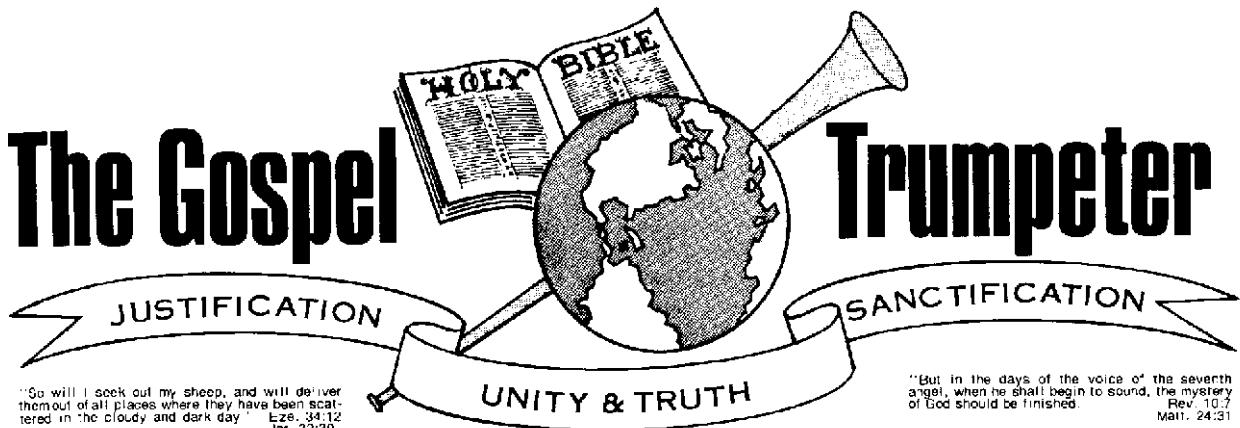


# The Gospel Trumpeter



"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  
Matt. 24:31

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SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

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Vol. 42 July 2012 No. 7



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

*Psalm 122:1*

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

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

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

Email: [pastor@godsacres.us](mailto:pastor@godsacres.us)  
Phone: 740-344-2543 or 1-888-730-0461  
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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical foundations.

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

### THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

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

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

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Vol. 42 July 2012 No. 7

# Guest Editorial

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

Philippians 4:11

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

1 Timothy 6:6,8

## Contentment

One of the great treasures a person needs to learn in life is that of being content with such things as they have. Learning to be satisfied where the Lord has placed them. Many people in our world know so little or even nothing about this wonderful blessing. The reason is simply that they are too deeply engrossed with the spirit of covetousness. They are obsessed with getting, having, and gaining more and more. Multitudes feel that material possessions will bring them satisfaction. Some men and women work two and three jobs so they can accumulate more of this world's goods. Their stimulating appetite drives them on and on to a point where it often leads them to wrecking their health and sometimes their marriage. After amassing all their wealth, they yet find themselves empty and void of that which they truly desire. This world's treasures can never satisfy or fill the vacancy that only Christ can fill.

Almost everywhere you look today, there are people who are discontented. They are exceedingly unhappy with life in general, feeling that nothing ever seems to go right for them. They have one trial or problem after another, and it looks as if their situation will never change or get any better.

If God's children are not careful, they, too, can become caught up with the spirit of this age and

begin to follow the same path the worldly minded are treading. Saints must be awake and alert so their lack of sufficiency will not cause them to look elsewhere than to God for their needs to be supplied. The problems and misfortunes of life that come must never be allowed to create a spirit of complaining and murmuring. Trials, disappointments, persecution, and distress come to all; however, you should never allow these to rob you of your relationship with Christ! Jesus said in John 16:33, ". . . in me ye might have peace [this peace brings contentment and quietness]. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Because He overcame, we, too, can be overcomers! Satan always seeks to set some snare or situation that can be used to overwhelm the saint.

Discontentment breeds unbelief and will lead one into sin. No doubt, you can recall how God so miraculously delivered the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. God performed many mighty and wonderful miracles for them. He faithfully kept the promises He made to them. Yet whenever He led the Israelites into a hard place to prove them, they became disgruntled with the way. Soon they began to murmur and complain against God and against Moses. Their discontent-

[continued on page 26]

*Deuteronomy 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Gergashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;*

*2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them,*

*nor show mercy unto them:*

*3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.*

*4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.*

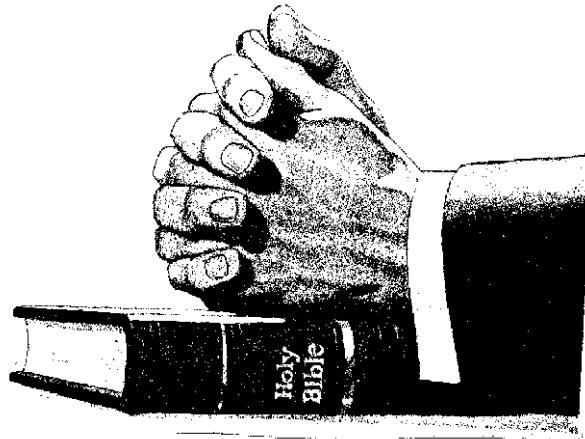
*5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their*

*groves, and burn their graven images with fire.*

*6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

*7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people.*

# The Standard—The Old Versus the New



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **Chosen to Be a Peculiar People**

In our Scripture text we read words of admonition given for the children of Israel. When they went into the land of Canaan to possess it, they were to cast out the nations of other gods, make no agreement with them, and not allow marriage to take place with their children. The Lord said in verse 6 that His people would be holy and special.

We read in Deuteronomy 14:1-2:

"Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth." Here we find again that God's people are to be a holy and a peculiar people to God. In other words, we ought to be different from those who worship

other gods and be peculiar to Him. The desire of the Lord since Creation has been for His people to be different from the world. His people are different from people who live in sin and who fail to worship the true and living God.

What is different about God's people? First, we love Him supremely. Second, we have no desire to hurt Him. Third, we love Him more than we love ourselves. We want to love Him, obey Him, and

serve Him. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." To keep Jesus' commandments, one must obey them. We desire to please the Lord in all things, and we want to leave this world with a testimony, like the Hebrew writer said of Enoch, that he pleased God.

God made man upright, but when sin entered his heart, he was cut off from the sweet fellowship that he once enjoyed with the Lord. The Bible makes this point clear in Genesis, Chapter 3. The Bible says in Genesis 3:7 that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. I looked up the meaning of the word *apron*, and Webster's Dictionary says it is a "protective garment covering the front of one's clothes and ties at the back."

Genesis 3:21 lets us know that God was not pleased with what man had made, so He made them a coat. There is quite a difference between an apron and a coat. Today in many places the world still desires an apron, but God still wants His people to be covered.

### The Lord Sees Not as Man Sees

We want to study the standard in the Old Testament versus the New Testament. I will answer the questions: Is the standard necessary? Should we adhere to it or is it just man's idea? After all, God looks on the heart and man looks on the outward appearance.

In 1 Samuel, Chapter 16, you can read that Samuel had been mourning for Saul, and God spoke to him. First Samuel 16:1-7 reads: "And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the

LORD. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

"And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

"And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

In these Scriptures we find that God let Samuel know that He had rejected Saul from reigning over His people. He also sent Samuel to Jesse, the Bethlehemite. He was to find a king, someone to rule over His people, and he was to find him in Jesse's sons. No doubt, in Samuel's mind it was someone who was tall and skillful as a warrior, by looking at the Scriptures. Seven of Jesse's sons went by, and God rejected them all, but Jesse had one more son who was tending the sheep; so Samuel said, "Fetch him." Then David came on the scene. The Bible says he was ruddy, had a beautiful countenance, and was goodly to look upon. Another translation says he had beautiful eyes and was handsome.

Again, 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." The Scriptures let us know that God's choice did not have anything to do with how David was dressed or his stature. Man was looking at the outward

appearance, and in his mind the outward man displayed his ability to lead Israel as far as Samuel was concerned. However, look at the king before him. Saul was a very tall man, a good soldier, and a good leader at one time.

First Samuel 10:23 tells us, "And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward." No doubt, Samuel was looking along the same line. He seemed to think God would choose somebody who was tall, who looked like a leader, and who looked as if he could take hold of Israel as a skillful warrior and be an expert in war.

Now, I want to say this pertaining to that Scripture. That which God looks upon should be right, and He was concerned about the heart. Also, that which man looks at should be right. No individual sees the heart when someone is won to the Lord. What gets your attention? I know what got my attention. The saints of God look different from the world. The standard has much to do with the manifestations of the heart, but so does an individual's conduct. Man cannot see as God sees. Man cannot see the inside, but he can see the results of what is on the inside.

### The Certain Sound of the Trumpet

Isaiah 62:10 reads, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Jeremiah 4:21 asks, "How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?" Do you know why you do not see the standard in most religions? The people do not hear the trumpet. As long as you hear the trumpet, you will see the standard. However, the trumpet has to give a certain sound.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:8, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to

the battle?" What does the Scripture mean about "an uncertain sound"? Paul was speaking of an undecided sound, or an unsure sound. The trumpet has to give a certain sound, or a convincing sound, so that the people will prepare for the battle.

I spent a few years in military service, and there are certain sounds of the bugle that every soldier knows. There was a certain sound for reveille. One soldier would go out in the morning and put the bugle up to his mouth and play the notes for reveille. We knew what that sound meant. That sound was different from taps. Taps were blown at night to signal the men to go to bed. One is to signal lights out, and the other tells the troops it is time to get up. There is a certain sound to that trumpet, and a soldier is not there very long until he knows that sound. On my first day of recruit training, I learned the sound of the trumpet. From that day on, wherever I was at the military base for training, I knew the sound of the trumpet. It makes a certain sound. The trumpeter does not go out there and play reveille for taps or taps for reveille. He plays certain notes, and every soldier on that base, from the commanding officer right on down, knows that certain sound and knows what it means. Likewise, the Gospel needs to be sounded out today with a certain sound, not an undecided or an unsure sound, but a sure sound so that the people can gather themselves to battle.

God is our Creator, and He made a difference between the sexes. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." God made two separate sexes. God is not mixed up on which is which. He made them differently. I am talking about the outward man. The male and the female look differently and act differently, because they are different. Inside a man and a woman is a soul, but the outward appearance looks different, and God wants it to remain that way.

### God's Absolutes

First Corinthians 14:33 says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." It is the world that has tampered with God's absolutes and has tampered with that which God made upright.

We read in Ecclesiastes 7:29, "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." The word *inventions* means "devices." God is very precise in His creation. As I thought on how precise God is, I thought about how you can read in the newspaper what time the sun will come up and what time it will go down, right to the minute. God is very precise in the rotation of the earth and the turning of the earth on its axis for the seasons. We know of four seasons, and we know when they are coming. There is spring, summer, fall, and winter. We know that each of these seasons is coming again if Jesus tarries, because God is precise.

Genesis 1:28 says, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." The word *replenish* means "to refill or to stock up." In order for God to accomplish His plan, He made the woman different from the man, and He had a name for her. He called her a helpmeet.

Genesis 2:22 states, "And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." God never intended for a woman to marry a woman or for a man to marry a man. That is confusion. A man and a man cannot replenish the earth, and a woman and a woman cannot replenish the earth. If that had been from the beginning, then the plan of replenishing could not be carried out. Men and women sought out many inventions, or devices.

God did not make a man gay or make a woman a lesbian. Again, Ecclesiastes 7:29 reads, "Lo, this only have I found that God has made man upright; but they sought out many inventions [or devices]."

In the animal kingdom, you do not see a male with another male or a female with another female having a family. Although they are not as intelligent as human beings, they have that part correct, and they have kept it that way since they were created.

There are lots of ways that the sexes are different: emotionally, in the way they talk, how they cry, and the different attitudes. The man and the woman are very different, but God has two distinguishing marks, or signs of the separations of the two. One is their clothes—they dress differently; the other is their hair. One should be able to tell from a distance whether a person is a male or a female.

Two distinguishing signs are marked beside the entrance to the restrooms in most airports and public places. I have traveled quite a bit, and in the airports in all the different countries, they show an outline of a woman in a skirt and they show a man in trousers. People do not get them mixed up. They do not put their own language on the doors, because all people would not understand, but they do understand signs and symbols. Everybody knows what a woman in a skirt looks like, and everybody knows what a man in trousers looks like; so that is what they use at the restroom entrances. The sign works in any country that you visit; it is a very common sign to display.

### Being Followers of Christ

Let us go to the Old Testament to a Scripture that has probably been distorted, attacked, and ridiculed more than any other Scripture. Deuteronomy 22:5 says, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment:

for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." The word *abomination* means "extreme disgust and hatred." Proverbs 6:16 reads, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him." These hated things are something that God despises. In this one verse, both sexes are spoken of. If a man wears a woman's garment, he would be considered a sissy, effeminate, soft, and a transvestite. For a woman to put on a man's garment, she would be considered masculine and manly acting. Now, we know that a man in our society would not be accepted wearing a skirt. He would be ridiculed, laughed at, and made fun of, but a woman gets very offended when she wears that which pertains to a man and receives persecution. It is almost like it is a double standard.

As we look at this Scripture in Deuteronomy, let us see if there is a reference in the New Testament. You can take an Old Testament Scripture and reference the same thought in the New Testament. Now, we know there are no more sacrifices of animals, because there is no reference to it in the new covenant. Let us check in the New Testament and see if God still has the line drawn between a man and a woman, as in Deuteronomy 22:5.

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

"For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

"For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

The contention Paul was talking about was not over the hair but over the veil. He said if a man has long hair, it is a shame to him. Real men get hair cuts as needed. The Bible says nature teaches it. How does nature teach somebody? Nature teaches through natural life. Something that you can use that always works is a mirror. Brother, if your hair starts coming down over your ears and is long on the neck, the mirror will let you know that your hair is too long. If you have parents who want you to have a haircut like you should have, they will tell you. Also, nature teaches you through conviction.

I did not learn about keeping my hair cut at a church. I learned about cutting my hair through my parents, and there was no arguing with them. I did not go to a regular barber shop until I was old enough to pay my own way, and then I had to be inspected by my dad. Now, my dad was not a churchgoer, but he knew that a man should not have long hair. Parents need to quit giving their children the choice of how

long they want their hair. The Bible says it is a shame for a man to have long hair. Parents need to start their children the right way while they are young. Let them look like fine young men.

## Modest Apparel

If a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her. We find in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, and Deuteronomy 22:5 that God makes a distinction between the sexes. Also, in the New Testament, in 1 Timothy, Chapter 2, there is a reference made to the same subject. First Timothy 2:8-10 says: "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

The Scripture says that women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel. The word *modest* means "orderly, well arranged, and decent." The Scripture goes on to say "with shamefacedness and sobriety." Modesty is rooted in character. The word *sobriety* means "abstaining from excess." The woman is to adorn herself in modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.

We find in 1 Timothy 2:9 that God is concerned about how a woman dresses. The dress standard is brought up again in the New Testament. First Peter 3:1-4 reads: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; [That is the reason the marriage vows for the women say, 'Love, honor, and obey.' The man does not have the word 'obey' in his vows.] that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [or the conduct] of the wives [that is how I was won to God – by the conversation of my wife]; While they behold your chaste conversa-

tion coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

Peter said that a woman with a meek and quiet spirit is of great price in the sight of God. Another translation says it this way: "Your beauty should come from within you, the beauty of a gentle, quiet spirit. This beauty will never disappear, and it is worth very much to God." The standard of the Church of God is not drab, as some try to portray it. God has given us the standard to protect us, and the standard that God has given us looks nice. We may not be able to afford expensive clothes, but what we do

wear should be clean and a good representation of a child of God. We represent the greatest institution on this earth, and we represent the great God of Heaven as His children. When we are out doing business in the world or in the schools or wherever we have to be, we are part of His family; therefore, we should dress according to how God feels we should dress.

We should be pleased with the standard that God has given us. We are not ashamed to be God's people. The styles of the world always change. Sometimes the skirts get shorter and sometimes they get longer. They have gone from miniskirts to micro miniskirts to skirts below the knees. The world is enmity against God, and it is against any standard that a Church of God minister lifts up. You need to remember who you represent: you

represent the great God of Heaven. You are His child, so you ought to dress the way that pleases Him so that He is proud to own you as His child.

Before you go out of the house, there is something that will always tell you the truth and will not lie to you, and that is the mirror. When you walk out of the house, you need to check yourself. Are your skirts down where they should be to be modest? Do you look presentable as God's child? God wanted a difference between the sexes. He does not want a woman to put on a man's garment or a man to put on a woman's garment. The same principle is carried over to the new covenant.

*(Compact Disc TR-754E)*

## The Gulf Bridged

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."

*1 Peter 3:18*

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

*Ephesians 2:13*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

*John 3:16*

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

*1 John 2:2*

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

*2 Corinthians 5:18*

*Ezekiel 43:12 This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.*

# WE NEED REVIVAL



*Brother Tim Yoder*

## **God's Presence Cannot Abide Where Evil Is**

Our country needs revival. Some things that are going on in our day and time are frightening. The evil that prevails, the deadness in the churches across our land, the lack of spiritual discernment, and even the lack of moral discernment are alarming, not just in our country as a whole, but in our local communities and in our extended families.

I am convinced that we are facing either revival or judgment. God has been patient with our na-

tion, but there will be an end to His patience. Unless He is able to stir people by His Spirit and revive them, we are facing judgment. If judgment comes to our land, it will affect you, me, our children, and our grandchildren. Revival comes through those who know Him. We claim the Truth, we know God, and it gives us a great responsibility before God in this evil world.

The law of God's house is holiness. You might have rules set in place in your home. The rule in God's house is holiness. Ezekiel received a vision of the glory and

the presence of God returning to the temple. That is the context of Ezekiel, Chapter 43. In the Old Testament, without the presence of God, even with all the rituals, the temple was nothing more than a building. Only the presence of God can make any gathering of people the people of God.

It is not the doctrine altogether. I believe in Truth, and I believe that we ought to apply ourselves to know the Truth. Also, it is not just having the name Church of God over the door that makes us the people of God. What makes any

people the people of God is the presence of God in their hearts and in their midst. Some people may preach the Truth and have the name Church of God, yet they are void of the Spirit of God. It takes the presence of God to make a people God's people, or the temple of God.

Earlier in Ezekiel's vision, he saw the vision of God departing from off the temple. Ezekiel 10:18-19 says: "Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above."

This is a vision of the glory of God, or His presence, lifting up off the temple and leaving. God abandoned the place where He had once met with His people. These were God's own chosen people, but His Spirit lifted where His Spirit had been given, where His blessings and His presence had been felt. Just because you enjoy God's Spirit now does not mean that you have a lock on it. You need to be careful that you do not settle down and become content and assume that the presence of God will always be with you. In the Old Testament God's glory lifted off the temple and departed; it was no longer there. This removal of the Spirit of God and the presence of God was part of His judgment to Israel for their sins.

What caused God to leave His people and the temple? It was the sins of the people. The presence of God is His favor and His blessings. According to the Bible, without it you can do nothing and you are nothing. I repeat, the sins of the people caused God's glory to depart. God will never abandon His people and those who are trusting in Him, but if you sin, you will drive Him away.

Ezekiel 8:6 says, "He said furthermore unto me, Son of man,

seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations." Another translation says, "And he said to me, Son of man, do you see what they are doing—the utterly detestable things the house of Israel is doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary?" God cannot abide where evil is. With that context in mind, let us return to our Scripture text.

### The Law of God's House

Ezekiel 43:12 states, "This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house." Holiness is the law of God's house. In Ezekiel's vision he saw the day when the glory of God and the presence of God would return to His people, and the condition necessary for the return of God's presence is holiness. God's presence can only abide with those who are holy and pure inside and outside. The presence of God is a destroying fire among the wicked. Where wickedness is, the presence of God is not a blessing, but it is a consuming fire. You must be holy to enjoy the presence of God.

We need revival. Do you know what is lacking today in too many places? Some people who profess to know God lack the presence of God and His fullness in their lives, because true heart holiness has been abandoned. We need the presence of God. Apart from His presence, there is no reality in Christianity. You may try to live right and do right, you may dress right, and you may go to church every Sunday and every Wednesday and attend every revival; but without the Spirit of God and His presence in your life and in your worship services, it does not have the conviction of reality.

When the Spirit of God is lacking and His fullness is not there,

you lack the reality. When individuals start lacking reality in their experience, their hearts start going after other things. They may not turn to wickedness, but their lives will get caught up pursuing other things. The presence of God is the only thing that will satisfy your heart and soul.

Nothing less than the presence of God in your life and in your assembly brings satisfaction. People can sing on key, have the best instrument players, and have good speakers; but without the presence of God when you leave the service, your heart will not be satisfied. You may be entertained, but you will not be satisfied in your soul. Unless you find satisfaction in this Christian experience, you will not continue in it.

It is the presence of God in your own life individually and then collectively where you attend services that brings satisfaction. You may attend services where some people sing off key and the message is simple, but if the presence of God is there, you will leave satisfied. Your heart will be warmed, you will be encouraged, and you will be glad that you were there.

It is only by the Spirit of God and the presence of God that people are convicted of their sins; it is not by clever arguments, or by knowledge of Scripture. It is the presence of God and the Spirit of God that speaks to men and women and woos their hearts and souls. The ministry has its part to do, but the only way souls can be saved is for the Spirit of God to speak to them. The presence of God is needed in order for souls to be convicted and for children to be saved. Some children have been raised in church all their lives, but they need the Spirit of God to convict them in order for them to be saved and to know Him in reality.

### True Holiness

Revival and restoration can only come by the Spirit of God. It is not

by committees of preachers or by getting together and agreeing to agree, although sometimes it is necessary to talk to resolve problems. Unless the Spirit of God moves upon our country, the problems of our nation will not be resolved. It is not just about electing a good president or having a good Supreme Court or a good Congress. The real problem that we face is spiritual, and the only solution is spiritual. Our nation lacks what is needed, and that is the Spirit of God.

There is a cleansing that must first occur among God's people before the fullness of His presence can return. Holiness is not just an Old Testament concept. First Peter 1:15-16 says: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." We are called to live holy.

Second Peter 3:10-11 reads: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." Life is short, and this world is temporary. Without holiness we will not see the other side.

Almost everyone who calls himself a Christian has some idea of what holiness is. Basically, holiness has two parts. First, it is being set apart, or being consecrated, for God's use. In the Old Testament, all the vessels and the temples were set apart and dedicated for God's use. The second part of holiness is purity in attitudes, motives, and actions.

Let us look at the first part of being holy. You must first be set apart and consecrated for God's use. You have to dedicate yourself to God. When you go to an altar of prayer, you should not just ask for forgiveness from past sins, but you ought to dedicate yourself and give yourself fully to God. You are no

longer your own. I fear that people have too many mixed allegiances.

Many people want forgiveness, but they have not truly given their lives to God. They have not dedicated everything that they are and everything that they have to God for His disposal. This is where holiness begins. You cannot begin some other way. True holiness is giving yourself fully to God. The focal point of your life must be God and what He desires, and then everything about you is funneled through that. Your primary concerns should be: What is God's desire for my life? What is good for the work of God? and How can I be better used of God? You must live all your life for Him, not just living a moral life and attending the church services, but you must be dedicated and used by Him in His service. You should have God's approval concerning how you use your time, not just on Sunday.

Do you ask God's approval of how you use your money, not just the 10 percent tithe that you are to give Him, but all that He has entrusted to you? What about your career? Some people move away from where they can have their souls fed to pursue a career. That is not holiness. You can live morally good without being holy. Holiness begins with the dedication of everything you have to God, including your family. It is sad to see people maintain a good life until their children reach a certain age, and then they let the pressures of life cause them to stray. God and the things of God must truly be first in your heart.

You may say that you love God, but it may not show in how you choose to live your life. I am not just talking about avoiding sin. The choices you make show whether loving God and having His love and approval is the most important thing in your life. The people who live in your home, your children especially, no matter what you say, know what is most important to you. You demonstrate what is important to you by the way you live

at home, by how you act on the job, and by the entertainment you choose. If your needs are more important than what God wants, do not be surprised if that is the way they choose to value things in their own lives. Today too many people do not have their all on the altar, and by this I mean themselves. In too many cases, people have lost the hungering to be everything that God would have them to be, to keep their dedication fully on the altar.

## Purity of Heart

Too many people reserve certain parts of their lives for themselves. They give God their tithes, try to live holy, and go to church; but certain parts of their lives are off limits to God. You have to be fully consecrated to the Lord. Do you remember reading in the Bible about the rich young ruler? He lived a good life. In essence, he said, "I have kept the commandments from my youth up," and Jesus did not dispute that. He was a moral young man, but what did he lack? He was not fully committed to the Lord. His money was a greater god to him than following Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:37-39 says: "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." It still costs everything to find eternal life. Do not let your moral life fool you into believing that you are on your way to Heaven if you are not fully consecrated to God.

Second, holiness is purity of heart, motives, and actions. Holiness always begins in the heart. The outward standard alone cannot make you holy. Obedience alone does not make you holy. A moral life does not make you holy. There are many people in many different religions who live morally good lives, but

they are anything but holy. Holiness begins in the heart. A cleansing within takes place first. There is a cleansing of motives and intentions. In other words, "Why do you do what you do?" Salvation brings a real change. When I got saved, I did not just decide within myself to give up some things and then start doing other things. There was a change within me. I had a new heart. A new heart caused a change within me from loving myself more than anything else to loving God supremely. If that change does not take place, people are not getting saved.

Some people become religious, but they need a change on the inside. Change is the work you do in coming to repentance, but there is also a divine work that God does within you. He gives you a new heart. It is not just you, but it is the divine Spirit of God that gives you a new heart, whereby you love Him, because He first loved you. That is what motivates the Christian. Real salvation consists of being born again, being cleansed within, having a change of desires, and getting a new heart. You are to be cleansed on the inside as well as the outside.

Second Corinthians 7:1 says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." You are to be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. Being cleansed in your spirit means being cleansed of wrong attitudes and wrong motives. It is not enough just to speak the Truth, if you are speaking it in such a way to deceive somebody. If you do that, you are still wrong. Some people mince words and say, "Well, you cannot say that I said anything wrong." If your motive was to deceive, then you are wrong. If your motive is to take advantage of someone or to cheat a person, you are wrong.

You may say, "I told them the truth about the car." If you did not tell them the whole truth and your motive was to deceive them into

paying more than you would have paid for it, then there is an element of greed within, and it is the wrong motive.

You are to be cleansed of all bitterness. Life is full of disappointments, and living for God and being a Christian does not keep you from being disappointed in life.

We live in a sin-cursed world. Sin is abounding, and innocent people suffer the consequences of the sins of others. We are not in Heaven yet. We have something better to look forward to. You will suffer disappointments and injuries, and those disappointments and injuries can turn to bitterness within if you are not careful. You can become bitter toward those who have truly done you wrong and intended to do you wrong. Nevertheless, you cannot harbor bitterness in your spirit and be right with God.

You must be careful of jealousy over what someone else is getting praise for or what he or she has. Also, you need to guard against envy. Perhaps life has not dealt you the same hand as somebody else. In this life not everything is even, but that does not give you an excuse to treat others unfairly. It is wrong to envy others.

It makes no difference that a person is wrong and that he or she did you wrong. You do not have the right to harbor anger, resentment, or ill will toward anyone. There is a God in Heaven, and no one is going to get by for wrongdoing. You can leave it in His hands because He knows how to deal with it. He has promised to take care of you. You do not have to hold ill will and bitterness in your heart. If someone seems to get by with it in this old world, he or she will face a lost eternity. What can you do to add to that kind of misery? Why would you want to?

### The Heart of Salvation

The outward acts of deceitfulness, greediness, dishonesty, and lustfulness do not just happen. These things take root in the heart

first. Friend, you must deal with the heart's attitude first. Once the inside is cleansed, the outside is not such a battle. This is not to say you will not have temptations. You need to make a point to get before God and to be cleansed on the inside, where the attitudes, the motives, and the thoughts come, and then you will have a much easier time with the outside.

Sin always begins with your motives and attitudes. Wrong actions spring from wrong motives and desires. In fact, it is the motive that determines your guilt. Some people can do things today and not be guilty before God because they do not know what I know, but I cannot do it. It would be a sin if I were to do it because I have light and understanding concerning the matter. People do not have all knowledge, and they may do some things that you could not do and still not be guilty of sin. On the other hand, some people are very clever and full of knowledge and do things that are sinful because their motives and intentions are wrong.

Too many people today, I fear, are tolerating evil motives and desires in their hearts. They have wrong attitudes and are still trying to live clean lives, but that will not work. They need to be cleansed on the inside. Holiness is first, and it begins in the heart. Holiness is a heart filled with love for God. It is a life motivated by love for God, and then love for others. Your actions should be prompted first out of love for God, and then a love for others. That is the motive behind true holiness. All your intentions, your motives, and your desires should be judged by whether God is pleased, not by what you can get by with.

Love desires to please. That is the nature of true love, no matter if it is your children, your wife, your parents, or whomever it may be. If you truly love them, you have a desire to please them. If you do not, I question your love. Love naturally desires to please those whom you love. If you love God above every-

thing else, should that not be the strongest motivating factor in your life? Is God pleased with you? No matter what you do, you need to examine your life and ask yourself, "Is God pleased with me?"

You should not go against Scriptures, but sometimes you may not be able to find Scripture to condemn something. If you know in your heart that you are doing something displeasing before God, you are guilty. The way to keep the presence of God in your life is to give Him the benefit of the doubt. There are lots of things in life that you may not be able to pin down and say, "This verse says that is absolutely wrong." On the other hand, you might have lingering doubts about whether or not something is right.

Some people may ask, "How far can I go and still be saved?" They are in trouble already, because salvation is not just about do's and don'ts. The heart of salvation is about pleasing and loving God. When people want to see how far they can stray and still call themselves Christians, they are already in trouble, because they are wrong on the inside. The safest way to live with a clean conscience and the presence of God in your life is, until God removes the doubt completely, do what you know pleases God. Sometimes people wound their conscience, and then they get to the point where they can no longer discern right from wrong. Holiness is love in action, or love lived out. You have to be cleansed within first.

### A Life of Full Obedience

I want to give you a warning. If you claim holiness on the inside, you must live it on the outside. Those who seek to emphasize holiness by stringent rules on the outward could be in danger of becoming like the Pharisees. Matthew 23:23-26 says: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judg-

ment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel."

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

The Pharisees were very religious, but very wrong. True religion begins in the heart, with the cleansing of the heart. Without this cleansing within, religion is vain. Actually, it is worse than that. Jesus said all the Pharisees' converts become "twofold more the child of hell" (Matthew 23:15). Why? They had hope without reality. Let us be cautious, because holiness begins within. Without a pure heart, pure motives, pure intentions, and pure attitudes, there is no holiness. This cleansing on the inside will work itself out. You cannot claim to be clean on the inside and allow sin on the outside. Jesus never told the Pharisees to quit doing what they were doing. He just said to get it in the right order. We are called to be holy in all our living.

A true love for God will lead you to a life of full obedience. John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Religion without obedience is vain. The vast majority of Christianity today is vain religion because it is a religion without full obedience. The great danger is that there is a ditch on both sides of the road. You can fall into one side or the other. May God help you to maintain true holiness. Hebrews 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." The outward appearance is important.

John 14:23-24 reads: "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that

loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." If you love Jesus, when you hear His words, you will obey them. Notice also He said we will come and make our abode with him. God's presence fills a clean heart, one who really loves Him.

If you live loose, you are not going to have the presence of God in you and with you. Also, you will not find the satisfaction in living the Christian life, and you will not find victory. First John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." This is not to say that you will not have temptations and struggles at times. However, if you have a heart that loves God supremely, your heart is in tune with wanting to do what God wants you to do. If you love Him and keep His commandments, they are not grievous and burdensome. I am not living this way because somebody is making me. Life is short. Do not miss out on reality.

### Loving God and Your Neighbors

Matthew 22:36-40 states: "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Do you know what that means? Everything God has commanded you to do or not to do is based on loving God supremely and loving your neighbor as yourself. Why not steal? First, God said you ought not, and second, because it defrauds your neighbor. Every law that God gives you pertains to loving Him and loving your neighbors. There is no holiness without love, and there is no love without holiness. Every time you encroach in sin, it is

against love.

Holiness is the law of God's house. Where God lives, holiness is the rule. God is not going to abide there without holiness. It is the prerequisite necessary to see the return of the presence of the glory of God in His fullness. It is the prerequisite necessary to see revival and restoration. Holiness must come first to complete the dedication of yourself and all that you have to God. If you do not have holiness, He is not in your heart. That is where you need to begin. If you do whatever God wants, then you and all that you have are at His disposal. You will be completely dedicated, completely sold out, and completely given over to Him, with nothing held back in reserve. I repeat, holiness is purity in your motives, your intentions, and your attitude.

You need to pray as David did in Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me."

You need to find out if you are harboring any anger, bitterness, greed, or ill will, so that you might be pure in your spirit, cleansed within. You ought to desire to be truly motivated by love for God. This ought to be your heartbeat: "In all that I do, and in all that I am, I want it to be pleasing to God." Also, you should have love for others—for your brothers and sisters in the Lord and for those who do not know the Lord.

Holiness is a life lived in obedience to God and to God's law. You ought to have a desire to know more fully how to please Him. For this reason, you ought to read God's Word and ask yourself, "How can I please Him more?" You should desire to conform your life to His commandments. You ought to desire to know more about God and to do more. You can enjoy more of the presence of God in your life than you are now.

I enjoy what God has given me, and I am thankful for it, but there is

more. Today in most places, there is a lack of the presence of God. The presence of God is lacking because people lack true heart holiness. May God examine you by His Spirit, not just to bring condemnation, but to bring encouragement so that you can be all that you ought to be.

This old world is growing darker, and the only time the world grows darker is when the light gets dimmer. Darkness does not push out the light; the light pushes out the darkness. If you are a child of God, you bear a responsibility before God for this generation. You need to sell out to God completely. We need more young people who are sold out to God so that God can call them and use them. Congregations around this country are dying because the spiritual leadership is not fully dedicated to God and open to His will. May God help us.

*(Compact Disc TR-267M)*

## At the Post of Duty

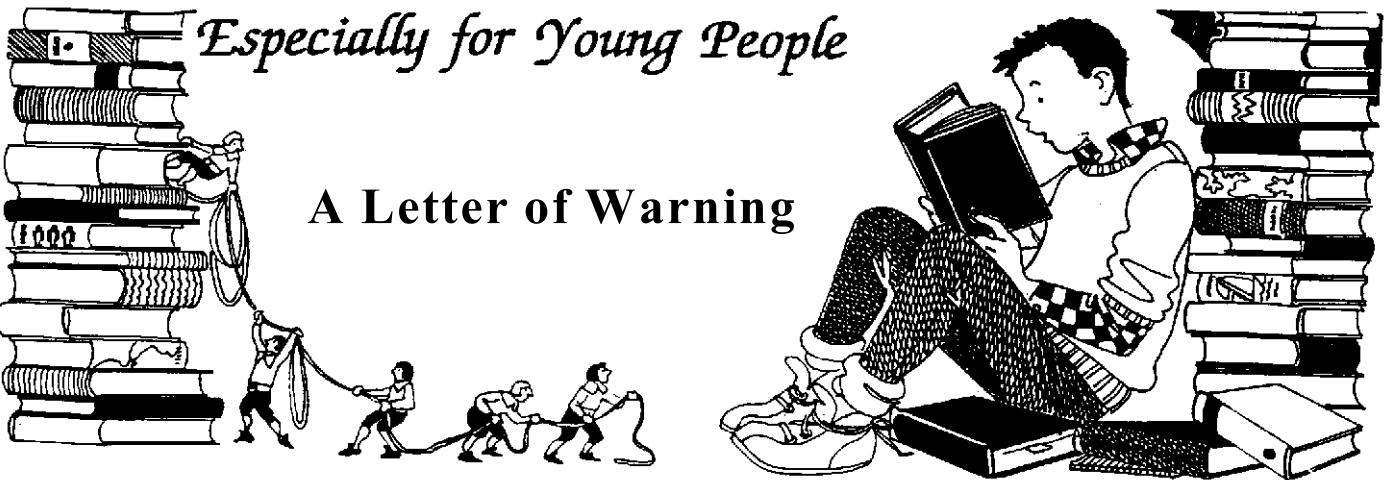
You can read in Judges, Chapter 7, about Gideon's band of men. Verse 21 tells us, "Every man stood in his place round about the camp."

From the story of Gideon, we learn that success does not always lie in numbers. Napoleon did not know his Bible when he said, "God is always on the side of the heaviest battalion."

We need to realize our dependence upon God. Also, God cannot win victories with half-hearted soldiers.

There is a place and a task for each of us in the Master's service.

Are you in your place?



## *Especially for Young People*

### A Letter of Warning

There are many things about which I wish to warn the young people. I pray that God will anoint my efforts that souls may be enlightened and learn how to detect Satan's snares and pitfalls and be able to escape, instead of winding up in prison as I have.

Young person, I know that even now seducing spirits are telling you, "You will never wind up in prison." Believe me, I can hardly believe it myself! However, here I am, facing life in prison!

Until a short time ago, I had never hurt anyone in my entire life. I had always tried to be peaceable and friendly. I have never hit another person with my fist. So, how is it that I am in prison for *murder*? Please read closely and hear what I have to say.

It happened one step at a time. It started with one beer! It started with one dance! It started by watching murder on television and in the movie theaters.

Young person, beware of seducing spirits. These spirits impress one's mind and give certain feelings in order to accomplish their desired end! The worldly love songs, the enticing movies, the suggestive dances, the appealing attire of sparkling rings, necklaces, and alluring clothes all tempt and appeal to the flesh. And do not forget, "easy" money. These spirits whisper, "Just a little won't hurt." Listen to me! Satan has only one purpose in mind—that is to bring you into his

bondage and destroy you completely in the end! There is no peace in these things. Their end is death—death to the soul and death in eternity's world.

Dear one, there is pleasure in sin for a season, but that season is so short, and the agony in the end is so great!

"Smoking and drinking is cool," many say, but all it will do is paralyze one's brain, dull reality, and disarm one's ability to make intelligent decisions. When I think of some of the things that I have done while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, I shudder. Some things are so horrible that I cannot write about them. However, I can tell you this: the spirits that promote the things I have mentioned take one deeper and deeper, and bind one tighter and tighter each step he takes.

The pleasure that Satan provides will have to be paid for in the end. He will begin to use you on the people you love most. The examples you set will be followed by innocent souls because *you* make it look so great! After Satan has caused you to become involved in deeper sin, he begins to force you to work for him. He will hold back the good feelings until you must drink or smoke more and more. Your chase for pleasure will begin to interfere with the time to work for "honest" money. As you commit worse sins, your conscience will make you feel badly, so you drink or smoke more, and on and on

it goes. The fun seems to be gone. Then hate sets in—hate for the ones that have done you wrong. The only pleasure that seems to be available now is the thought of sweet revenge. You find yourself being hard to get along with, and sometimes you harass those you love.

Then Satan says, "Kill yourself! You're no good!" He closes in to try to finish you off. It is only through God's mercy that I'm alive today. Many times I have contemplated suicide, but God's Word would come to mind and I would refrain.

I reached the place that I drank almost every day and was drunk almost every weekend. I also cheated several people out of their money and told many lies to sell cars. I took advantage of people who trusted me. Instead of one beer and dancing all night, it took a quart of hard liquor, and I did not care about dancing anymore. An evil spirit would take control of me, and I would find myself thinking of killing someone that had offended me. At times I waited and watched for the opportunity. Then Satan set me up.

A man that used to work for me pulled a gun on me and threatened to kill me three different times. The fun times were over now. Satan wanted destruction and death. So, I bought a gun. Then one night about 6:30 p.m., I started drinking—whiskey and coke, half and half. By 10:00 p.m., I was so drunk I could hardly drive. I went to a club to listen to music and try to have some fun.

A man I didn't even know began to harass me. He followed me outside, and I pulled my gun. I tried to do what I had seen in a movie one time, but it did not work. The next thing I knew, the man was on the ground, and I was holding a gun that had been fired *six* times. I don't even remember pulling the trigger! I have never had any training with a pistol and have only fired one a few times in all my forty years, but every bullet hit the man!

What happened? Did Satan take control of me in my drunken stupor, or had my brain been programmed by watching murder on television and in the movies? I may never know. But one thing is sure—the stranger is *dead*, and I am spending life in prison for murder.

It all started from one beer and a little worldly entertainment—one step at a time.

Dear one, I pray that you will take heed and flee from seducing

spirits that try to make one believe there is no harm in a little beer, a little worldly music. It leads to hell—one step at a time! Please, look to Jesus and follow His every word. Jesus is the Word of God, and He will lead you to peace, joy, contentment, and happiness, not only in this world but also in the world to come.

Elbert Johnson

## Disturbing Questions for Churchgoers

Which disturbs you most:

A person lost without salvation or a scratch on your new car?

A sermon five minutes too long or lunch thirty minutes late?

The need for a new Sunday school teacher or your need for a new suit?

Missing a worship service or missing a day's work?

Your Bible unopened or your newspaper unread?

Your contributions to the church decreasing or your income going down?

A lazy employee or your laziness in God's service?

Think about it. Ask yourself these questions, and then ask God to make you concerned about the issues of life that really matter.

*John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

*2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*

*3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this*

*man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

*4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

*5 As long as I am in the world, I am*

*the light of the world.*

*6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.*

## Taking a Look at Life From God's Point of View



*Brother Esau Brooks*

### **Salvation's Greater Purpose**

Regrettably, as we look around, it does not seem that there are very many people who are inspired or even concerned about getting from an average position to a position where they can exert and manifest some extraordinary power to the glory of God. It appears as though many people would love to see Christianity dwindle into just a mere affair of professing. Nevertheless, I am thankful for those who are determined by the grace of God to

stand true for God, and I want to encourage you to press the battle on.

I am persuaded within my heart that one of the greatest mistakes that many people make today is in not fully endeavoring to realize what life is really all about. Many people make this mistake, because in looking around, they assume that since those worldly things are here, they are meant to be enjoyed. They are being influenced in that direction because the majority of people are leading that kind of life and pursuing that course of action.

As people sink deeper and deeper into ungodliness, some folks begin to wonder if this is really their purpose for being here. Some have gone to school in search of an answer to life's questions, but they come out in the dark concerning what life is all about. There is something mysterious about being alive. Some time in life they are sure to come in touch with the Gospel.

Some people think that salvation was brought into effect to partially remedy some of the things that are wrong, but they think it is not to

interfere with their lifestyle. As a result, many people have settled for less than that which they could be enjoying in the things of God. When I heard the Gospel and God saved me, I felt that serving God was more than going to church, more than standing up and giving a testimony now and then, more than reading my Bible, and more than praying. I was persuaded in my soul that this salvation must have a greater purpose to it.

Very soon after I got saved, I could hardly express myself. I would get up in a service and testify and thank the Lord for saving me and keeping me, and then I had to sit down. I had a conviction in my heart that God wanted me to do more than what I was doing. I felt an urge to preach the Gospel, but I did not know how to do it. We have the custom of having street meetings in Honduras, and they would give us opportunities to testify. I saw others get up and express themselves, and all I could say was, "I thank the Lord for saving me and keeping me, and . . . and . . ." Then I sat down.

I fasted for two days and looked in the Bible. I found the Scripture in Ezekiel 11:19 that tells of how God will put a new heart and a new spirit within you. I said to myself, "Now, when I get up and run out of words, I am going to read this; then I will be able to say more." So I got up that Monday night and said, "I thank the Lord for saving me and keeping me and . . . and . . ." I want to read a Scripture to you." I read the Scripture and said a few words about God giving you a new heart and a new spirit, and to my surprise, I went blank again. I sat down and said: "This is it! I will never preach. I'm not called for that." One of the brethren said, "Keep on!"

I said: "But I can't. How do you do it?"

He said, "The Lord."

I said, "No!"

He said: "Keep at it. Go on. See what the Lord will do for you next

week." I went back to fasting, and I fasted for four days. I had only fasted for two days before, and I did not get much from that, so I decided to fast for four days and see what that would do for me.

The next Monday night I stood up and said: "I thank the Lord for saving me and keeping me, and . . . and . . ." I'm going to read this Scripture." I read the Scripture and said a few more words, and I said, "And . . . and . . ." Knowing how I felt, somebody started to sing a song to take away the embarrassment, and believe me, it was as if I was in Heaven. While that song was being sung, it was as if I went away from myself. I felt something warm come down all over me, and when I came to myself, I was preaching. I was so happy! I was so glad! I stopped right in the middle of what I was saying, and I said, "I'm preaching! I'm preaching! I'm preaching!" That is the way God led me.

While I am aware that God is free to work out His will in whatever manner He chooses, I cannot help but wonder why so many are satisfied to be what I refer to as "an average Christian." The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 4, tells that soon after Jesus was baptized, He was led into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan. The Son of God was led, not into towns, but into the wilderness.

Somehow we are missing it as a generation. In most cases, it is because we have not allowed God to lead us into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan. Oh, you do not have to go to the literal wilderness to be tempted of Satan. I am speaking of going out where God can really put the test on you, and then you can pass the test, by the help of God, and be blessed.

### **The Works of God Made Manifest**

I read about Paul when he was struck down on the way to Damascus. He did not go back to Jerusalem to try to find out from the Apostles how this salvation works. He went

into Arabia, and when he came back after fourteen years, he found the Apostles preaching the same Gospel that God had shown him.

Do you know why I love the Church of God? I did not learn about the Church of God at some man's feet. God opened my understanding and gave me a personal knowledge and understanding of what the Church of God really is. Because of that, no matter how many people fail and no matter how many people wander off, it does not discourage me because I still see the church as a victorious church. I feel sorry for those who have wandered off or who have been carried away.

Dear one, God is working to give us a look at life from His point of view. Going back to our Scripture text, I ask you to focus your attention on what Jesus responded with, as recorded in verse 4, to the question His disciples presented to Him. Verses 2-4 read: "And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

The statement that Jesus made might appear as if Jesus meant this only for himself, and no doubt, many people have regarded it as such. However, He was only talking about His earthly ministry, and His obligation for dying on the Cross for lost mankind. The more I look into this, I cannot help but be convinced that He was giving us the approach to life that God requires for us. What is the approach? "I must work the works of him that sent me."

The disciples were curious about the developments in this man's life. This man was blind from his birth, and he had never seen daylight. They were curious, and they felt there was a reason for the blindness. In so many words, they asked, "Master, who did the sin, the man or his

parents?" They assumed it was a judgment from God on this man. Jesus told them there was a purpose beyond this development. He informed them that neither this man nor his parents had sinned. Why was he born blind? Specifically so that the works of God might be made manifest in him.

### Refusing to Regard the Voice of God

I am persuaded that through this event, Jesus set forth God's plan for man. It is God's plan that the works of God should be made manifest in the lives of every one of us. Not one sinner on God's green earth has to remain a sinner. There is not one rejecter of God or despiser of the Gospel that is such because he cannot help himself, but he has chosen that way. You are not a sinner because you cannot be saved, but because you have chosen not to be saved. You might have played around with the things of God to such an extent that your heart has grown harder each day. You can dwell in sin and rebellion against God to such an extent that you think you have no need of God in your life.

As the church service goes through its course, many times the man of God will say, "Why don't you give your heart to God?" Too many individuals respond: "Well, I have no feeling. God isn't dealing with me." That is far more alarming than many people regard it to be. One of the greatest calamities that can overcome anyone is the calamity of having God withdraw from speaking to him. That is frightful!

You may say, "Do you suppose that would ever happen to me?" Proverbs 1:20-22 states: "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorner delight in their scorning, and fools hate

knowledge?" How long will this rejecting of Truth and this rebellion against the demands of God continue? Dear one, you need to be careful about the way you react to the Gospel. This is a serious matter.

Verses 23-26 read: "Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. 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." This is the Word of God. These words were directed by God to each and every individual on the face of this earth. Verses 27-28 continue: "When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer. . . ." God can answer, but He said He will not.

When you allow yourself to drift to the position where God ceases to talk to your heart and convict your heart, you are treading on dangerous ground. Whether you are a church member, a man out in the gutters, or one behind prison bars because of some criminal act, the fact is the same. You can drift into that condition because of refusing to regard the voice of God.

People go to hell because when they are brought face-to-face with God through a message, they refuse to heed the call to repentance. Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Whenever you feel uncomfortable or moved in your soul as a message goes forth, it is not the preacher doing it; it is the work of God upon your soul. You need to be aware of it.

### God Requires Full Obedience

In our Scripture text Jesus said, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in Him." As you read the entirety of that chapter, you cannot help but notice how right Jesus was. This man no sooner had his eyes opened than his neighbors, who before had seen that he was blind, in essence, queried in John 9:8, "Is not this he that sat and begged?"

He said "I am he."

In so many words, they said to him, "You were born blind, so how were your eyes opened?"

He replied, "A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went . . . and I received sight" (verse 11). If you are ever going to receive spiritual sight, you must go when Jesus says to go and wash where He says to wash. In the days of Elisha, a great captain of the Syrian host by the name of Naaman was sick with leprosy (a type of sin), and despairing of life. Although he was the captain of the Syrian host, he was a leper. What could be more discouraging? As he brooded over his sickness day after day and worried about his future, a young Hebrew maid said, in so many words, "If my master was in Israel, there is a man of God down there who could make him well of his leprosy."

"Well, send and fetch him."

"No, he will not come here. You will have to go to him."

"I am a leper, and I want to be healed, so I'll go." He went with the idea that he would send a messenger ahead to tell Elisha that the captain of the Syrian host was at his gate, hoping he would come out and heal him.

Naaman went in his pomp, his pride, and his glory and sent his servant to Elisha to say he was there. Elisha did not even make an appearance, but he told his servant to tell the captain, in essence, "Go and wash in the river Jordan."

"Aren't you going out to greet him?"

"Tell him to go and dip himself seven times in Jordan."

"Master, you don't understand. This is a reputable man, a great man. He deserves respect."

"Tell him to go and wash in the Jordan seven times."

"But the Jordan, why the Jordan River? Why not one of the beautiful streams of our country?"

"It must be the Jordan, seven times!"

You see, God is not going to do for us the way we like, or the way we want it. It is going to be how God wants it or we will perish. I can imagine as the servant went back to the captain and told him that Elisha said to go and dip in the Jordan River seven times, he became quite angry and said, "Who is he talking to that way? Dip in that dirty, stinking Jordan! Me, the captain of the Syrian host? Never! NEVER! Turn this chariot around!"

The servant said, "Just a minute, my master. May I speak?"

"Go on."

"If he had told you to do something great, would you not be delighted to do so? Why not try what He is telling you not do?"

"Me? I've got to go and dip seven times in Jordan? No, I will not!"

My friend, if you are ever going to see the inside of the pearly gates of Heaven, you are going to have to be as Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, which reads, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Finally, the captain submitted. It seems that you have to make some people angry before they get glad. So Naaman went and dipped once and nothing happened; twice—nothing; three times—nothing; a fourth time—nothing; a fifth time—nothing; a sixth—nothing. I am sure he thought, "Oh, this is not going to work. I should have known better than to let you talk me into doing this. He is making a fool of me."

"Master, one more time."

"Oh, all right."

When he came up the seventh time, he was healed. Glory be to God! There is nothing like obeying the voice of God and doing what God says. So many are void of the peace their souls are craving. They are void of the happiness, the freedom, and the power because they refuse to submit to God's Word.

### Time to Heed the Voice of God

In our Scripture text, Jesus answered the disciple's question, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God should be manifested in him." After they could not get him to change his testimony, they decided to take him before the Pharisees. Paraphrasing it, they asked, "Were you born blind?"

"Yes, sir."

"How long were you blind?"

"From birth, sir."

"And you now can see?"

"Yes, sir."

"By what means can you see?"

"A man named Jesus spat on the ground, made clay, anointed my eyes, sent me to the pool of Siloam to wash, and I went, and I came back seeing."

They asked, "Where are this fellow's parents? Summon them here immediately."

Presently they came. "Is this your son?"

"Yes, sir."

"Was he born blind?"

"Yes, sir."

"By what means is he seeing now?"

"We don't know. He is of age, ask him."

They had already done so, but they tried again before his parents. They asked, "You were born blind?"

"Yes, sir."

"And now you can see?"

"Yes, sir."

"By what means can you see?"

He answered, "I have told you already, and you did not hear."

He created a stir beyond any

that country had seen, even from John the Baptist's days. Finally, they came to the point where they said, "You were altogether born in sin, and yet you try to teach us?" Then they cast him out.

Jesus went on to make this declaration in verse 4 of our Scripture text: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." It is a declaration revealing that there is more to life than just existing. Life has its responsibilities, and it is not all in the physical. God is actually holding man responsible for a work to be done for Him.

In regards to this purpose of life, we read in Ephesians 1:5-10: "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him."

We can view this Scripture as having to do with gathering up in Heaven with the angels, but look beyond that and see God's great purpose in gathering men and women together on this earth into a saved relationship with Him.

He desires to gather us all together as one in Christ. Verse 11 reads, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Ephesians 2:7 states, "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Verse 10

says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

God is looking for people who will walk with Him and do His bidding, just as the angels are doing in Heaven. That is the purpose for the church. Paul said in Ephesians 3:14-15: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." This is the only division that God recognizes in His family, that of the one part being in Heaven and the other part being down here.

As God's people, we have a purpose to fulfill, and it is time to be fulfilling that purpose in these last days. We must be found applying ourselves more diligently to the realization of this purpose of

Almighty God. The Gospel was not ordained merely to entertain, but to be heeded and obeyed. Romans 1:16 states, "It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." It is time to heed the voice of God, before it is too late. May God help us.

(Cassette C-2075E)



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*Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.*

*2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowl-*

*edge.*

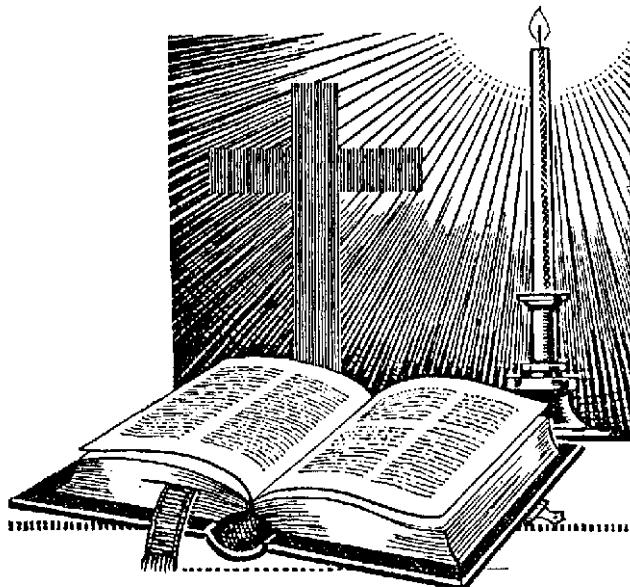
*3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

*4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of*

*the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,*

*5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.*

# The One Line of Truth



*Brother David Watson*

## **The True Gospel**

David was looking at the stars, the moon, and the sun, which is God's utility board as He illuminates the face of the earth. He found great glory in these and the light that was shining. He saw that God was sending a great light and a blessing, but he received a vision from what he was seeing in this. He was engaged toward Heaven, seeing that the Son of man was coming to set up His tabernacle. As he looked at this, he also saw the Bridegroom coming out of His chambers and rejoicing as a strong man that runs a race. He was setting forth the blessing that man was to receive concerning the law of God and the ministry of God and from whom it all came.

We receive our blessings from God. As God's people, we are to pass those blessings on to others as we receive them.

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:17-18: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."

The Apostle Paul was speaking of what David had said concerning the stars, the moon, the sun, and the language that was spoken. He brought it to the grace age to expound to us that it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaking, and it is going out to all the world.

Jesus did not come to this world

to die for only a handful of people or to set His Gospel before a handful of people. His Truth is the same in all the world. Wherever the Gospel is preached, it must be preached in one line of Truth, and that was what the Apostle Paul was setting forth. There is one language from the stars, the moon, and the sun, and that one language is this one true Gospel. The Gospel is good news. This Gospel is one message to a lost and dying world living in sin, and this one Gospel says the same thing to every person it speaks to. It does not say one thing to you and another thing to me; it says the same thing to all people. It speaks of one God and of one message.

The Apostle Paul wanted us to know there is one Gospel. In Gal-

tians 1:7-9 he said: "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

What was Paul saying? He was saying that all men have to preach it just as he preached it. They have to tell the same story that he told. There were those who came in among that congregation to pervert them. They were preaching a gospel, but it was not the true Gospel. The gospel they were preaching was to pervert them for their own personal gain. The true Gospel is to bring you to Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.

In the true Church of God, we do not have any church for you to join or anything to gain through you. The gain is for you and for Jesus Christ. Christ died for your sins. I did not hang on the Cross. It was Christ who hung on the Cross. It is Christ that we preach, the living Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the Gospel that brings the story to you about Jesus Christ. It preaches Christ and Him crucified, Christ and His resurrection, Christ in His wholeness, Christ in His kingdom, and Christ and His church.

I have nothing to offer you but the one Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that Gospel is not to pervert you and win you to me, but to bring you to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. That is what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. He wants you to know there is only one Gospel.

### Measured by One Line of Truth

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul was preaching that there are other lines, but there is really only one true line, and this is the line that went throughout all the earth—this one line of Truth. There are other

gospels, and other messages are being preached, but the true message is from Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:12-13: "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."

This Gospel that the Apostle Paul was speaking of was to the Romans. David of old had also spoken concerning the stars, the moon, the sun, and the language that they speak. It is this one line of Truth that we must measure by and that reaches every one of us. This Truth that we preach measures you, and it measures me. It lets us know where we stand, who we are, and what we need to do toward Him.

Truth comes from Jesus Christ. Some men have lines, some measure, and others set their style of how their religion is going to be; but, in essence, the Apostle Paul said, "For we dare not get in other men's measures. We have a measure, and this measure will measure even unto you." We do not need to pervert or change the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This record is good enough as it is. This record was settled in Heaven. In preaching it in its purity and power, it reaches every soul and has one language to the whole world, one line of Gospel Truth.

The stars, the sun, and the moon that David was talking about are what the church is dressed in. Revelation 12:1 states, "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." This is what John saw in his vision on the Isle of Patmos. He was there for a testimony of Jesus Christ and for the Word of God.

In this vision John saw a pure woman, which is a beautiful figure of the true church that God has instituted, and she is clothed with the sun. This is where God said He would set His tabernacle. In Hebrews 8:2 you can read that David said, "[Christ is the] minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." This woman was clothed with the sun. The sun that He spoke of is where the church is sitting, which is this one line of Truth, and this is the light of the church.

### The One Voice

Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." Matthew 5:14 reads, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." God has illuminated the world with His church, and the one line of Truth is glorifying her with the light that shines from Heaven. It is not a natural light, it is a spiritual light that illuminates your soul and shows you the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On this woman's head is a crown that has twelve stars. These twelve stars represent the Apostles, and these Apostles are lighted with the light of Heaven, and they have written the Book as God told them to write it. None of the Apostles ever crossed one another. They saw eye to eye as God gave it to them. Do you know why they did? There is only one line of Truth.

In Isaiah 52:8 the Prophet Isaiah said, "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye." He said those watchmen that stand on the mount shall lift up their voices with "the voice," and with "the voice" shall they sing. What voice was he speaking of? He was not talking about our voices, but God's voice. You see, it is not me who does the preaching; it is God. I merely furnish the vessel. In the morning time, it was not the Apostles; it was God from Heaven that set His tabernacle in those souls. It

was God's voice from Heaven that sent the message to those brethren. It was God from Heaven who gave them the Gospel to preach and the one line of Truth that went through the whole world. That one measure that measures even to you and me is this Gospel of Truth.

In Revelation 1:20 we find that He is standing among the seven candlesticks, and He holds the seven stars in His hand. Those seven stars, or the angels of the church, are the pastors of the church. God holds the ministry in His hand. If you will read Matthew, Chapter 10, Jesus sent out His disciples, and they went out. He told them there would be those who would deliver them up in the synagogue. He said they would be persecuted and brought before governors, but in Matthew 10:19 Jesus said to His disciples, "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak." Why were they not to think of what they were going to say? Because of the one voice. In other words, God was saying, "I will do the speaking, and you furnish the man." When they stood before the governor, the Lord stood with them. In reality, it was God's voice that the governor had to listen to.

God is our protection, and He is our remedy. God is the salvation of our souls. We must stand still and let God do the preaching. If God does the preaching, if we all will use the one voice, we will see eye to eye. Whenever we do not see eye to eye, somebody has missed the one voice. We need to speak together in the one voice and the one line of Truth. There is one Gospel to be preached, and that Gospel is the true Gospel to a lost and dying world.

### "Precept Upon Precept; Line Upon Line"

I thank the Lord for the Truth of God! Not only is that woman clothed with the sun and has a crown of twelve stars on her head,

but she has the moon under her feet. There is a law that guides you and me. Proverbs 6:23 reads, "For the commandment is a lamp [unto our feet]." How are you to walk in this world? You are to walk by the light of the Gospel Truth—this one line of Truth. David spoke of it in Psalm 119:105. He stated, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The law of God, which is the Word of God, will teach you how to walk. If you walk the Gospel walk, you are not just talking the Gospel talk. There is a walk that has to be done, and that walk is a strait walk with Jesus Christ.

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." This is a "strait" path, not a crooked one. You have to walk a strait line. There is a line on your life. There is a true line and it is a strait line. You may ask, "What does it do, preacher?" It draws a line from earth to Heaven, and if you will walk this way, you will end up in Heaven, because the Word of God will help you to walk the strait and narrow way and end up in Heaven. I thank God for the one line of Truth!

Isaiah asked the question in Isaiah 28:9, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." We cannot always remain babies and make it; we must grow spiritually.

Buddy Robinson said when he was little, his parents could not afford a baby bed, so they hewed out a hollow log and wrapped the two ends of it to make a cradle for him. His mother laid him in the hollow log while she was sewing, and when he cried, she bumped the hollow log and it would rock back and forth. She would sing, "Little Buddy, you're not always going to be a little boy. You're gonna grow up some day." He said, "I have never forgotten the song that my mama sang to me."

The measuring line goes beyond

being a baby or always being little children. We begin as children, but in understanding, we have to do some growing up. Therefore, you have to get off the milk and eat some meat as you go along life's way. Hebrews 5:12 reads, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat." Hebrews 5:14 tells us, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, this one line of Truth, is ever moving in your soul. It is moving you up. You are not going to stay in the same place all the time. You must do some growing and some moving. You need to do some measuring up as you go along. As the measuring line is stretched out, you must keep moving up as the measuring line is put on your life. You have to do some growing in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 28:10 says, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." The Gospel goes into all the world and every dialect. Isaiah 28:11 reads, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people." It does not stop in one dialect; it keeps moving and goes out to the whole world. This one Gospel of Jesus Christ is a precept in the Old Testament and a precept in the New Testament. It is a line in the old and a line in the new.

Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." In other words, we are to cut a strait line. You have to study to stay with the strait line. You cannot pick up the Bible and read it as you would read a story-book or a newspaper. You cannot lay it on the shelf all week long and expect to grow or expect the line to

reach any further. You have to pick up the Bible, knock off the dust, and let the line lay on your life and let the precepts guide your everyday living. The precepts are instructions. The line is the measure. The measuring line will measure you. The precepts will instruct you. You must do some moving up as the Word of God directs your soul.

### The Measuring Line of the Church

In the Book of Luke, Jesus said He had appointed a kingdom, and in John He said, "Come and dine." I believe there is a meal for the saints of God, and this line and this precept are good for us to chew on. When John received the Revelation, Revelation 10:5-6 says: "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever." The angel asked, "John, what does he have?" He said, "He has a book." He said: "Go get it, John. Take it and eat it up!" This is something that you can eat and digest. It will put the Gospel in your life. It will show you where to measure up so you can be ready to go. I thank God for the one line of Truth! I do not want to hear anything but what the line says, the Truth that He points out.

In Ezekiel, Chapter 40, the Prophet Ezekiel saw a man, and the man had this measuring line, and he was to measure. Ezekiel was excited about what he was going to do. Ezekiel 40:3 reads, "And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate." What was he going to do? He was going to measure every inch of the tabernacle and show Ezekiel everything about the church.

The Bible is the measuring line of the church. You are no deeper in the church than you are in the Bible. You measure no more in the church than you measure in the Bible; it is

the measuring line. The preacher is not the measuring line. The deacons are not the measuring line. The Bible is the precept of the instructions. This is the line that draws where the church begins and where she will end. This is the line that is put across the whole universe, and it takes in Heaven and earth; it is the one Gospel of Truth.

In Ephesians, Chapter 3, Paul talked about bowing his knees to the Father in whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, and then he went on to say that they might be able to comprehend what is the breadth, length, depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ. This thing gets bigger and better as you go along. This is not something that you start with and then it becomes dull. It gets brighter and brighter as the days go along.

Ezekiel saw the measuring line when the man waded in the water. It was ankle deep, but when he measured again, it was knee deep, and then when he measured again, it was loin deep. It came to be a great river. You will never thirst or hunger spiritually in the Church of the Living God. This thing gets better, deeper, richer, higher, and more glorious as you live by the Word of God. It is something that excites you every day of your life.

Sometimes when I get up in the morning, I may not feel well, but I start singing, and the Living Water starts flowing, and the Lord blesses my soul. The closest to this world you will ever be is the day that God saves you and takes you by the hand. He will put you in ankle deep, but then He is going to take you into a river that you can swim in. He is going to put you where the riches of God are and you can enjoy the wonderful blessings of the great Truth of the Living God. God has greater things as we travel along in the Christian life.

When I started out with God, it seemed that I was frightened. I did not understand much, but God said, "Hold on!" If you are walking with God, there will be things that you do

not understand, but you need to hold on to the line, hold on to the Truth, and stand for the Truth that God has shown you. When you do not know what to do, stand still. God's measuring line and instruction will help you to keep walking. God will keep leading you and blessing you as you travel along.

### Measuring the Temple of God

Ezekiel 43:10 says, "Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern." Did you know that God gives you a pattern to build by? God gave us the church and that is our pattern. Jesus was a carpenter's son, and what He built, He built right. He built it on a Rock, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. He built it by a line.

The Prophet Amos saw a man standing on the wall with a line in his hand. Every person has to be measured by the Word of God. You cannot be a rock in the building until you measure without shame. If you are ashamed of God, He will be ashamed of you.

The Lord showed Israel every part of that building. He took Ezekiel and carried him through from the threshold door to the inward part, to the chambers of the tabernacle, and to every part of that tabernacle. He came down to the tabernacle itself and showed him the going in and the going out, the fashions of it, the ordinance of it, and all the things of the church. In essence, the Lord said: "Ezekiel, if you are not ashamed, put this line on your life. I will show you the house."

The Lord was saying, "Before I show you the church, you must not be ashamed of My measuring line. You have to measure according to the measuring line." The only way you can see the church is when God shows it to you by the Word of God. When He shows you the church, He will show you the ordinance, the fashions, the laws thereof, and the going in and the going out thereof.

God's line is one line of Truth.

God does not tell a group of people over here how they can get in by deacons or by the preacher, and then say over there you can get in by Jesus Christ, because He is the Door, the Head of the building. God's line reaches every soul, and this one line of Truth says the same thing to every one of us. It is one measuring line, and we all must measure by that one line. Oh, how thankful I am for the Truth! I am thankful that I know the Truth, and I know where Truth has brought me from, where it has brought me to. I am saved in the ark of God by the Truth of God.

We read in Revelation 11:1-2: "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months." This measuring rod is the Word of God.

Revelation 12:5 tells us, "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." Some people try to say, "That is speaking of Jesus being born by Mary." No, that is not so. The woman represents the church. The child is born of the church, which is the seed of the church.

The child of God has a rod in his hand, and this rod is to measure the temple of God, which is the Church of God. The saints of God are God's temple. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 we read, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?" What measures you and me? The Word of God measures us. We measure into the church by the Word of God.

### Lining Up With the Measuring Rod

Romans 10:17 states, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and

hearing by the word of God." The Word of God was what was preached to them, and He brought old-time, Holy Ghost conviction. It shortened the bed and made the covers narrow. It let the water overflow the hiding place. The Word of God lets us know where we are and what our individual needs are. That is one reason we ought to go to church. We need to hear the Word preached.

When Paul was getting ready to go to the chopping block and die, he wrote young Timothy a letter. He said in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Why? The Word of God is the measuring rod. If you will use the measuring rod, you will not allow men to pervert you to another gospel. The church has to have the measuring rod. The church must always be measured by the Truth, not by an ideal, a theology, or man's ideology. No matter what the world says, if you measure by the Word of God, you are in the church, and nobody can put you out. The Head is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

First Corinthians 11:3 states, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." God is the Head of the church. Now, the man is the head of the wife in the home, but when she comes in God's church, God is her head. When she is under God's salvation, God is her Head. The woman must obey God and come in by the measuring rod. In God's church, there is only one Head, and we all come in by the Word of God, and that Word measures the woman as well as the man.

Matthew 7:1 reads, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." You see, we use the rod and leave it just as it is. We are not to judge. God is the Judge. Truth is what judges us. Some people have said, "Well, preacher, you can't judge me." They misunderstand me. I am sent to preach the Truth. I use the rod of

God; I am not judging anyone. It is God. The only thing I will do is tell people what God has said. That is the reason I like to quote Scriptures. I believe when I give the chapter and verse, it rightly divides the Word.

Verse 2 states, "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." I do not care if you share a line with me if you are living that line and Truth, but do not judge me if you are not. This Word is what takes us higher or lower. You see, it is not the preacher that is going to give you a higher seat. You must go down before you can go up. If you measure by the Truth, it will give you a place.

Verse 3 says, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" If you have something in your eye, it is darkness to the body. The eye is the light of the body. We need light. You have to keep your own eyes clean. Sometimes you might have to pray about how you are looking at things. You might have to go back to the measuring line and use the rod and see how far it measures and what it is measuring. God does not give me more than I can understand. You should not put your eye on somebody else when there is a beam in your own eye. You need to have good vision. I thank God for the one measuring line! I do not care if someone puts the measuring line on me if he has good eyesight.

Verses 4-5 read: "Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

If you do not understand, you cannot be of much help to a brother. I was told that before I could help anybody else, I had to first help myself, and I found that to be so. I have even found that so in my

home. I find that sometimes my wife can help me when I need help. You may say, "Do you mean, preacher, that you would humble yourself that way?" Yes. Credit should be given where credit is due. We have to humble ourselves and be loving, kind, and gentle. We must be willing to have the measuring line put on us.

Matthew 7:6 reads, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." In Revelation 11:2 Jesus said not to measure the outer court because it was given to the Gentiles, and they would trample it under their feet. You cannot help people who turn down the Gospel. There is no need for you to stand and argue

with people when they do not want it. Some people have closed minds, and you cannot teach them anything. You must have an open mind to learn, and that is the reason you always need to be willing to take it home with you and study it. You do not have to throw it down and go out and say, "Well, I am not going to have any part of that! That's not for me!"

Once you hear the Gospel preached, you will never be the same, whether you accept it or reject it. You are going to be either better or worse than you were because you have been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ. It will bring either joy or condemnation to your soul. You need to study the Word of God. Do not trample it under your feet.

Hebrews, Chapter 10, lets you

know that when you trample the Gospel under your feet, you are trampling the blood of Jesus Christ under your feet. He is that measuring line that is measuring you and me. I thank God for this great Truth!

If the Word of the Lord has searched you and the line is coming across your soul, you need to measure up to it. You need to be like Paul of old when he bowed. In Ephesians, Chapter 3, Paul desired to know the height, the depth, and the breadth of this thing. You need to know more about God and the church. Now, there is one thing you can do. You can ask God for more, and He will give you more.

(Compact Disc TR-503E)

[Guest Editorial—contin. from p. 2]  
ment and murmuring stirred God's anger to the degree that at one time He sent fiery serpents to bite them; thus, many were destroyed (read Numbers 21:6).

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

Contentment is not something that is sent down from Heaven as a special gift, neither is it being slothful, whereas you are unconcerned about what happens. It is a state of mind and of the heart. It is not dependent upon situations or cir-

cumstances, but rather in trusting His wisdom. Being content is a lesson we each must learn. The secret of success is learning to adapt one's self to the conditions and being at peace with those conditions. Rather than looking on the dark side of the situation or problem, you need to strive to look on the bright side. You must learn to look for the good that you can attain from each situation.

The Apostle Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul enjoyed not only the good things from the Lord but also he patiently endured the things that came upon him to cause him to suffer. Therefore, whether he was rejoicing with the good or suffering with the reverses, he had learned the wonderful secret of how to apply himself in every situation that came his way. He possessed a deep contentment and a calmness within his soul, knowing that the great God of Heaven would lead him through safely and with victory. Paul experienced a sweet peace within that enriched his life while enduring the unpleasant things that befell him.

We, too, as Christians must learn this valuable lesson of con-

tentment. The command is to "be content with such things as ye have" (Hebrews 13:5). You need to stop worrying and fretting about the things you do not have and lay aside the anxiousness over the future and what might happen. The Lord wants you to look up and be thankful for that which you do possess. Happiness, peace, and contentment do not come from the abundance of worldly goods that one has acquired. They come from knowing Christ and having Him dwell within your heart.

To be truly happy and to be able to sing the joyful songs of praise, you must put forth the effort to learn the joy of contentment, striving daily to find contentment and war against anything that would endeavor to destroy it. You must constantly cultivate your spirit and allow your faith and trust in God to grow. You must follow the pattern that God has laid out, thereby finding contentment in whatsoever state and situation life finds you. Then you can boldly sing the songs of glad rejoicing, knowing your soul is resting in His protective care.

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