alone in God, and that He was able.

A few days later Sister Stewart was removed to Buena Vista (another section of the city of Havana), where she would be closer to the congregation and could have better care. Soon complications set in, and it required a group of faithful ones to divide their time and care for her night and day. Two days after removing her, she lost all consciousness and also had a stroke, which made her entirely helpless. The church building was close by, and the doors were never closed day or night during her entire illness, for groups of brothers and sisters were constantly there holding on to God

in earnest united prayer for God to spare her life. Cablegrams were sent to many in the States, and they replied that many there were also holding on for victory.

As we watched our beloved sister sinking lower and lower, another doctor was called in to examine her, so that if she passed away, there would be no trouble with the law. The first doctor who had examined her had turned so bitter because she was not sent to the hospital for the operation (although he could give no hope), that we felt it unsafe not to call another. This one said her case was hopeless and that he could not understand how she was living, and he said it then could be only a matter of a few more hours. Hundreds of brethren and friends from all over this part of the Island came in to see our sister and looked on her with sad hearts.

One night about ten o'clock, the toot of an ambulance was heard, and in walked a doctor and a nurse with a friend of ours. This gentleman friend said to some of the brethren that he had personally paid for a private room in a hospital and had come to take Miss Stewart there to see what could be done. He said, "Miss Stewart is dying, and something must be done at once."

Several of the brethren answered and told them that before losing consciousness, Miss Stewart had herself put on them the solemn responsibility of leaving her definitely in God's hands alone, if she got unconscious where she could not stand for her own desire. They felt they could not submit to her being taken, knowing as they did that it was against her desires. Then the doctor told us that if she was not allowed to be taken, and if she died, (as they said she would) some of the brethren would be handled by law for manslaughter. They also told us that the Federation of Doctors would take a hand in this. We pointed out to the doctor that all over the land, men are dying for the sake of principles, which many times do not amount to any-

thing—then what would it matter if some of us did have to suffer a little for standing for a principle of Divine Truth, founded on God's Word.

We do thank the brethren here and in the North who stood solidly during this long, severe test. The church in Cuba had never experienced anything like this before, but God gave sufficient grace. The first doctor who examined Miss Stewart said this case was a case of slow murder and that when she died (for of course they knew she would die), he would see to it that not one of the several doctors who had examined her should give a certificate for burial. But thank God, while these were waiting for the hour when they could plunge God's people here into confusion (as they thought) and great trouble, God was working out His own great plan for the glory of His name.

Our sister lay in this condition—entirely unconscious for twenty-nine days. But the PRAYER OF FAITH PREVAILED. On a Friday night God gave the witness that prayer had gone through, and although slight signs of improvement were visible, still God let us be tested, and she remained unconscious until the following Sunday morning, when to the great joy of those watching her, her eyes opened. This was the morning of February 9, and as different ones rushed to her side and spoke, she recognized each one by their voice, although her vision had not yet returned. The first one who reached her side and spoke to her was the friend who formerly brought the ambulance and doctor, to take her away by force to the hospital.

Sister Stewart had to learn to eat again, and had to learn to walk, etc. She was as one having been completely gone from this world, being restored. Praise our God forever. Glory be to His matchless name! Her strength began to return, and one month later, she was able to go in a car to the city to attend to some business. She had gone down in flesh from a weight of 168 pounds

to around 90 pounds. The day she went into the city, just one month after her healing, she was weighed and had gained until that day she weighed just over 100 pounds. What a mighty God we do serve! Oh that men everywhere would learn to trust in God for all things. Truly the mouths of the gainsayers were stopped, and our Christ was exalted among the people. As Sister Faith Stewart once again walked the streets of this city, going in and out among the people in her ministry of service to humanity, many were blessed and were made to believe in our Living God as never before. *Truly they that trust in the Lord shall never be confounded or put to shame.* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me! Bless His Holy name.

Signed:

*Mr. Jose Campins, Pastor
Church of God, Almendares,
Havana, Cuba*

*Mrs. M. Campins
Church of God, Almendares,
Havana, Cuba*

Erasmio Texidor, Evangelist

*America Suarez, Pastor
Church of God, St. Fe, Cuba*

Remarks from Sister Faith Stewart:

This is one testimony of healing that I could not personally write, as much as I might want to, for I was so completely dead to everything that I only know what the brethren tell me. As far as I know, no one who saw me during this illness has ever seen anyone else in the condition I was in living on to tell the story. Never shall I forget the burden that gripped my heart December 29, 1944, when I preached in the last service of our three day ministers' and workers' meeting. Having watched the drift that had been coming in on the church in the States, and having suffered deeply

overseeing the blessed standard of God's Holy Word let down, my soul was stirred, and I did heavy preaching in that three day meeting, and my special burden was that we as the Church of God in Cuba definitely take our stand (and keep it), to keep the full unadulterated Word of Eternal Truth right up in the place God Himself has put it and not allow compromise of any kind to enter our work. My last message was on Divine Healing of the body, and that message of Truth burns in my very soul yet today. God's Word is unchanging. His promises are DIVINE (not human); therefore, they cannot be broken or changed.

Although I had not said much about my physical condition, I knew well that unless God worked a miracle in my body, I could not long be with the church in Cuba, and my soul was heavily moved. Would they be able to stand in the persecutions that I believed were soon coming on us, and to keep up the standard of Truth where God wanted it kept or would they weak-

en? Would their courage and faith hold out? So out of a burdened heart I spoke, and thank God the message of Truth had a definite response from the hearts of many of our number. Thank God for brethren who could stand such a test and say with David, "Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil, for thou art with us, and thy rod and thy staff, they comfort us." At the time I took my bed, I weighed 168 pounds, and when I got up, or when God touched my body in healing, I weighed around 90 pounds. After being well nourished for around one month (after getting out of bed), I made my first trip out in a car and went to the bank. Thank God, He soon brought me back to normal, and I have now put in more than six years of the hardest work I ever put through. Never have I at any time in past life carried the amount of heavy responsibility and put through such excessive work in these past six years. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. He is

still the very same Christ of God, and none of His promises have lost any of their power. If you want a fulfillment of His promises in your life, *be sure to live to the full standard*, and to *teach the full standard*, and keep your life entirely hidden away in His will, and the promises are yours. Praise God forever!

Yours in defense of the *full Gospel*,

E. Faith Stewart

[Esp. for Young Peo.—contin. from p. 15]

"It was plucky in the boy to keep working, and it took brains to study out that puzzle, but that little touch which showed that he was not going to accept the least scrap of honor that did not belong to him was what caught me. You have reason to be proud of your son, Mr. Hamlin."

Author Unknown

Manners

We are in danger these days of losing many of the graces that help to make life harmonious. The rush, the hurry, the feverish excitement in which many persons live cannot be conducive to the cultivation of charm or manners. The cultivation of good manners has more to do with a high standard of morals than many of us think. Good manners constantly used uplift and refine. Bad manners injure and lower the character and destroy the perfection of life and result in making one cold and heartless; while good manners help, if practiced in sincerity, to make one thoughtful, kind, and unselfish. They would seem to be essential to every well-regulated life.

Good manners should begin at home. Manners are learned and acquired by habit. They grew upon us by use. We must be courteous, agreeable, civil, mild, and gentle at home, and then it will become a second nature for us to be so everywhere.

The New Testament inculcates good manners. Our Savior was courteous even to his persecutors. Look at Paul before King Agrippa. His speech is a model of dignified courtesy as well as of persuasive eloquence. A spirit of kindly consideration of men characterized the twelve disciples. The same mild self-sacrificing spirit that pervaded the sayings and doings of the early disciples should be exhibited by us today.

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