

"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

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 43 September 2013 No. 9



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

Phone: 740-344-2543 or 1-888-730-0461
Fax: 740-344-4737

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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 13:1-34)
Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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Vol. 43 September 2013 No. 9

Guest Editorial

"Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed."

Ezekiel 18:30-31

Repent and Turn to God

God's attitude toward the lost has always been the same. His desire is that the transgressors see the error of their way and turn to Him. God has never had pleasure in men and women going through life being separated from Him and then dying in a lost condition. Over and over through the ages, God has asked men and women to repent and turn to Him. Why choose to be lost when a pardon awaits you for the asking? Peter said the Lord "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God's power is the same today as it has been from the beginning of time. He can still reach into the very depths of sin and save the vilest sinner. It is strong enough to break every chain that binds the soul of man. You might have slipped into great depths in sin, but as Isaiah 59:1 expresses, "God's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save." There is hope for you if you will only turn to Him in true repentance. You need to see Him with outstretched arms, beckoning you to come to Him.

Jesus said in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." These words of our Lord ought to bring hope and encouragement to those who have gone astray. If you turn to the Savior now, He will not refuse you. In John 6:37 Jesus tells us, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Every Scripture in the Word of

God that pertains to salvation is in your favor. It assures you that God is able, willing, and ready to grant you a full pardon. There is no slackness on God's part. No weakness can prevent Him from delivering your soul from destruction. He can perform all that He has promised. With all His promises being "yea" and "amen," please note that any failure to find forgiveness is on the part of the individual. There is no reason for anyone to be lost!

The long-suffering and mercy of God waits in anticipation for a man or a woman to surrender and serve Him. Beware, there is danger in procrastination! There can be great calamity to those who put off their soul's salvation. Why? No one ever knows when death will come and cut off the possibility of getting right with Him. Remember, every day you remain under sin's dominion, eternal doom awaits you. Today is the accepted time. "Behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). "To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7-8).

The decision rests with you. You have the right to choose how you live in this world, You may prefer to go on living your own sinful way, but be assured that this choice will be the greatest mistake that you will make in life. As you choose to walk contrary to God and refuse His pardoning love, you also are choosing to spend eternity in the regions of the lost.

[continued on page 7]

Ezekiel 11:1 Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

2 Then said he unto me, Son of man, these are the men that devise

mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city:

3 Which say, It is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh.

Ezekiel 12:21 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

22 Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every

vision faileth?

27 Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off.

28 Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.

The Grave Danger of Procrastination



Brother Roger L. Decker

A Deceptive Spirit at Work

The people of Israel thought that the words of the prophecies that had been spoken were still in the future and they had time to live normal lives. They thought they did not have to worry about this prophecy at all. As we look at the Scripture text, we see that a very dangerous thing had taken place in the land of Israel. The prophecy was being told around the nation of Israel that days go by and every vision comes to nothing. Israel of old was raising up by saying, in essence: "Day after day, there is no change, so the predictions come to nothing. The

prophecies of the prophets are a long way off yet. They are out in the future, and they have not come to pass."

We find in the New Testament that the same spirit was working in the days of Peter. Second Peter 3:3-4 says: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? [In other words, people were saying: 'Where is all this stuff that God is supposed to do? Where are all these things that are supposed to happen? Are they in the future?'] for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they

were from the beginning of the creation."

Nothing has changed since the Creation. That same spirit is still as alive today as ever, and it is working a terrible condition of procrastination on sinners and even on the people of God who have needs. That spirit deceives people into thinking that the Word of God does not mean what it says. To them, the days keep rolling by and nothing happens. They need to be reminded of what the Word of God says.

The wise man, writing in Ecclesiastes 8:11, said, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the

heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Just because God does not bring immediate judgment every time somebody steps out of line does not mean that God has forgotten it, and it does not mean that God has forgiven it. When a person commits sin, God has the record, and somewhere along the line, there will be retribution.

In Ezekiel, Chapter 11, we read that Israel had been listening to evil counselors. Dear one, it is never an easy job for God's messengers to get up and talk about chastisement and judgment to come; nevertheless, it is the duty of a faithful messenger of the Lord.

In the Word of God often we find that the message and the messengers were treated with contempt. In 2 Chronicles 36:14-16 we read this: "Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy."

The Prophet Ezekiel said they mocked God's messengers, despised His words, and misused His prophets. God's messengers, His Word, and His prophets were all means of deliverance, which they rebelled against until there was no remedy. If you are ever going to get your life straightened out with God, you must come through the Word of God to get it straightened out, and you need a messenger to tell you about it.

Only God knows, but it could be that some people have gotten themselves in that very condition today. When people get in that condition (when there is no remedy), they are living on borrowed time, and they

are doomed. It is as though they are sealed in a lost eternity, and they are merely living from day to day.

Unbelief

Isaiah 30:9-11 says: "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us."

You need to watch out for the counselor who gives advice that leaves your soul at ease and justifies you when you are wrong. Be careful of that one who says you do not have to live the Bible standard. The enemy is chopping away at that. Why? The Bible lets us know that, as Christians, we are as a theater. In other words, people look at us and watch our lives. Nothing about people in false religion will move you.

Somebody may say, "Well, they have good personalities." Some people in Hollywood have good personalities too. The Bible says that God looks on the heart, but man looks on the outward appearance. No one was ever brought to the Lord because you saw another person's heart. A person comes to the Lord because he saw the manifestations of another person's heart. You saw how somebody acted, perhaps in a time of adversity, and that person had a concern and a love for your soul. Often that is what moves a person to the Lord.

You need to beware of the minister who opens the gate to just anything. It is Truth that you are going to face at the Judgment, not ministers; you are going to face Jesus Christ. Remember, Peter said there are those who scoff at His promise, in essence, saying: "Where is the promise of His coming? Things are not any different now than they have ever been." Friend,

carelessness comes with that kind of thinking, and it will send your soul to a lost eternity. Jesus said He would come again. Also, Paul said Jesus would return, but the scoffers said: "Where is the God of judgment? It must be that the fathers looked in vain. Nature continues as usual. No major earthshaking event has occurred. The world is continuing as before." What had hold of those people? It was unbelief. They were probably thinking: "Yes, God might have created the world and called into action the forces working in the universe, but now He leaves His forces to govern and leaves all to the rule of law, because He does not interfere in the affairs of man." The teaching of the Word of God is contrary to this type of thinking. The Father is always at work in our behalf.

Jesus said in John 5:17, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Paul said in Acts 17:28, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." It is God who sustains this universe from day to day and hour to hour. Without His support the world would collapse.

Can you imagine what it would be like to walk out in the world where there was no God at all? Can you imagine what it would be like if everybody was left to his own conscience, as it mentions in Judges 21:25? Thank God, the presence of God sustains us and keeps us. The laws of nature have no life or power within themselves. What are they? They are an expression of the divine will of God. All the divine laws are in the control of an all-powerful God who changes not; but God can suspend their operation at His command. Nature, the divine law that God set up, works in order. Why? He is a God of uniformity.

When Do Prophecies Come Near?

The scoffer's cry was that everything was staying just as it was and that nothing major had hap-

pened to shake people up and turn people to God, but that was not true. There was the Flood, which was the divine judgment of God. There was the Red Sea, where Pharaoh and his army were destroyed. There were the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were destroyed. There was the literal destruction of Jerusalem that was destroyed by Prince Titus and his army in A.D. 70. It was by God's Word that the heavens and the earth were made, and it is by God's Word that they are maintained.

Second Peter 3:6-7 states: "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." Men are not going to destroy the world with the exhaust from their automobiles. The destruction of the world will be held in reserve for God to take care of when it is time. God does not need man to destroy everything. He has that held in reserve for Him. God sees the end from the beginning. He is God! God is not a God of time, but rather He is an eternal God. Time is for you and me. We are creatures of time, and we are moving quickly toward eternity.

There is great peril in procrastinating. Your soul is the most precious commodity that you possess. You will not get a chance to redo your life. If you mess up in this world, when God gives you opportunity after opportunity, the peril is your own fault. You have only one soul. You will not get a chance to get another one. You need to bring your soul to the Lord and let Him cleanse it.

The people in Ezekiel's day so stirred God that He said, in so many words, "This proverb is going to cease." He went on to say, "The days are at hand" (Ezekiel 12:23). One writer said, "Faith will make the distance nearer, but unbelief will put the nearer at a distance." One

has said, "Unbelief looks through the wrong end of a telescope."

Another man once said, "For Satan cannot persuade men to look upon the Judgment to come as doubtful and uncertain, yet he gains his point by persuading them to look upon it as a thing at a distance so that it loses its force." To a real messenger of God, and you hear it all through the Bible, eternity is always near.

The most important thing about you is your soul. Procrastination is a great peril. As long as things go well and people prosper, vain proverbs will continue; but when real trouble comes, the bubble bursts. As long as things are going really well in people's lives, they feel happy and secure. You are going to have vain proverbs when people say, "Yes, I know Jesus will come, but a lot of things have to happen yet." However, when things turn in their lives, those far-off prophesies come near.

Failing to Heed the Warning

The procrastinator does not plan to be lost. He feels that someday, somewhere, sometime, he is going to make his peace with God. Putting off salvation is like telling God, "I'll serve You later, but right now I have lots of things to do, and I've got some other things that I enjoy better than serving You."

What does the Bible say about this kind of thinking? Does it go along with the teaching of Jesus? He taught in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." You can read of some people in the Word of God who put off their soul's welfare until it was too late. The people in Noah's day were busy living from day to day and ran out of time.

In my mind I can imagine that when the rain started coming down, no doubt, people looked up to the sky and said: "Noah was right! I'm a good friend of Noah's. Let's go over there and bang on the door." There was probably lots of banging on the

door of the ark. Maybe the people threw rocks against the ark to try to get Noah's attention, but God had shut Noah and his family in. When God shuts the door, no man can open it. Those who were beating on the door of the ark were just as lost as those who were fifty miles away. Friend, being close to the kingdom is not the same as being in the kingdom. In other words, being close to getting saved is not the same as being saved.

Many people have trouble getting to church on Sunday morning. They have trouble getting their family ready for church. What do they do when it comes to school for their children? Do they skip school? Do they sometimes take them and sometimes let them stay home? No, they get them ready for school. Instead of having several people lined up for the shower on Sunday morning, they could let the children take their showers on Saturday night. Sometimes people get into the habit of being late, but they are not late for the things they really want to attend. Some people miss church if they have the slightest headache. Why not go to church and get prayed for?

In Noah's day the people put off the welfare of their souls. What happened? Luke 17:26-27 says: "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage [In other words, they were living normal lives], until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

We can read of those who failed to heed the warning of Jesus regarding the literal destruction of Jerusalem. In Luke 21:20-22 Jesus said: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. [Why?]

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." Everyone who obeyed the sayings of Jesus Christ was saved. Everyone who failed to obey the warning of Jesus Christ was lost.

Next, we read of Felix, who received a personal visit from the Apostle Paul. We read in Acts 24:25, "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." When was it going to be a convenient season? We do not read that the Apostle Paul ever dealt with Felix's soul again after that.

The Danger of Delay

There are people who need to leave Babylon, and they need to get out of there immediately. It will destroy your soul, your thinking, and your attitude. Jeremiah 51:6 says, "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense."

This Old Testament Scripture is again brought to light in the New Testament in Revelation, Chapter 18, speaking of spiritual Babylon. John wrote in verses 4-6: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double." That double cup was given in the sixth seal and also in the seventh seal.

Procrastination is going to cause some people to miss Heaven, and it is so unnecessary. If that is your lot, you need to quit putting off the salvation of your soul. Your soul is the real you, and you do not want to

spend all eternity in the region of the lost.

There are professing Christians who keep putting off taking care of struggles that they are having or who keep putting off what the Lord has shown them that they must do. It could be asking for forgiveness or making a restitution. It could be that they owe money and have not taken care of it or something that the Lord has shown them that they must restore and they have failed to do it. Dear one, do not let time run out on you. When God shows you something, you need to do it. Do it under the direction of the Lord, but do it. Do not let time run out on you, because in eternity it will be too late.

One has said with regard to those who put off their great work to the last: "It is a thousand to one that they have not time to do it then. Getting grace is a work of time, and it cannot be done in a hurry. While the poor, waking soul addresses itself upon a sick bed to repentance and prayer and awful confusion, it scarcely knows which end to begin at or what to do first. Presently death and the Judgment comes, and the work is undone and the poor sinner is undone forever. That would be a tragedy. This comes to needing oil to buy when one should burn it and grace to get when he should use it."

I wrote down some reasons that people procrastinate and put off spiritual things. One reason is, they do not feel that God will do anything about their putting it off. They feel that God, Who is rich in mercy, will always give them another chance. They know that preachers have been saying, "Today is the day of salvation." They have been saying it for a long time. Yet they want to go into sin and try it to see what it is like. Is that the way it is with cancer? Would you like to try cancer just to see what it is like? Of course not! Would you like to have your arm broken just to see what a broken arm feels like? Of course not! You have heard how bad cancer is. No doubt, you have heard how bad

sin is, but many people want to go out into sin and try it first. The reason is not even a good reason. "When I'm sick of it," ones think, "then I'll consider salvation." These thoughts are very dangerous.

The Consequences of Putting Off Repentance

I want to tell you some reasons that thoughts that cause you to put off salvation are dangerous. First, the world has a power that binds. You cannot go out and try the world and come back to God any time you want to. The spirit of the world is enmity against God; it is God's enemy. When you go out and try things, you will become bound by them. For example, some people wanted to try tobacco, and to this very day they struggle over it. I once had the same problem.

Some people want to try alcohol. They wonder, "What's it like to drink a can of beer?" or "What's it like to have a mixed drink?" That is how alcoholics get started. They do not start out by drinking a full case of beer, a fifth of whiskey, or a bottle of wine a day. They start out a little at a time.

Some people talk about the big highs they can get on drugs. They say, "I want to try drugs." Everybody starts out that way. First, they may try a little marijuana. The next thing they know, it becomes a habit, and with the habit comes a desire to try stronger drugs. Then what happens? The habit becomes very costly to support. When they do not have any more money, what happens? They begin to steal and lie to support the habit, a habit that they would not have if they would have listened to God.

The second reason that such thoughts are dangerous is that while you are out in the world, your time could be up. Each of us is going to die. Life is fragile. We each have a soul that will live forever, but we have a flesh that is going to die. Your time on this earth could end while you are still making up your

mind.

The third reason that thoughts that would cause you to put off salvation are dangerous is that God has another side that is called wrath and judgment. Dear one, nobody can stand up to the wrath of God. God jerked the covers off Jerusalem with Prince Titus. When Israel came to the place where they refused to obey God, God came to the place where He was going to destroy them, and nothing backed off His hand. No tribulation before or after that could even come close to what happened there. That was the wrath of God right here on this earth.

Can you imagine what it is going to be like to stand before God? I have thought of it many times, and it makes me shudder to think about it. Can you imagine what the Judgment is going to be like for people who have backed away from the message?

Child of God, what is it that the enemy attacks the most? He tries to tear down your witness. The Bible standard is not too difficult; it is just what it needs to be.

The fourth reason that such thoughts are dangerous and that going out into the world is dangerous is that the fear of God is lacking

in your life as it ought to be. Dear one, you need to fear God. Somebody may say: "Well, I don't fear God. I can handle myself." You do not even know what you are talking about. Many times people do what they do because they lack the fear of God. Proverbs 9:10 reads, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." You start to get wise when you fear God. When you are saved, there is a presence of the fear of God in your life automatically.

Dear one, please do not wait until Satan has scarred and destroyed your life. Do not wait until you have nothing left to offer the Lord but a body that is about physically worn out with a corrupt conscience and an immoral lifestyle. You ought to serve God now.

The Bible lets us know in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." While you have the right use of your mind and body, you need to come to Him while you can. You should not put it off a moment longer because time soon will be swallowed up by eternity. I repeat, putting off repentance is dangerous.

You may put off a lot of things in life. You may break appointments and not suffer any consequences. You can put off buying a car, buying a home, or buying new clothes and not suffer the consequences; however, when you put off repentance, you are going to suffer the consequences.

There is a great danger in procrastination. Many people feel that time is going to go right on and that tomorrow will be as today, but do not be fooled. If the Lord wills, it will be the same tomorrow. If you are struggling with something in your life, you need to quit putting off getting it taken care of. You need to bring it to the Lord and get the thing straightened out once and for all. God wants to help you. He loves you. He has no favorites. He does not lift one above another; but as much as He loves you, He expects you to obey His Word. Your security rests in having a personal experience with Jesus Christ. If you lack it, you need to do something about it now. Won't you take your struggles to the Lord? He will so wonderfully help you.

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[Guest Editorial—contin. from p. 2]

One must understand that he or she cannot become a Christian or depart from sin just anytime he feels like it. If you ever obtain salvation, it will be when God is ready or when He invites you. John 6:44 tells us, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." The time to be saved is when God calls to you, when He speaks to your heart. God calls through His Spirit or through the preaching of the Gospel and brings conviction of sin. Conviction is sent to make you aware of your lost condition. It brings knowledge that you have grieved the heart of God. When the prodigal son realized his deplorable condition, he arose and went back to his father. He realized the

foolish error that he had made. He forsook his way and surrendered himself. Every lost soul must forsake his own way and turn to the Lord. There is mercy and pardon waiting each one who will turn to God.

Another mistake that some people make is that of trying to get saved on their own terms. Some people think they can dictate to God certain conditions that He must agree to before they yield. Trying to bargain with God is futile. Friend, this idea will never work! Isaiah 55:7-8 informs us: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my

thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." When a man or a woman surrenders to God, it must be unconditional and without stipulation.

Dear one, it is to your advantage to seek God while He may be found and while you have the opportunity. He loves you, but He is angry at your sin and rebellion. In Deuteronomy 30:19 these words are penned: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Friend, the choice is yours. The Lord is inviting you to repent and turn to Him before it is too late.

Selected

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon,

that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the

nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.



A System of Bondage

Brother David Watson

Clinging to a False System

In our Scripture text John was receiving a vision. I thank God that John was willing to pay the price so that God could use him and give him a revelation. The Spirit will not work where there is bondage; He works where liberty and freedom are. John saw the angel coming down from Heaven with a chain. By the revelation of God, he knew that the devil is a spirit, and you cannot tie a spirit with a literal chain. We have to tie him with a spiritual chain, and the chain is the Word of God.

From the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, the devil has used systems of bondage. He has used those systems to cause men and women to fall into bondage since the Garden of Eden. He often

changes clothes and uses cunning craftiness to toss people to and fro and to keep them from having a clear vision of the church standing without spot or blemish.

In Ezekiel, Chapter 29, Ezekiel was speaking concerning Pharaoh in his prophecy. Pharaoh put the children of Israel in bondage, under hard slavery, and set taskmasters over them. Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 29:2-4: "Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt: Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself. But I will put hooks in thy jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales,

and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, and all the fish of thy rivers shall stick unto thy scales."

This is figurative language of a bondage system and a people who were clinging to Pharaoh. Most people who are in a system of bondage cling to a man, not Jesus Christ. People who are in a system of bondage always point to that system. What ties people to a man is the system they get into. Every person, from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, who leaned on man had some sort of system to hook people with.

Isaiah 2:22 states, "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils." We must not follow man; we must follow Jesus Christ. Every person needs to get past man. He needs to get past the preacher to get to Jesus

Christ, the Son of the Living God. One needs to be hooked by the Word of God instead of the hook of some man who is leading him by his system.

Revelation 12:3-4 reads: "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." This system is a pagan, idolatrous system, a system that has seven heads.

Revelation 17:9 explains that these seven heads are as seven mountains, upon which a woman sat. This woman is a false woman, because this is a false system. These seven women are also found in Isaiah 4:1, which reads, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." They admitted that they had a reproach and that they did not want to eat His bread or wear His garments. Friend, if you follow Jesus, you must eat His bread and wear His garments.

A Name Above Every Name

John wrote in Revelation 19:8, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Some people wear their own righteousness and have their own name. The Prophet said in Zechariah, Chapter 14, there is one Lord and one name. Zechariah wrote in verse 9, "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 2:9-11: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above

every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." No other name is given, and there is no greater name than Jesus Christ.

I want you to know that the name Church of God gives identity. You cannot tell anyone who you are without your name. Our Heavenly Father's last name is God, and His first name is Jehovah. His Son's name is Jesus, and the Third Person of the Godhead is the Holy Ghost: He is holy in character, and He is the Spirit. When Jesus was on the Cross of Calvary, He yielded up the Ghost, and the Ghost was the Spirit of Him. When God sent back Jesus' Spirit, He called His Spirit the Holy Ghost. As a Christian, it is the Spirit of Life in your soul that resurrects you to live a holy and righteous life right in this present world.

Going back to our Scripture lesson, I want you to notice that this dragon system was in heaven, but not in God's Heaven, or God's eternal dwelling place. Some people may argue, "The devil got mad when he was an angel, and he tried to overtake Heaven." Some people say the devil was once an angel in Heaven. Some of the same people say that if a person was once saved, he can never be lost. According to what they believe, the devil is going back to Heaven someday. He had to be saved if he was ever in God's Heaven. You see, that teaching is false. What they do not see is that heavenly place.

The church was born in a heavenly place. Old Israel was constituted by heaven and earth and the New Testament church is constituted by heaven and earth. That first heaven and first earth passed away, and we have a new heaven and a new earth. The bride stands in that new heaven, and she is constituted by Heaven. Ephesians 2:6 says that God raised us and made us sit together in heavenly places. This

verse is not speaking of a building. God gave us a heavenly law, or a heavenly statute. God's people sit together in heavenly places in Jesus Christ.

John saw the church in Revelation, Chapter 21, coming down from God out of Heaven. Peter said in that dwells the righteousness of God. What manner of persons must we be? Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:11, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."

The dragon spoken of in our Scripture text opposes the church. Some folks do not understand how the people of God are kept together in the church. God keeps His people together. If the blood of Jesus will not do it, if the Spirit of God will not do it, if the love of God in people's souls will not do it, then they will not be kept together. When Jesus saved us, old things passed away and all things became new. He brought us to heavenly places. The Kingdom of God is joy, righteousness, and peace in the Holy Ghost.

This system of bondage came to destroy the man child. Why is the child called a man child? Because a man never changes his name. The woman is the one who changes her name when she marries, but a man does not. The church does not change her name. She is not called Saint Paul's or Saint Luke's. She is not called the Episcopal Church. God's church wears a divine name, a name that is above every name. God called her *the* Church of God. She is not the first, the second, or the third. The word *the* gives specific identity to a word or a phrase.

People are not the Church of God because they are sitting under the church's name. They are the Church of God when God brands them with that name. That is the only way we come to be the Church of God and become a member of the family of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:2, when Paul wrote to the congregation there, he addressed the epistle to "the Church of God which is at

Corinth." The people who gathered there were not *of* Corinth but *at* Corinth. They were people of doctrine, of Truth, of light, and of understanding. Also, they were rid of a system that put them in bondage. They were *the* Church of God, and Paul addressed his letter to them.

Earthly Religions

The dragon wars against the church and tries to pull her down. In the morning time people got bewitched by it, and there are people who get bewitched by it today. In John 6:53 Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." Those people got angry and said, "This is an hard saying" (verse 60), and many of them went back and walked no more with the Lord.

In Matthew, Chapter 25, Jesus spoke a parable about talents. He said the Kingdom of Heaven is as a man traveling to a far country. The man called his servants together, and to one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent; then the man went away. The servant to whom the man gave only one talent hid it in the earth. He put it in bondage, if you please.

Jeremiah 17:13 reads, "O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters." This system of bondage was working in Jeremiah's day. Those who departed from the Lord had their names written in the earth, but that does not mean their names were written in the natural earth. He was saying their names were written in an earthly religion, a system of bondage. Earthly religions have membership books, and they check to see if your name is in their book before they know whether or not you are a member of their sect. In God's church God knows whether or not you are a member. When you get saved, you do not have to have

your name written in a man's book and study his decree; you can look into God's written Book and know whether or not you are a member.

Proverbs 21:16 states, "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead." Did you know that some dead folks, spiritually speaking, are walking around? Did you know that some congregations are spiritually dead? Some of them are buried and do not know it. In Ezekiel, Chapter 37, Ezekiel prophesied to a valley of dry bones. When a person is dead, he is dry. He has no revelation and no Spirit. Second Corinthians 3:17 says, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Ezekiel preached to those dry bones, and soon bone came to His bone. If you get with the Church of God and receive a resurrection from Jesus, you will not get a strange bone; you will get His bone.

In the Book of Genesis, when Adam got his wife, she did not get a strange bone, she got his bone. That is a type of the bride of Christ, the church. Ephesians 5:30 tells us, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." When a person is resurrected, that person's bone comes to His bone, and He covers that person with His flesh, or the Word of God. Then that person is in the kingdom, the church, not in a false system. I praise God for the Truth! The church is born in a heavenly place.

"Believe Not Every Spirit"

Earthly systems always offer bondage. What do they worship? Anytime people get in a false system, they worship false things. Have you ever been in any place where they have the covenant written out and posted on the wall? What does Habakkuk say about the vision? Habakkuk 2:2-3 says that the Lord told Habakkuk to "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time,

but at the end it shall speak, and not lie." In other words, if you do not understand it today, think on it for a while, and it will speak to you.

You will not find the Truth, the revelation about God, if you worship false things and do not worship what is true. There is something in every person that wants to worship. When I was living in sin, I worshiped under the devil's spirit. You did too. There are spirits in all religions. First John 4:1 warns, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God [it is important to see whether or not a spirit is of God]: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." There are spirits that will take hold of your spirit. I have seen people cry when, if they knew there was not any truth in what they were crying about, they would have stopped their crying quickly. I have seen people shout more over grandma and grandpa than they shouted over Jesus.

People in a false system worship false things. In Matthew, Chapter 23, we find that some scribes and Pharisees wanted to sit in Moses' seat. They wanted to use their own authority in high places. James got after people when he preached that one should not say to a brother, "Come and sit here," because he is rich, but to the poor, they say, "Go sit down over there." In God's church there are no big I's and little you's.

The Prophet Isaiah stated in Isaiah 52:8, "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion." Isaiah was saying that the brethren will see eye to eye in the Church of God. One brother might have more head knowledge than another, but if the love of God is in both of them, they will stay on the same level in love.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees in Matthew, Chapter 23, because they flaunted their titles and their education. They wanted to be called "Rabbi" by all the people. Education

is wonderful, but without God it is dangerous. They wanted to put themselves up on a pinnacle. Someone may make a person look good by calling him "Doctor," but a pigtail would make a pig look good. The tail would not add any pork. The same is true of the title, "Doctor of Divinity." The title does not add to his revelation. The revelation comes from God. The Spirit of God cannot work in systems of false religion.

Jesus reproved the Pharisees because they put people in bondage. Jesus said the scribes and Pharisees were like whited tombs. In other words, they made the outside look good, but on the inside they were like those tombs: they were full of rottenness and dead men's bones.

In Ezekiel, Chapter 37, the Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones and, in essence, say, "If you will hear My Word, I will give you a resurrection." Some people have their bones down to a rotten place, and they need to turn to worship the Living God. You cannot worship God with dead things. You have to come alive in Jesus Christ.

The Devil's Cunning Way of Bewitching Souls

The scribes and Pharisees were white-washing the tombs, going through rituals and ceremonies, washing cups, and putting their offerings on the altar, yet they were in bondage. In John 8:32 Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

When I was a little boy, I used to catch June bugs. We did not have many toys, so we had to go outside and hunt or make something to play with. I would tie a string to one of their legs and let it fly out a little ways and then pull it back. It would spin and its little wings would really work. The only way it could get away from me was to pull its leg off, and then it was gone.

In circumstances of bondage, Jesus said in Matthew 5:29, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is

profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." In other words, you should get loose from anything that offends the Spirit of God and go to Jesus Christ. There is freedom where the Lord is. When I found Jesus, He taught me some things. He taught me to sing, to praise God, to laugh, and to enjoy the family of God. I am glad that I am free. I am not in bondage to any man. I am free in the church. I have liberty and joy through Jesus Christ. I thank God for the freedom of the great Church of the Living God.

In verse 2 of our Scripture text, we read that Jesus laid hold on "the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil." The devil started working way back in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis, Chapter 3, the serpent approached the woman. God did not tell that woman a lie. He gave Adam and Eve a good home and good fruit to eat. Did you know that, as Christians, we are to bear fruit? God put one tree in the midst of the garden (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil), and commanded them not to eat of it. He said the day that they ate of it, they would surely die. Through the serpent, the devil came up with a cunning way to bewitch the soul of that woman. Some people think she ate a natural apple. No, she did not. She ate a lie. A lie has death in it. All liars will have their part in the lake of fire.

The devil lied to that woman, and because she believed him, she lost her garden home. Adam and Eve were driven from that heavenly place to a way of sickness and sorrow and death. When they sinned, they were driven from the garden. They did not die a natural death; they died a spiritual death. In Ecclesiastes 1:18 Solomon said, "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." The more you know about the world's dealings, if you have any morals about you, the more you are afflicted with the things of the world. There is bondage in it.

In Matthew, Chapter 3, John did not have a pulpit wherein he could preach in town, so he went by the river and preached, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). A generation of vipers came out there where John was preaching. They were not literal snakes crawling on the ground; they were men with a serpent nature. They were looking at something that astounded them. They did not exactly know what John had to say. They had not heard anyone speak that way before.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I've never heard the Gospel preached that way before"? God is always surprising people. He has a storehouse that will surpass your expectations in every way. In Matthew 3:8 we read that John told the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." He said in verse 9, "God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham [or children who will obey]." Those people were not obeying God. They had their own religion.

God's Church Outshines All False Religion

If you are the child of God that you ought to be, you do not have to put a tag on your car or a golden chain around your neck with a cross on it. You just need to be that city set on a hill that cannot be hid. You need to let the world know that you are the church, inside and outside, and the world will know that you are the Church of God.

The generation in Jesus' day came bringing bondage. Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:33, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Some people say, "You shouldn't mention names." How are you going to know without a name? If the devil has a name, he put it there for me to look at. It is its character, its ideal. Those people were murderers. They murdered people from one generation to an-

other.

Look what the Babylonians did to the three Hebrew children because they would not bow down to their gods in that day. A whole crowd of people bowed down while the music was playing, and only three young men remained standing. The king looked over and, in essence, said: "What does that mean? Those three boys have not bowed down!"

"Oh, they serve the God of the high heavens."

"We will show them who is boss! Heat the furnace seven times hotter and put them in there." The heat destroyed the men who put them in there, but it did not destroy them. The king stood up and said, "Did we not put three men bound in there?"

They said, "Three, O king."

He said, "I see a fourth man, and those men are loose and walking around in the fire. The fourth one looks like the Son of God!" There is something about God's system that will outshine all other systems.

Jesus knew these were murderers all the way down through. In Revelation 17:5-7 you can read about the mother of harlots riding the beast "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." She has daughters and her daughters are just like her. As the mother is, so are her daughters. Every one of them has some of her system, and every one of them has some of her teachings. They mingle their teachings with the bread of Jesus Christ. They lay hold of the one man, but they wear their own apparel. They will not wear the righteousness of God. In other words, they claim a little truth, but they will not claim it all. You had better go where the whole Truth is preached.

The dragon spoken of in Revelation, Chapter 12, that same old devil, rose up against the church in the morning time. The church preached against that power, and they were accused of turning cities upside down. They were not turning

the cities upside down. They were just straightening up what was already upside down. They were bringing men and women to the truth of Jesus Christ. One time they whipped Paul and Silas and put them in prison. God shook the prison and set them free. They went back on the street and preached Christ again. Many people were healed. The blind received their sight, the lepers were healed, and lame people picked up their beds and walked. As the shadow of Peter passed by, some people were healed. They wounded the head of that dragon in the morning time by living holy and preaching against the false system.

Digging Down Deep

The only way people are going to get out of false systems of worship is to hear the Word of God preached. Preaching the whole truth does not come lightly. Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season [when there is a good time to preach], out of season [when people will not let the Spirit work and when they are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart]; reprove, rebuke [it is not easy to take the Word to reprove and rebuke people of their false systems of worship], exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Hebrews 4:12-13 says: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword . . . but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." I thank God that the Word will tear down the works of the devil.

When the dragon was cast down, he issued out of his mouth a flood of water (Revelation 12:15). In Luke 6:47-48 Jesus was talking to people about hearing His Word. He was telling them to dig down deep when they build their spiritual house. He said if they heard His sayings and did them, they would be like the man who dug deep and laid the foundation on a rock. Then

when the flood came, it could not shake it. Jesus knew this pagan dragon was going to put a flood out after the woman; therefore, He wanted them to dig down deep and hear His Word so that when the flood came, they would not get carried away with false systems of worship. There is a reason to hold people to the line of Truth.

Isaiah 28:10 states, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." There is a whole line of Truth from Genesis to Revelation, and it is one line of Truth that must be preached. No matter where you hear it, in the United States or across the sea, it must be the same message — one line of Truth. Jesus instructed the people to build on it.

I want to show you that He also talked about the devil in this. The devil has not quit working. He is always working up systems, and he is never tired of working up systems. I am not bragging on the devil; I am just stating facts. He is always coming up with something new, and there are people who are loyal to whatever he comes up with. Even if they know the truth, they still will not stand.

Unclean and Hateful Birds

Revelation 18:1-2 reads: "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." That is another false religious system. The devil knew that the one he had of Rome fell. He knew that Protestantism was almost stripped naked and desolate, yet he raised up another and put people in bondage again. These "unclean and hateful birds" are figurative language.

Jeremiah 12:9-10 tells us: "Mine

heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour. Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness."

What are the speckled birds? Some pastors want people to follow them instead of following Jesus. Those preachers are more interested in people seeing what they can do than in seeing what Jesus can do. They have a spirit. They get happy and cry, but what kind of spirit is it? If they are offering you bondage and putting you in a cage, you had better run for your life. Those birds are unclean, and they eat stuff that is unclean.

You can read in Revelation, Chapter 19, about Jesus being on a white horse, and the army of His people (symbolic of war) were following Him upon white horses. Verses 17-18 read: "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great." You see, there are people eating what people put out instead of eating what Jesus puts out, and that puts people in bondage.

Once when Peter went to Antioch and ate with the Gentiles, certain Jews came in. Peter withdrew himself from the Gentiles, fearing what those of the circumcision would say, and other Jews did likewise. Peter knew better than to do that. He was in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came. Also, Peter was on the housetop when he fell into a trance and had a vision and the Spirit said, "Behold, three men seek thee" (Acts 10:19), and they took him

to Cornelius's house. After Peter arrived at Cornelius's house and talked to him, Peter said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Nevertheless, some Jews were holding on to traditions.

Jesus let people know that they should not set their light by their father and mother. Too many people say, "It was good enough for Mama and Daddy, and it is good enough for me." No doubt, they have never had this evening light shined on them. In this evening time we have more understanding, or more light, coming. I thank God for that Truth, but I thank God for more Truth in this day. God's church is not standing still; she is a marching army. She is moving on.

"Come Out of Her, My People"

What does Revelation 18:4 say to people? "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Why should you come out? When you come out, what do you come out of? You come out of teachings that are not Bible teachings. You come out of a false religious system that Jesus' blood does not cover and come to Zion where you can be free in the Lord. What is it that you should come to? You should come to the Truth. You should say, "Lord, I want to receive the Truth wholeheartedly." What is in it for you? There is one mind, one Lord, one God, one Spirit, one baptism, and one body. Praise God! We all can be one in Jesus Christ. That is the reason you should come to Him.

There were some people down in Babylon whose home was not in Babylon. Their home was up at Jerusalem. They wept and cried because they wanted to go home. When those patriarchs of old got the privilege to go home, they rejoiced in loud crying, but the younger generation made a noise to cover it up so people could not discern it. In this

modern age in which we are living, many people are trying to cover, or subdue, the light and say that darkness is good. Let me tell you what Isaiah said about that. Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

You may dress right on the outside, but if the old devil is still on the inside, you need to get deliverance. You need to come to the Truth of Jesus Christ, to the great Church of the Living God, one that He built on the mountain in Isaiah 2:2, the one in Hebrews 12:22, and the one in Revelation 21:10 when the Spirit carried John to a great and high mountain and showed him the Lamb's bride, the great Church of God.

We read in Revelation 15:1-3: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God [that is judgment preaching]. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

God's people are a free people, a people of victory. Those whom you and I read of stood and preached against paganism, and they had victory. They might have gotten killed, but they died giving God the glory.

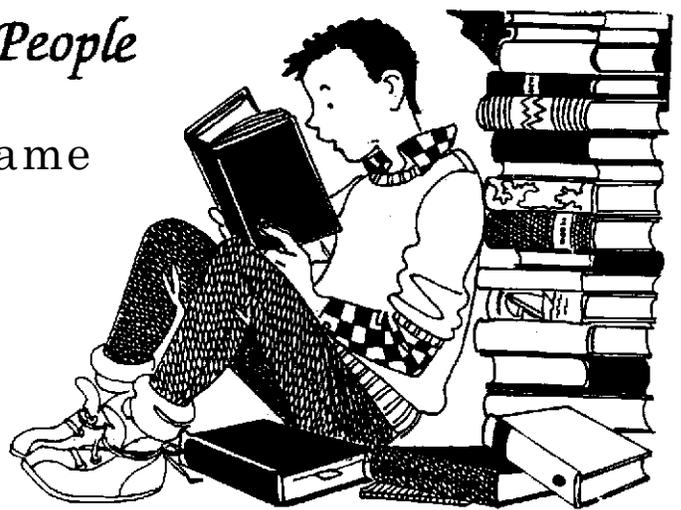
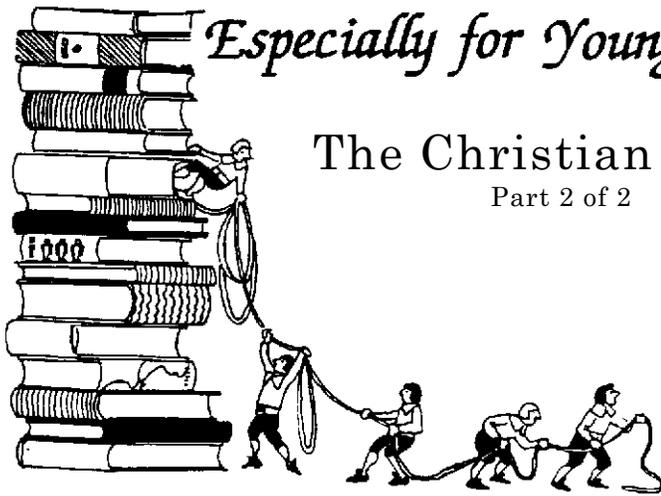
Revelation 17:6 reads, "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." They did not have the image or the mark of the beast, and they were not numbered with them. They were people who were redeemed and free from those

[continued on page 21]

Especially for Young People

The Christian Name

Part 2 of 2



In last month's article I challenged you to see if you could lay aside anything in your life so that you could become a better Christian and to have a closer walk with Christ. In this article I want to challenge you to seek God's face in a greater way to find God's plan for your life. Many workers are needed in the Kingdom of God, so you need to pray to see where God wants to place you. There is a song that says:

*There is peace and contentment
in my Father's house today,
Lots of food on His table and no
one turned away.*

*There is singing and laughter
as the hours pass by,
But a hush calms the singing
as my Father sadly cries,*

*My house is full, but my fields
are empty,*

*Who will go and work for me
today?*

*It seems my children want to
stay around my table,*

*But no one wants to work in my
fields,*

*No one wants to work in my
fields.*

You need to pray about where God wants you. He does not want you to merely sit and fill a pew. He has a work and a place for you. He needs workers.

When you think about marriage, you may say, "There is no one

around here for me." Does that mean that you should do your own choosing? No, God has a perfect plan. If you rush Him, then you might destroy the plan that He has for you. I cannot stress enough how important it is to marry the right one. The longer I am married, the more I realize there is so much in this world that comes against you. In the world so many couples do not get along at all. They are married, but their marriages are horrible. It would be terrible if you did not want to be with your spouse and all you did was fight and argue. It is so important for you to follow God's wonderful plan for you. He has happiness for you.

Once I worked with a couple of people who got jobs out of the state. They were not Christians, so they did not think they needed to find a good Church of God congregation to attend, but their children were at the age that, in not many years, they would be putting down permanent roots. So whether you are choosing a job, a college, or a boyfriend or a girlfriend, you need to allow God to guide you in your decisions. If you make choices that lead you away from God, you may never get back to Him. You need to go where God wants you to be. Perhaps you have made an important decision already, but is that really where God wants you? Could God have used you differently had you gone a different path? God has a perfect plan, and if

you make decisions that will take you down a different path, the choice is yours.

Are you convinced that the path you have chosen is God's plan? You will not hear a booming, loud voice telling you what to do. Are you convinced that what you are doing is God's plan for your life? You may say, "I am sure this is God's plan, but I have not heard anything definite." Look how much is in between you and God now. It is hard to hear what He is saying if you are so far away from Him.

The devil may bombard you with doubts about this and that. Doubts can really work on you and beat you down. You may think: "What if I never get married. I had better find somebody quickly" or "What if I cannot find another job? I had better stay with this one. The job market is not good now." You may reason, "What if I hang out with these friends? I know they are probably not the most spiritual friends that I can have, but is keeping company with them really going to destroy me? Surely not." No doubt, the devil likes to reason with you sometimes. When you start reasoning things, your mind can get very confused, and often doubts speak louder than other things; then you cannot really hear God.

James 1:16 cautions, "Do not err, my beloved brethren." Proverbs 22:1 and 3 says: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and

loving favour rather than silver and gold. . . . A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." If you simply go with the flow, so to speak, you are going to get in trouble and drift away from God. The Proverb writer said that a good name is to be chosen rather than great riches. Someone once said, "Temptations are designed to be difficult." They are not designed to be easy. They are designed to try you. With some things you may think, "I could not give that up; that is too hard." Temptations, things that you have to put out of your life, are going to be difficult.

I thought about a story that I heard as I grew up. My grandmother had it on an old record. It was about a monkey at a zoo in a cage. One night he stole the keys from the zookeeper and unlocked his cage, and he was free. He went about telling every animal in the zoo that he was free and so happy. As he got almost to the gate, he saw a big, red apple through the gate on the other side. He thought, "I'm hungry, I want that." He put his hand through the bars, grabbed the apple, and then what happened? He could not pull his hand back through the bars. He struggled and struggled. Finally, the other animals started yelling to tell him that the zookeeper was coming. They yelled: "Let it go! You're going to be free! Let it go! Just go! Open the gate and you can have all the apples you want!"

The monkey would not let the

apple go, and the zookeeper caught him and locked him back up. That is like salvation. You have been given the key to salvation. If you are saved, you have been set free. Along the path of life, sometimes you may see a shiny apple that you will not let go of, but God might have a whole apple tree out there waiting for you, but you see one right in front of you, so you won't let go. Perhaps the warnings of your friends or your pastor say, "Let go of this. God has better things for you," but you will not let go.

Are you willing to submit to God's will, even if it means giving up something upon which you put great value? If something is bringing you down spiritually, it will destroy you. Are you willing to give up a friendship or a boyfriend or a girlfriend that is not good for your Christian experience? If your job or the college you attend is hindering you in your walk with God, are you willing to let it go if God says it is not going to be good for you?

Getting started on the right path is very important. If you get off the right path, another path is going to take you in the wrong direction, and it is going to take you much longer to get back to God. Also, in order to get back on the right path, you might have to weed through doubts, find a different job, find another college, or find new friends. You might have to struggle through all these things to get back to Christ. Then it will be much harder to try to weed through all those voices to

hear what God is saying. It will not be easy once you get all those things between you and God.

Christian young person, you are a part of the church. God needs you, so you should not get off the path that He has for you. It may be years before you understand exactly what God's plan is for you.

When I was a young person, I did not know what God's plan was for me. I had no idea that I was going to become a Sunday school teacher, a choir director for the youth, and helping with the youth. I was not ready for that information then, and you are not ready for such information as a young person either. God has to take you through certain paths to prepare you for His plan down the road. You may want it all spelled out for you, but God needs you to trust Him and follow Him. You may think you know a better way because you are not ready for the information that He has for you. Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God has great things for you. You need to let God direct your life. When you do, He will bless you more than you could ever imagine. The decision is yours. The devil wants to knock you out of the Christian race. You need to listen and pray diligently about the decisions in your life.

Sister Victoria Miller

Christian Living

True Christian living in the world is like a ship sailing on the ocean. It is not the ship being in the water that will sink it, but the water getting into the ship. So in like manner, the Christian is not ruined by living in the world, which he must do while he remains in the body, but by the world living in him. The world in the heart has ruined millions of immortal souls.

How careful is the mariner to guard against leakage, lest the water entering the vessel should, by imperceptible degrees, cause the vessel to sink! Ought not the Christian to watch and pray, lest Satan and the world should find some unguarded inlet to his heart?

Selected

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Isaiah 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and

assurance for ever.

18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

29 He giveth power to the faint; and

to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Be Still, Be Quiet, and Wait



Brother Richard Talbot

Quiet Yourself Before God

God wants you to be quiet so that you will know that He is God. In Isaiah's writing, he said, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 32:17). Isaiah was saying that the result of righteousness will be quietness in the soul, and quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

Trouble may be heading your way, and you may find that if you do not do something right away, it will be too late. Perhaps everybody you talk to, such as your pastor, your parents, your grandparents, or other godly people in your life advise you to be still, to be quiet, and to wait. You may feel pressured and the heat may be building, but your pastor may say: "Just relax and

wait. You need to pray, think, and listen for God to speak to you." In order to do that, you must quiet yourself before God.

The enemy of souls has caused tremendous damage to so many lives because decisions have been made under pressure, oftentimes on the spur of the moment. Some decisions have been made because of hurt feelings. Others have been made because someone was upset about something. The moves you make might cost you greatly down the road. Sometimes it is good to put the brake on and say, "Let's stop and pray and think about this."

Perhaps you were instructed as a young adult, "Don't be influenced by high-pressure salesmen who want you to buy a certain thing today." Often such salesmen say: "This deal is on for today only. If you don't sign this contract now,

you will never get another deal like this." My parents taught me never to follow that line of thinking. They instructed me, "Go home and sleep on it, pray about it, and consider it." Most of the time, if you go back the next day, the deal will still be on. A lot of people are pressured by the enemy, by situations, by problems, or by dissatisfaction. They become uncomfortable and unhappy with things, and the devil offers them a move to make, and without thinking they fall into his snare.

I grew up hearing the words, "Be still, be quiet, and wait." Why should we be still, be quiet, and wait? One of the most difficult words that I have ever had to deal with is "wait." I do not like to wait, do you? I like to get what I need, go where I need to go, and do what I need to do. Why wait? There are things we are going to look at in this

message that I trust will help you to realize that even in the spiritual realm, waiting has powerful good value to it.

Waiting can teach many things that you could never learn any other way. You may realize how difficult it is when you feel that you must do something, yet you do not know what to do. You know that you need to make a decision, you know that you have to make a plan, and you feel the pressure building. Feeling pressured is one of the most dangerous places to be in. Why not wait until tomorrow? I am not talking about careless procrastination. I am talking about being really sensible about life.

With some decisions you need some waiting time. Sometimes you need to quiet yourself and stop to think about what you are doing. Our Scripture text says in Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God." You will never know that God is really God as long as you are doing all the talking. Sometimes you need to be still.

Making Decisions

I would like you to consider an incident in the life of an Old Testament man who felt pressured to make a decision, and that decision proved to be fatal. The man's name was Elimelech. He was the husband of Naomi, and the father of two sons, whose names were Mahlon and Chilion. We read in Ruth 1:1-7: "Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

"And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. And they took them

wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah."

In Old Testament times you will find that names meant much more than they do today. The name *Elimelech* meant "a pious man; a holy man," and the name *Naomi* meant "the gracious; sweetness." The name *Mahlon* stood for "weakness." *Chilion* meant "pining; wasting." These children were probably so named according to physical ailments at birth. The Scripture does not give much background information on this family, but we can accurately assume certain things about them.

Decisions are a part of life. We all have to make decisions. Some people do not like to make decisions. Others will not make decisions themselves, but they allow other people to make decisions for them; in other words, they flow with the crowd. They do what others do by following the current of things. High school students need to make decisions about what courses to take. After graduation, they need to make decisions about whether or not to attend college or about what vocation to choose. Every decision has its pluses and minuses.

We are living in an age when higher education is pushed. The idea that the higher the academics, the more money you can make is conveyed as something people are pressured to do. Today more girls are enrolled in college than boys. This has changed because of the grab for money. You should never make any decision merely based on

money. Money can become a snare. The more money a person makes, the more he wants; then the more he has, the more he spends. It is a never-ending process.

Not everybody is college material. Not every young man should give his life to the academic side of life. College can cost you your soul if you are unable to handle it. I am not downing education, but you must put Christ first. If God leads you to go to college, He will keep you; but God will not lead you anywhere that will cause you to lose your soul.

You have decisions to make about employment, such as where you are going to work, who pays the highest wages, and how much church you might miss. You may say, "Oh, but look at the money I will be making!" You need to consider your soul before you make such decisions. Sacrificing your spiritual life for financial gain is foolish. Your financial gain can only go with you as far as the gate of death, but your soul is going to go into an everlasting eternity. You need to work on protecting and taking care of your soul.

What to Do in Times of Trouble

We are living in an age when it is customary for both the husband and the wife to work outside the home; therefore, many parents place their children in day care. Is there a real need or is it greed? Someone may say, "There's no way that we can have everything my mom and dad had if she does not work." Well, most of us did not get married with the things our parents had. Our parents got what they had after many years of married life. You will have to work your way up to those things. Everyone cannot start out that way.

If you are thinking of getting married, you need to be still, or to be quiet, and wait. The decision of whom you are going to marry is a very important one. Young man, the young lady that you have your eyes on can make you or break you.

Young lady, that man that you have your sights on can become the greatest disappointment that you will ever have in your life. You must be careful of whom you marry. You will have to live with your decision for a long time. After you are married, the husband is the chief decision maker. He is the head of the home.

Elimelech was a man who was caught in a tight situation. He was living in the land of Canaan in Bethlehem. The name *Bethlehem* means "the house of bread," but in this "house of bread" was a famine that was spreading across the land. Elimelech was considering the approaching famine. Now, it is thought that Elimelech was not necessarily touched by the famine at that time. He seemed to be a man of fairly substantial means. Perhaps he was a sheep herder. Although the famine had not yet touched his family, it was all around him. He looked at his two sons, both sickly and in ill health, and he also considered his sheep, which were his prosperity. The grass was burning up, and he needed greener pastures for them. His wealth and his standing in the land of Bethlehem were at stake. He felt that the pressure was building on him to do something.

Too many times men and women make decisions because of things other than the Lord. Elimelech began to consider the land of Moab, which was enemy country. He looked back to the things that he had left behind. They had moved into the land of promise. Even though there was a time of trouble on the horizon with this famine, they were in God's land. In God's land sometimes there are times of trouble, but it is better to be there than to be in the enemy's country.

Sometimes a congregation may go through turbulent times, and it is easy to look on the horizon and see greener fields. You may think that another place or another pastor would be better. When people become restless, they begin to look around for something elsewhere.

Elimelech was a resident of Bethlehemjudah in the land of Canaan, the land that God had promised to Abraham. The name *Bethlehemjudah* distinguished it from another Bethlehem in the territory of the tribes of Zebulun, and its name means "house of bread." This indicated how fertile the land was.

The famine must have been extraordinarily protracted and severe. Even the most wealthy and fertile parts of the land were consumed by drought. Elimelech and his household were by no means likely to be the first to feel the pinch of want.

Elimelech came of a good stock of family that stood high in the tribe of Judah. He was a man of consideration and wealth. The probability is that he was rich in flocks and herds, and he wanted to find greener pastures, so he began to sojourn to Moab.

We need to consider the motivation behind Elimelech's monumental decision and understand how the pressures built. Most of the pressures were imaginary. Is not this the reason that lots of people do what they do? They are motivated by situations around them that seem dangerous to them.

Backsliding is never the answer to any problem. You may say, "I'm going to go back into sin and then trust God to call me again." Friend, that would be foolish. You cannot bargain such a plan with God. If you go back into sin, you do not know whether you will ever have an opportunity to get back to God. You could die at an early age with cancer. Backsliding is dangerous.

The Importance of Putting God First

Although Elimelech's family was yet well provided for, he became fearful of the famine. He got to the place where the thought of the famine was getting to him. He could envision the possibility of it affecting him in just a few months, and he felt that he needed to do something.

He had two sickly sons to be concerned about, and he had his wealth to protect. He was concerned about having to find grassland for his flocks and his herds. He felt that he had to protect them or become poor like other men. So many people cannot stand the thought of having to rough it. They would rather sacrifice their spiritual life than to come down the scale of financial standing.

I remember when my father got laid off from a company where he had worked for twenty-five years. He had a good job as an electrical engineer. They offered him a transfer to a big plant in another state with all expenses paid and a large increase in salary. My dad came home and talked to my mother about it, and he said to her, "The first question that came to my mind was this: 'Is there a true Church of God in that area?' Honey, there's no way I could move our family to that location. There's no true church there." So he gave that up.

About the same time, my father had thousands of dollars in a savings and loan association that went bankrupt, so they lost all of that. God was breaking my father down and testing his resolve, but he stayed true to God. The next year, God called him to pastor a work, and he testified later that God was just getting him ready. He did not know what was ahead of him, he did not know what the future held, but he put God first and lived for the Lord. Had he accepted the transfer, I probably would not be saved today. I thank God for a father who put God first.

Our family suffered some after my father lost his job. Before that, we lived comfortably. We lived a good, middle-class life in the 1950's and the 1960's. We did not want for anything, but when he got laid off, he could not find a job anywhere. We suffered, and things got tight, but spiritually we were well off. What did my father have to do? He had to be still, to be quiet, and to wait.

Money is not necessarily a sign

of spiritual prosperity. Accepting a job offer in another state or country where there is nowhere to get your family into the house of God on a regular basis is very unwise, and it can cost you your soul and the souls of your family. You need to stay with God and stay with the true Church of God. God will provide if you will put Him first.

The Scripture tells us that Elimelech sojourned in the country of Moab. He did not intend to make Moab his home. The word *sojourn* means "to take a short visit; to make a brief visit or a short stay." He intended merely to move down to Moab on a temporary basis. However, once you make such a move, you might not have much control over circumstances. His family ended up living down there for more than ten years, and he died in that foreign land. Elimelech's decision proved fatal to him and his sons. The very sons that helped spur his decision to go there to protect their health lost their lives.

Many a parent has made a foolish move with the idea of trying to protect their children from this or that. Dear one, if you do not stay where the Truth is preached, you are going to pay a very high price. Do not think that you can keep your family spiritual when you move away from a spiritual place. Leaving a solid Church of God congregation and moving either for financial gain or for some pet reason [perhaps your feelings were hurt or your children's feelings were hurt] will be unprofitable for you in the end.

You may say, "Well, someone said some things to my children." That is part of growing up; it is part of life. Children are going to get their feelings hurt, and you are going to get your feelings hurt too. If a pastor moved every time his wife or his children's feelings got hurt by somebody in the congregation, he would be a roaming pastor. As a parent, you should not pet and pamper your children. You need to help them to become strong in the

Lord. Often children handle things much better if their parents stay out of it.

Be Careful of Human Reasoning

Satan works on a child of God when he senses a decision is about to be made. The devil will push and offer reason after reason against all sensible arguments. He may say, "A short move could never hurt anyone. You can always return any time you want to." No doubt, he said that to Elimelech when he was considering the land of Moab. Perhaps Satan whispered: "You should go down to Moab for a little while and get your sheep out of this burned over grass. You need to get your sons down there where you can be sure they are going to get enough to eat and will be well taken care of. You can always come back." He made the decision to go, but he never came back. Often people yield to temptations on the basis of human reasoning.

I want you to consider a few thoughts of John Wesley, who wrote "Preservation of the Spirit." He wrote of six things to help keep the Spirit of God alive in your life. First, he said to always be faithful to your conscience. Do not confound reason with the supreme resource of reason. Second, he said to give no advantage to the enemy of your soul by reasoning upon any command of God. If you know what God has said, let that settle it. Do not try to reason around it. Third, he said at the first moment of human reasoning, you become unarmed, thereby losing all your defenses against evil. Once you allow human reasoning to come into your mind, it takes away all your spiritual armor, and then you will have no protection.

Fourth, he said to always remember when you are most fervent for God to prepare yourself for battle. Fifth, he said godly piety and deep thoughts of recollection and watchfulness are always necessary. Sixth, he stated that you should stop the very moment you realize you

are no longer in control of your life. When you realize that the last step you took or the last decision you made was not one that will serve you well in your spiritual life, stop. Do not take another step when you see that it is leading you the wrong way. Do not try to keep going that way, hoping to turn your situation around somehow. You should stop, back yourself up, and get back to where you can turn around that situation with God in control; then you can get back on track with the Lord.

Elimelech probably thought, "I'll move my sickly sons out of harms way." He failed to consider that they were already in the safest place possible. They were Jews, and they were in God's chosen place, the land of God's promise. There was nowhere else on the face of the earth that they could have moved that would be any safer than where they were. If you are where God wants you to be, there is nowhere else on the face of the earth that you would do any better.

The famine had not even touched Elimelech and his family yet. Had Elimelech stilled his mind and become quiet in his soul, no doubt the peace of God would have filled him with reassurance and courage. No doubt, to his mind would have come the words: "Elimelech, just be patient, son. I know it looks bad right now, but you must hold steady. This famine is going to break in a little while." When word got down to Naomi that God had visited His people, something in her soul said, "I want to get out of here and go back where I belong." Had Elimelech stopped and waited and stilled himself, perhaps he would not have made such a fatal mistake. The way of man looks right in his own eyes, but without seeking God earnestly, he cannot see that the end result is death.

The Need to Quiet Your Soul

First Thessalonians 4:11 says to "study to be quiet." You need to

learn how to still your soul to bring calmness when the storm is raging around you. You have to learn how to quiet your soul. Also, you must learn to be patient and learn to wait on God. He will not fail you. Over the years, many dear folks have made decisions and moves that they lived to regret. The Psalmist said in Psalm 62:5, "My soul, wait thou on God." Have you ever needed to say to yourself, "Soul, stop and wait on God"? Some good saints of God have become dissatisfied for one reason or another and left established congregations for something else, but they lived to regret their moves.

Over the process of time, many people have ended up with less godliness in their lives. Many of them have set aside previously held convictions of Truth and moral principles. Many people have left the Truth thinking they could still hold to the same truths, but before long they began to sacrifice standards. First, the outward standards began to be sacrificed; next, the inward holiness began to be sacrificed. They began to open their homes to things that they never would have allowed because they started living in a different land surrounded by different values. There is no substitute for living in holiness with the family of God.

Often when a person leaves the Truth, he begins to do things he has never done before. It must have been in his heart to do that. How could he have felt as he began to go to the store and buy those items, knowing he had never bought such things in his Christian walk, knowing he always stood against such things? No doubt, as he looked and considered such items, maybe in the clothes department, in the electronics department, or in wherever department he was shopping, he looked around to see if any church people were in sight.

When he did not see anyone from church, he slid it into the cart and pushed the cart down the aisle. Next, along came somebody with

whom he used to worship, dressed in holiness and walking in righteousness. All of a sudden, he began to move things around in the cart to cover certain items. Why? His conscience was beating away in his heart. After a few times, however, he got more accustomed to it and did not care any more. His conscience became hardened because he overrode it; his conscience became seared. He had gone into a strange land.

Elimelech was surrounded by the idolatrous worshipers of Moab and by the evil and corruption that God had chased out of Canaan land. If a person plays with fire, he is going to get burnt. One cannot walk upon hot coals without burning his feet.

Decisions can be very costly. Sometimes when people leave a congregation where Truth is preached to find a better job, their homes fall apart, and their children are sacrificed on the altar of selfish greed. Elimelech looked at the famine, listened to the talk, and learned all he could about it; then he looked at his dear wife and sickly children and looked at the condition of the pasture fields for his sheep. In his mind he allowed those pressures to build, which is just exactly what God is trying to help you to see. He is saying: "Quiet yourself! Still yourself before Me and get quiet in your soul." Do not let these things draw your attention away from being still before God. It is easy to run away, but it is never easy to come back.

Trust in the Lord

Dissatisfied people cannot be pastored. That is the reason there is a tremendous responsibility on a pastor to try to keep his people satisfied in their souls. You cannot "baby" people and ease up on the Truth merely to satisfy some disgruntled person. When people get dissatisfied in their souls, you cannot pastor them because they become out of reach. They get out of reach of God and out of reach of

help, unless they can get themselves back to a place where they can surrender themselves to God and quiet themselves down.

Dissatisfied people are unable to find rest and peace. Their contentment with God and His Word become readjusted according to human reasoning, and they begin to look over the fields of Moab as though they were something better than God's land. Elimelech moved to where he thought the land was better. How could any other land be better than the land of Canaan? Although they were in a hard time momentarily, it was not going to last forever. Today the times of hardness that you are in will not last forever, but to make foolish moves and foolish decisions because of present time circumstances can cost you dearly.

I want you to consider the advice the Psalmist gave in Psalm 37:3-8. Verse 3 says, "Trust in the LORD." Verse 4 states, "Delight thyself also in the LORD." Verse 5 instructs, "Commit thy way unto the LORD." Verse 7 says, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him." Verse 8 tells us, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." In other words, he was saying, "Do not let the things that are bugging you cause you to do wrong."

Verses 23-24 read: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." Only God can turn a test into a testimony, a trial into a triumph, a victim's battle into a victory. The difference between the word *try* and the word *triumph* is the "umph." Some people need a little "umph," and then they can have victory. With a little effort you can overcome every obstacle the devil has put in your way.

If Elimelech had some "umph" about him, he would have had the courage to hold steady and wait on God. Elimelech was unaffected by the famine. He was driven by the fear of what *could* come. The famine

had not bothered him yet, but he made moves and decisions based on the thought of "What if . . ." When Naomi came back, she said in Ruth 1:21, "I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty." They did not leave empty; they had everything they needed. They were not driven by the famine, but they were driven by the *fear* of the famine. They left God's land and their position with God because of fear.

Fear destroys faith. Fear and faith cannot exist in the same heart. Where fear takes hold, the enemy will be there to give you another move: "Go this way" or "Go that way." No doubt, you have heard it said that every time the devil opens his mouth, he is lying to you. What should you do? You should do as verse 10 of our Scripture text says: "Be still, and know that I am God." In other words, you must quiet your soul. You need to quiet your mind and quiet your heart. In quietness there is strength. The work of righteousness shall be peace, and its effect is quietness.

Waiting on the Lord

Many powerful thoughts can be brought forth from Isaiah 40:28-31.

In verse 29 we find that the Lord gives power to the faint and strength to the weak. Verses 30-31 read: "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." "They that wait upon the LORD" are the ones who will find strength and power and shall mount up with wings as eagles. These are the ones who will be able to run and not faint, but only as they learn to wait on the Lord.

Psalm 25:3 reads, "Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause." If you learn to wait on God, you will never be disappointed. He will never let you down. God will never fail you. Isaiah 49:23, "For they shall not be ashamed that wait for me."

In 1 Kings, Chapter 18, you can read that Elijah, after the great victory on Mount Carmel, began to feel sorry for himself. Jezebel sent him a message that she was going to have him killed, so he ran into the wilderness. Next, he went to a cave. There God sent the wind, an earthquake, and a fire; but the Lord was

not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. After all that happened, there was a still, small voice that spoke to him, and when Elijah heard it, he went out and positioned himself against the mouth of the cave to hear what God had to say.

Sometimes you need to calm down from the pressures of life, the things that push in on you from every side, and get yourself in a position to hear what God has to say to you. Elijah wrapped his mantle about him and went out and stood in the mouth of the cave to hear what God had to say to him (1 Kings 19:11-13). How is it with your soul? Is the Spirit of God working in your life? Do not be tricked by the enemy of your soul. You should not allow fears, unknown fears, or unknown things that the devil is trying to push in around you to move you. You need to listen for God's still, small voice and let Him speak to your heart. He can bring calmness to your soul. What should you do? You need to be still, to be quiet, and to wait. God will not fail you. Won't you let God have His way?

(Compact Disc TR-1015E)

[A System of Bondage—continued from p. 13] systems of bondage. They shed their blood, but while dying, they gave God the glory. They believed in Jesus and the Truth that He brought to this world.

I repeat, God's people are free, and they stand on the Word of God. They do not want to hear about what you did last week or hear about fishing stories. They do not want to hear about your mountain trip. They want to hear you preach the Word. Thank God, we are free, free, free! When people ask me what church I belong to, I point toward Heaven and say, "The one He built, the Church of God." Hallelujah! No man has any attachments on me. I am free from the image of the beast,

free from his mark, and free from bondage. I have liberty in the true Church of God. Hallelujah!

*It may not seem welcome now,
At this Cross of Christ to bow,
But you ought to see what's coming
by and by,
This old world will look so small,
Had you gladly given your all,
Just to know you've got a home yonder
in the sky.*

*Lazarus was sick and full of sores,
Laid beside the rich man's door,
And he begged for crumbs from those
who passed him by,
Little did that crowd then know,
As they would by poor Lazarus go,
That poor Lazarus had a home yonder*

in the sky.

*I had rather always roam,
With no place to call my home,
Than to fail to join that number by
and by,
For when Jesus calls for me,
I'll be as rich as rich can be,
For I know I've got a home yonder
in the sky.*

*Oh, that home yonder in the sky,
I am going to claim it by and by,
And we'll never, never die,
Hallelujah to the Lamb,
Come and go along with me,
Turn your back on sin you'll see,
Hallelujah to the Lamb.*

(Cassette C-5079M)

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of

God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth

not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

He That Is Spiritual



Brother Allen Polston

Divine Insight and Blessings

I want to draw your attention to verse 15 of our Scripture text, which reads, "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man." Many times people read a portion of this or maybe the whole verse and give it an application that does not exactly line up with what God would have them to understand. Verse 9 says,

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Many people want to stop there, but in most cases you find there is an application given to this verse that seems as though it is talking about Heaven. People sometimes read that verse and say, "God has so much more in store for us over in Heaven," and

then they quote that verse.

What you have to understand is that the next verse continues, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit." This is not just referring to what awaits a person in Heaven. Certainly there are things that we have never seen and things yet for us to behold there, but what the Corinthian writer was trying to convey was that God, through the operations of His Spirit, brings to His

people things that otherwise cannot be obtained. He said, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man. . . ." When I think about that verse, I think about what sin has to offer. Sin comes with a very high price tag. You can easily hear and see the awful things that sin produces.

God was talking about something that you do not get through material means. He was talking about something better than what sin has to offer. He let us know that what He has set before us is something divine. The normal eye has not seen, the normal ear of man has not heard, and the normal heart of mankind has not experienced these things, but God has revealed them to His children by His Spirit.

James said in James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." I suppose that may be part of the reason that truly spiritual people have the ability to have a persuasiveness with others. They are the recipients of so many good things that others have not seen or heard. If you are living in sin, I want you to know there may be pleasures that you are enjoying, but God has things that surpass all of them. God can give you things that sin will never be able to give to you.

The Corinthian writer was saying that God has things for you that sin cannot grant you. God has things that are better than sin. God has good gifts from above that the world cannot offer you and cannot produce.

The Scripture lesson lets us know that living for God and being spiritual is the kind of lifestyle that you can have with expectations. You can expect good things and wonderful blessings. No wonder God's people are so thankful! We have much to be thankful for all year round. We have so much to thank God for because He bestows to us by His Spirit things that we otherwise would never be able to experience.

Spiritual people have a very important work to do. While enjoying the many rich blessings that God

bestows upon them, they are also living with bright hope and anticipation. It is wonderful to have a blessed hope. Hebrews 6:19 says hope is an anchor to the soul. Spiritual people have the great hope of one day crossing over and making Heaven their home.

A Very Important Work

Galatians 6:1 says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." There is a very important job for spiritual people to do involving the salvation of souls, the restoration of people who might have given themselves over to a fault or who might have been overtaken in some other way. Spiritual people are called upon by God to bring help and assistance.

Spiritual people are not individuals who are lifted up in themselves or who are proud and arrogant. Spiritual people are those who can come to the rescue of brothers and sisters when they are weak spiritually from being attacked by the enemy of souls, or from being under temptation. Spiritual people will go to prayer; they have a prayer closet. They take heed to the words of the Thessalonian writer when he said in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing." When you find someone doing that, you are most likely looking at a spiritual individual. It involves a great work.

James 5:19-20 says: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." This is part of the work of a spiritual person. I want to be like that. I want to be an individual who can be defined, according to God's Word, as spiritual.

If you want to be spiritual, what do you need to do? What does being spiritual consist of? Do you just take on that title or make that claim? Is it

merely a state of mind or a label? The Bible tells us in the words of our Scripture text some things involved in being a spiritual person. Our Scripture text says in verse 15, "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things." We can definitely say that Jesus was a spiritual individual; that should be without controversy. God did not inspire this verse to be written merely to remind us that Jesus was spiritual, but to help us to understand what is involved for His people to be spiritual. We use a word in our speech that is rejected in some circles today, and that is the word "judge."

Some people are bent on getting away from any kind of judgment. They do not want you to say anything about the way they are living. I am so glad that one day somebody came along and said something about the way I was living, because I was living wrong. I am so glad that true men of God will stand in pulpits and say things that step on people's toes, so to speak, and challenge their hearts. Most people in the world do not want anyone to say anything. It seems as though they just want to live unrestricted and unopposed, whether they are right or wrong. Because of that, the word *judge* or *judgeth* causes some people to feel uneasy.

This Scripture lesson is not talking about walking around and pointing fingers at others, running somebody down, or verbally tearing somebody apart. You need to understand what Paul was talking about. Judging something is simply making a determination about something; having a basis, not just taking a guess. Sometimes people like to guess about things, but a spiritual person does not guess.

Judging According to the Word of God

The Bible lets us know that he that is spiritual judges all things. In other words, he has a basis upon which he makes a determination, something that he uses to come up

with an outcome about something. On the job site, when I worked in construction, we had a tape measure that we carried in our tool belts and used. My tape measure was the same as everyone else's. If I was up on a roof and said, "Cut a board twelve feet long for me so that I can use it as a walk board," if the person came back with one that was only ten feet long, I would have run into trouble. That did not happen because we had standard measuring tools, so the results were the same.

God has something for everyone who will take it. He has something sound and solid, and it is the basis by which you must live your life. The children sing it best: "*The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the Book for me. I stand upon the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E.*" Spiritual people judge things. It is not that they go around finding fault with people or look to cause a problem, but spiritual people can judge a person by his or her actions. When they make a determination about things, they base it upon God's Word.

Anyone can take a guess and react accordingly. However, our Scripture lesson lets us know that a person does not have to just "wing it," so to speak, through life. They do not have to just go through life on a whim or do whatever the crowd does. The Bible teaches that broad is the way and wide is the gate that leads to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat.

Dear one, you should not go through life and follow the crowd. The Bible talks about following a multitude to do evil. You must have more to base your actions on than just a crowd. What about things that are popular? Lots of things are popular for a season. That is part of the reason that Jesus said in Matthew 6:19, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal."

God said to put your treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not corrupt and thieves do not break through and steal. Going along with

what is popular is not the attitude of a spiritual person. Just because something is getting rave reviews in the land or just because something is really being exalted by the world, that does not move a spiritual person. Also, a spiritual person is not satisfied to live his or her life only because something has been a tradition. There is nothing wrong with traditions that are wholesome, decent, and good.

If the tradition is inaccurate, or not what it should be in some way, a spiritual person is not satisfied to go along with it just because it has been a tradition. You may say, "Well, my grandmother has always done it this way" or "My grandpa always did it that way in our family." There were lots of things in my life that I had done until I got saved. When I got saved, I needed to change some things. Some things that were a part of my life kept me out of the house of worship. When I got saved, I started to change and rearrange those things. Some things from the old life took a lot of my financial income. Until I got saved they were a standard part of my life. When a person gets saved, he or she is not content to go along with traditions or the crowd or the majority. Spiritual people are not people who go around looking for a consensus to guide their lives, but they judge all things according to the Word of God.

Hearing the Word of God

Jesus taught about just judgment, or judgment that is just. In John 5:30 He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." A spiritual person must come to the realization that he himself can do nothing. Even Jesus Himself said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge."

The words of Jesus help us to understand what we must turn to in order to judge all things. What do

we turn to? The very thing that Jesus said: "As I hear, I judge." That is how we make judgment on things. So it is for you. That is the reason it is very important to hear.

Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." It is very important to hear God's Word. You see, you must do more than just show up for the worship services. You must also hear what God has to say to you. I realize that sometimes you can get tired and sleepy. You are human, but you need to put every effort into hearing from God. It is best not to stay up late on Saturday night, because you should be planning to go to the house of worship. You need to at least try to hear, because Jesus said, "As I hear, I judge." You need to hear the Word. You need to hear from God, because that is how you make a determination about what is right.

When people go to the services and the preacher gets up and preaches, lots of people say that is foolish. Some people might call you foolish to get up early on a Sunday morning and go to a church service and sit there and listen. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." God has chosen what the world calls foolishness to save people who believe. In order to believe, you must hear; you need to listen. That is the reason the preacher needs to pray, and the saints need to pray for him, the singers, the players on the instruments, and all who are involved. Much prayer needs to go up during the services so that God will be pleased to look down and cause people to hear.

As saints, we need to rebuke the powers that try to interfere with people's hearing, because the enemy of souls is just as much a church attendee as anybody else. He comes early and stays late and works hard and viciously throughout every service to try to captivate people's

minds. He likes to take a person's mind off in some other direction, or interfere in some way or another. God wants you to hear the Word of God, the divine things, the things that have been forever settled from the foundation of the world, the things that have the ability to change your life. The Scripture says in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is quick and powerful. In Matthew 13:16 Jesus said, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." If you had nothing else to thank God for, you should thank God for eyes that can see and ears that can hear the wonderful works of God and the good things that God has done.

When you hear, it affects you and has an impact upon you to the degree that if you do not decide to kneel somewhere and pray and become a Christian today, His Word will not return to Him void. As much as you might like to get away from it, it will come back to you before the week is over. You may be lying in your bed one night and the Word of God will begin to come back around. Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void."

Just Judgment

Jesus heard, and then He made a judgment. You will have lots of judgments to make. I am not talking about making judgments against people or about running people down. I am talking about having to make various decisions and determinations in life. Often you will have to decide what to do about this or that situation. In life you will be confronted with lots of things, and just about the time you think you have some things figured out or under control, you will be facing new things that you had not thought about. Spiritual people listen to what God has to say on those kinds of things. They listen and give ear.

The Prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 55:1, "Ho, every one that thirsteth,

come ye to the waters. . . ." Proverbs 4:20 says, "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings." In other words, you need to listen to what God has to say. He can start bringing about a solution, or an answer, to things in your life that you have questioned and wondered about and did not know what to do because things did not seem to add up. Friend, no matter who you are, God can help you with those things. He can start working things out for you and helping you in ways that you could not even think of.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:4-5: "For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

God will come to your rescue if you will listen and incline your ear to Him as the Scripture says. If you desire to hear, God will come and speak to you. The spiritual person will then be equipped with what he needs to make decisions and determinations. I am not saying that spiritual people have never gotten ahead of themselves and have never made mistakes. Surely they can. Nevertheless, you judge by what you hear from God, from His Word, and from hearing the Scriptures expounded and preached.

Again, Jesus said in John 5:30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just." Thank God, there is such a thing as just judgment, or in other words, fair and right judgment. You do not have to live as the world would like to convince you to live.

Someone may say, "That is your opinion and this is my opinion. Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, and everyone can do what he wants to do. Nobody should say anything about anybody else." That is not what the Bible says. The Bible talks about just judgment. In other

words, just judgment is making a decision, making a choice, or making a determination about something that is accurate.

Faithfulness and Giving According to the Word of God

What Jesus said in John 5:30 outlines and defines a spiritual person. He said, ". . . because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." A spiritual individual is not a person who is just out for himself. A spiritual person is making choices and decisions on behalf of others as well. Some people have the attitude, "I'm not hurting anybody but myself," but that is not true. We each affect other people and have an impact on other people. Your life, your actions, your conduct, and your words are impacting other people. Spiritual people consider others, and they consider God.

I like what Joseph said when he was faced with the temptation of being seduced by Potiphar's wife. In the latter part of Genesis 39:9 he said to her, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" In other words, he was saying: "How can I do that to God when He has been so good to me, when I could have been lost forever? My life could have been in complete shambles. I could be in eternity right now without another hope in this world. How could I do this against God?"

A spiritual person is not just in it for himself, but he is considerate of others and considerate of God. Again, Jesus said in John 5:30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." It is good to remember that God is the One who sent judgment. He is the One who has made it. He is the One who gave you life and breath. That is something to be thankful for! Acts 17:28 reads, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being."

A spiritual person does not go with the flow, so to speak. You might have to take some time, investigate, research, pray, and fast. There could be some occasions like that, but being a spiritual person means that you judge all things based upon the things of God. You must make decisions about lots of things. As things are preached, you must make decisions about how you are going to live.

Your faithfulness is something that you have to decide upon. A spiritual person must decide how faithful he will be, not by how faithful somebody else is, but by the Word of God. Someone may say, "Well, So-and-So misses regularly, so I will miss too." You should not base your faithfulness on what somebody else does. A spiritual person bases his faithfulness on the Word of God. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." A spiritual person bases his or her faithfulness on the things of God and on the Word of God, not just on what others do. I understand that some legitimate things come around, sometimes people travel, sometimes they take vacations, or their work can interfere with people's church attendance. However, you should not base your faithfulness on other people's schedules. The flesh would have you pick out somebody who is not very faithful. You must base your faithfulness on God's Word.

What about your giving to the work of God? Malachi 3:8 reads, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." What about your giving throughout the year? You have to make a decision about that. The pastor is not going to come to your house and force you to go to the house of worship. He is not going to dig into your pocketbook and take what belongs to God.

Spiritual people judge all things

based upon the Scripture, based upon God and the things of God. Someone may say, "Well, things are really tight this week, so I am going to back off my giving" or "I've been wanting some new toy, so I'm going to hold back for a few months." Spiritual people do not base their giving on those kinds of things; they base it on the Scriptures. A spiritual person is not just up and down like a yo-yo in his Christian experience. He has something more solid that he bases his life, his actions, and his conduct on.

Standing for What Is Right

Again, verse 15 of our Scripture lesson states, "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man." What was he saying in this verse? Some men in our world accomplish great things, but no matter what they accomplish, a spiritual person is not moved or persuaded by man, his human abilities, or his accomplishments. He still goes back to the things of God as a foundation. I am so glad for something that we can dig deep into and base our lives upon. The Bible lets you know the floods will come and the winds will blow no matter how you live your life. A spiritual person, when it is all said and done, will still be standing for what is right. He will still be going forward, onward, and upward for what is right because he is not moved by men.

Someone may say: "Jesus said, '... yet he himself is judged of no man.' I don't need a pastor or a teacher to tell me what to do." Friend, that was not what Jesus was saying. A godly pastor is just a vessel that brings to you what God has given to him. A godly teacher is a vessel that brings to you the understanding and the awareness of the things that will help you to make the right decisions. However, a teacher does not eliminate the need for a pastor or a brother or sister who does work in the church.

What was Jesus saying in verse

15 of our Scripture text? He was saying that if some man rises up and pulls people away and becomes a dynamic speaker, his human ability and his accomplishment does not judge a spiritual person and will not move a spiritual person. There are denominations and congregations of people that far outnumber the Church of God, but spiritual people are not moved because of numbers or finances. Spiritual people base their lives on the things of God.

Spiritual people have the ability to impact the world and to have a real hand in what sustains our society. The Bible says judgment must begin at the house of God. A determination of right and wrong has a starting place in this world. It is not in the White House or in the House of Commons in England. The origin of right and wrong is in the house of God, the Church of the Living God. That is where it begins, that is where it issues forth. Spiritual people are maintaining the difference between right and wrong, and they have the ability to have an impact. If you are without the Lord, that is the reason the devil does not like you to go to church. When you are among spiritual people, that persuasion will begin to work on you, although you may not go for that reason.

Spiritual people who yield themselves to the Spirit have the ability to impact others. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:29, "For our God is a consuming fire." The fire of the Holy Spirit does not stay confined to one spiritual person. It has an impact on others.

I witnessed clean living in my uncle's life before I was saved. I saw in his life clean living, clean talk, clean dress, a clean walk, clean attitudes, and clean conduct. When I saw that, down inside I had a yearning to live the same way he lived. I wanted to be clean. Being dirty was not as attractive as being clean. That is the reason the devil fights getting people to come to God. He works vehemently to keep people away from the house of worship. Why? They would like to live right and

really get things straightened out with God in their lives. They know that if they die in their condition, they will be lost forever.

Often the devil tries to get people distracted so they do not think about their souls. When God begins to deal with an individual's heart and causes that person to understand, sometimes a person will get up and walk out of a service because the persuasion of God's Spirit is working and he is resisting.

I remember when I used to go to the house of worship and I was not saved. Even the night I got saved, I sat on the back row of seats and had people on both sides of me. I

knew I was lost and needed to be saved. I knew I wanted something better, but the flesh fights and resists the Holy Spirit. The devil works to try to keep you from ever becoming a spiritual individual. I am so thankful the Bible says in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." If you want to live right, if you want your life to be what it really should be, you must turn it over to God. Won't you yield to the Holy Spirit and let him have His way with you? If you want to be a spiritual person, you must start basing your life on God's Word. Being a Christian is more than going

to an altar and repenting. You must turn from your sins and start doing what is right.

A spiritual individual judges all things according to God's Word. I ask you, in closing, are you living your life in a spiritual way, so that you can have a profound impact on others because of clean, righteous living? God wants each of us to be spiritual. If you have a need, now is a good opportunity to seek God's help. If you are not saved, today is a good time to yield your life to the Holy Spirit.

(Compact Disc TR-1086)

Announcements

MECHANICSBURG, IN

October 2-6

REVIVAL: Church of God, Mechanicsburg, Indiana

Evangelist: Brother Adam Wolf, New Florence, Pennsylvania

Service times: Wednesday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. @ Mechanicsburg; & Sunday Morning 10:30 a.m.

@ Mechanicsburg; & Sun. Eve. 4:00 p.m. @ Brown Road church

For further information contact: Pastor Allen Polston, 2020 Ralph St, New Castle, IN

Telephone: 765-521-8284.

Summersville, WV

October 7-13

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

Evangelist: Brother Irwin Seshier, Heath, Ohio

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

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

Visit our website at: www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com

Newark, OH

December 26-29

Winter Camp Meeting: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055

Service times: First service begins on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.; Thursday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Morning prayer services Thursday - Sunday. Heated dormitories.

Three meals served daily in dining hall, plus the snack stand is open in the dining hall after the evening services. Bedding is supplied; please bring your own towels. No pets.

For lodging reservations contact Brother Dave or Sister Ruby Bush, 725 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055, or call 740-345-1213. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.

For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker, 87 Decrow Ave. Newark, Ohio Telephone: 740-344-2543

Look for the
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