

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 45 October 2015 No. 10



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
USPS #871620

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

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

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

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

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

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

Email: pastor@godsacres.us
Phone: 740-344-2543
Fax: 740-344-4737
Print Shop Phone: 740-345-1312

This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor

Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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

CONTENTS

The Door of the Church 3
 People Looking for a Church. 8
 Are You Walking in His Paths?. 13
 Especially for Young People. 15
 Are You Running From God?. 17
 Fall Camp Meeting Recordings. 25
 December Camp Meeting Info. 26
 Announcements 27

Vol. 45 October 2015 No. 10

Fall 2015 Camp Meeting Report

What a Camp Meeting!

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass."

Deuteronomy 32:2

Sunday morning, August 2, 2015, at 10 o'clock another camp meeting began here at God's Acres. Little did we know just what the Lord had planned for His people for the next eight days. After Pastor Roger Decker welcomed the saints, he prayed and asked the Lord to bless the meeting. From the onset of the meeting, God began to work, bringing conviction and blessing upon all present.

God began touching hearts during the first service of the meeting. As the singing went forth, souls started to the altar. Among those who humbled in repentance were two who had been away from God a long while. These wayward souls found their way back into the loving arms of a forgiving Savior. This was just the start of many wonderful things that followed throughout the week ahead.

The preaching was outstanding, and the saints feasted on the good things found in the Word of God. Brother Larry Dishman brought the first message that presented the question, "Where Will You Be in Eternity?" This was a sobering thought for all to seriously consider. Brother Dishman's sermon that evening was "I Surrender All." Again, many souls moved to an altar of prayer.

Several of the messages were devoted to the doctrines of the Bible. It is through the preaching of doctrine that the hearer is able to see the church and Truth more clearly. Bible doctrine exposes false theories and longstanding traditions that hold souls in bondage. There are many false teachings that keep souls from seeing the Truth. God's desire is that people see and understand the path that leads to victory and freedom.

Brother Dishman brought doctrinal sermons on "Divorce and Remarriage"

and "Will There Be a Secret Rapture of the Church?" Brother Earl Borders preached on messages entitled "Did Jesus Descend Into Hell?" and "Understanding the Scheme of the Scriptures." Brother Decker brought messages on "Who Is a Jew?" and "The Great Tribulation." Brother David Watson covered the subject, "The House God Is Building." Brother Calvin Foster delivered a message on "Sound Doctrine."

Evangelistic messages were brought to direct lost souls to repentance. Brother Foster brought another message that asked, "What Is a Sinner? Brother Leamon Whitehead also asked the question, "Are You Leaning in the Wrong Direction?" Brother Richard Talbot stirred hearts with the subject of, "Passive or Persistent." The last two messages Brother Dishman brought were on, "Little By Little" and "Where There Is No Vision, the People Perish."

Each anointed message was soul stirring. God is deeply concerned with the eternal welfare of men's and women's souls. He is striving fervently in these last days to prepare souls for eternity. The more we know and understand about His Word, the better we will be equipped to fight the good fight of faith. We will be able to avoid the pitfalls of Satan and his false teachings. Each afternoon Brother David Stegmeier taught on the subject of "Christian Leadership."

Every morning at 10 o'clock the young children met in the old barn to learn songs and Bible verses. Sister Karen Wilks also told these little ones a Bible-based story. On Saturday morning these children were brought into the tabernacle to take part in the main service. There were 101 boys and girls, 12 years of age and younger; that thrilled our hearts. They sang songs and recited the Scriptures they had learned during the few days they attended the children's meeting. What a beautiful sight to behold!

On many occasions throughout the

[continued on page 21]

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But

whom say ye that I am?

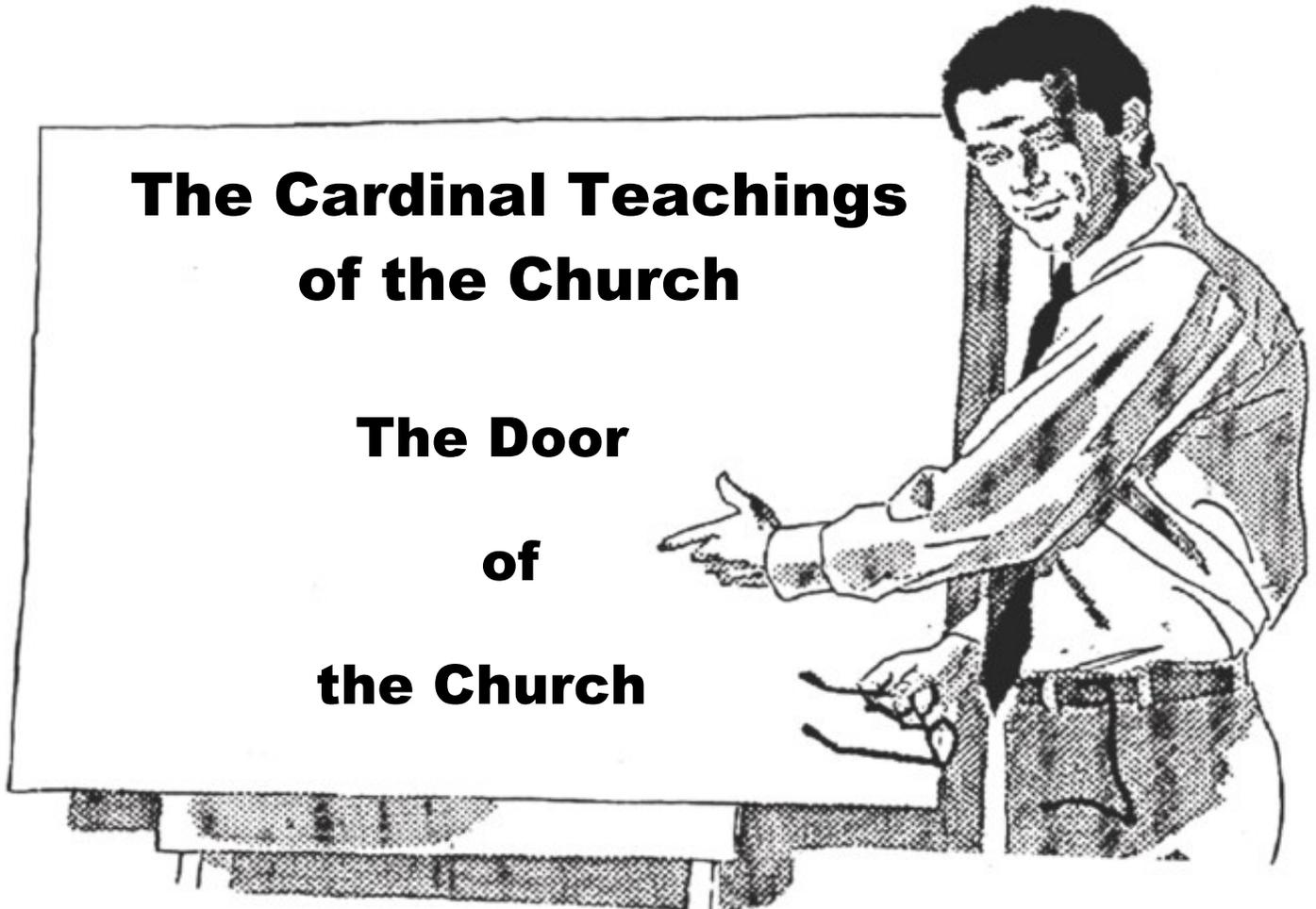
16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee,

That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.



Brother Roger L. Decker

Only One Door

We want to look at another cardinal teaching that supports the one true church. The one church in the Bible is called the Church of God. A church has to have an entrance to get in the church. These structural truths concerning the church need to be taught and kept

before our children, the next generation to stand for these truths. These truths need to be instilled in the minds of children while they are young.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 says: "Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in

the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged." We have studied and found that religions have their founders, but the Church of God is being built by Jesus Christ.

Before I start into the message, I want you to know that I am not trying to unchristianize or hurt anyone. When I mention false religion, I am speaking of a false system of worship, not the people. Behind every false doctrine is a false spirit that propagates and pushes that doctrine to the forefront.

We know that a simple door is a movable structure for opening and closing the entrance to a building or a room. It is a way to go in and out. Religion has many entrances into its organizations. Though religion has many doors, only one door can bring you into fellowship with God. You want to go through the right door and have fellowship with God. You should want to have the presence of God in your life. False religion will offer you the assurance of Heaven through creeds, outward observances, and works that will leave your soul deceived, destitute, and void of what God expects. Many religions are out there, and there are more as the days go by; but there is only one true church. She is not Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish, but she is the Church of God, sent down from God out of Heaven. That is the reason when you are born again, you become a new creature; you are born from Heaven itself.

Some people are sealed in a form of religion that leaves the seeker without the grace of God. You *can* please God. You can live in such a way that God is very pleased with your actions and your conduct every single day. Some religious people are like the Pharisees in Jesus' day. Jesus said in Matthew 23:27, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."

In Matthew 23:13 Jesus said, "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." It has been said that

Matthew, Chapter 23, is the rolling thunder of Christ's wrath. He pronounced seven woes against the scribes and the Pharisees. The word *woe* means, "wrath mixed with sorrow." Jesus was pointing out that here was a people who were missing the kingdom themselves and shutting the door to others who were seeking to find God in their lives. The door to the kingdom is the same door to the church.

Some people try to make a difference between the Kingdom of God and the Church of God, but do not go there. If you do, you are going to get yourself messed up. That which pertains to the kingdom pertains to the church. The same door to the Kingdom of God is also the door to the church. In many cases it is easier to enter into man's religion than the church that Jesus built. You see, you can enter many religions without there being a change in your life. It is almost like joining a fraternal lodge, such as the Eagles or the Odd Fellows. No change is required in a person's life. A person signs up to become a member, but no change takes place.

A Change Takes Place Upon Entering the Church

Dear one, when you truly go through the door of the church, a definite change will take place. Jesus said in John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." In other words, you will get fed. You cannot get fed the truths of God's Word until you enter the door to the Kingdom of God. That will take some effort on your part as a seeker.

Some people feel they can live any way they want, and then before they die, if they have enough breath, they will say, "Lord, forgive me," and that is all there is to it. However, that is *not* what the Word of God says. Some people just play church up to the day they feel they are going to make that crossing, and then they call out to God and think everything

will be all right. Dear one, I read differently in the Word of God. Entering the door of the Kingdom of God is going to take real effort on the seeker's part.

Acts 14:22 reads, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." What does the word *tribulation* mean? It means "pressure; grievous trouble; severe trial or suffering; burdened." When a person is seeking God, Satan will be right there to put on some pressure. Satan is going to try to turn that person another way, or to another door. He wants that person to go into false religion, where his soul cannot be satisfied.

Paul said in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The word *press* means, "To trouble; to follow; given to suffer." Jesus said in Luke 13:24, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." The word *strive* means, "to struggle vigorously; to contend with an adversary; to fight or labor fervently." The word *agonize* is a synonym to the word struggle.

Entering the Kingdom of God is not as easy as saying, "I believe, Lord," and coasting into Glory. The Scriptures let us know there has to be some pressing, or striving, and much tribulation. Whenever a soul gets saved, it stirs the devil, and he is going to fight hard to regain the ground that he has lost. On the other hand, God will stir you so that you can fight against the adversary. He not only helps you to fight against the adversary but also gives you the weapons of warfare to come against him.

When I got saved, I did not see the church as I see it today. All I knew was that I wanted out of sin, and that was good enough at that time. However, God did not expect me to stay there. He also wanted me to come to the knowledge of the Truth.

The Shepherd of the Sheepfold

As we look at the door to the church, let us read John 10:1-5: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."

What prompted the writing of John, Chapter 10? If you go back to Chapter 9, you can read about a blind man being healed. Because of his confessing and glorifying God, he was expelled from the synagogue by the Pharisees. Well, Jesus heard that they had cast him out, so He was right there to take him in. Then, in Chapter 10, Christ let people know that He is the Shepherd of the sheepfold and that He came through the door of literal birth, which was the only means of being a part of literal Israel.

Genealogy meant much to the Jews. If you will read the Book of Matthew, you will see that it is loaded with genealogies all the way up to Jesus Christ. This was to get the Jews' attention. Also, this is the reason when you go back in the Old Testament, some of those Scriptures contain so many "begats." If a person did not come through the Jewish lineage, especially the lineage of Judah, the Jews did not believe he was of God.

Jesus came through the lineage of Judah. He said to climb up some other way, the same was a thief and a robber. Christ came by way of Jewish birth. Galatians 4:4-5 says: "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. To redeem them that were un-

der the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Luke 1:35 states, "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Jesus Christ was the stone cut out of the mountain without hands. He was born under the Law, and that mountain was Mount Sinai. Jesus said in John 10:3, "To him the porter openeth," and the porter here represents the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ came in the sheepfold of old Israel so that all Israel could hear His voice and follow Him.

Becoming Spiritual Jews

John 1:11 tells us, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Oh, how sad! Many times the Holy Spirit comes to His own, and His own receive Him not. This does not merely apply to the literal Jew of that day. Today the Holy Spirit knocks on the doors of those who have been raised in Truth, yet they refuse Him. Oh, what a day the Judgment is going to be! I cannot even fathom it in my own mind. I cannot begin to grasp how awful the Judgment will be for those who have refused Him. Jesus said in Luke 12:48b, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Also, when much is given, the ability to acquire much is there.

Now, there is still only one sheepfold; there is still only one door. All sheep, or all spiritual Jews, must have a spiritual birth. The sheepfold takes in both the Jew and the Gentile. Most of the people in the world today are Gentiles, but God has made a way whereby He can adopt you into the family of God, or into the sheepfold. You can be made a full-fledged brother or sister to Jesus Christ. All people have access to the sheepfold by coming through the door with a born-again experience.

There used to be a day when you

hardly ever heard the words "born again" mentioned. People shied away from those words, but today many are dragging those words down to the level of merely joining a church. When you are born again, you are born from above. You become a part of the new Jerusalem. Why is it called the new Jerusalem? Because we are new Jews. The old Jerusalem had literal Jews, but the new Jerusalem has to have new Jews.

The Apostle Paul said in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Everyone who is saved is a brother or sister in Christ. Everyone who is saved makes up the family of God. As a family, we have brothers and sisters in all four corners of the earth. Everyone who has come through the door is our brother or sister in Christ.

There is only one way to gain entrance into the sheepfold, and that is to come through the door, Jesus Christ. Coming through this door is not like you would walk through a literal door. You must be willing to give up sin to come through this door. Not everyone is willing to give it up. Also, you must be willing to follow the Shepherd wherever He leads you.

You can join a lot of institutions and religions by succumbing to their dogmas and creeds. However, to be a member of the Church of the Living God, you must come through the door. Everybody comes through the door the same way. When I came through that door, I came through that door clean on the inside. No one can slip through the door with sin in his life.

As Christians, we might have different degrees of knowledge and understanding, but we all have one thing in common: we are clean. We came through that door sinless, or without sin. We have no sin, and we have been forgiven. Our sins have been cleansed by the blood of Christ. Our dispositions have changed, our attitudes have changed, and our personalities have changed. We have a

desire within our hearts to please God whatever the cost. Since we have gone through that door, we desire to be in the house of God. We desire to be where our brothers and sisters are. Every time we have prayer meetings, revivals, and camp meetings, we desire to be there.

Personal Challenges

When I went through that door, a real change took place, but I had a lot of rough places that needed to come off. I would not have enjoyed being a friend of someone like myself. I was a person I would not have even wanted to keep company with. When I came through the door of Jesus Christ, I did not see the spiritual part of the church. All I knew was that I was living in sin, and I wanted out badly enough that I was ready to give up everything, even those things the devil told me I could not give up.

The thing that hindered me the most was tobacco. I thought, "How in the world am I ever going to give that up?" I tried to quit before, but that was in my own strength. I would throw the cigarettes away and then dig them out of the trash when no one was looking. What an embarrassment that such a little thing could hold such bondage on me! It is just a little tobacco sealed with a little piece of paper, but that nicotine gets into the bloodstream. That is the reason I tell young people: "Don't go there! Don't even mess with tobacco." Once nicotine gets into your bloodstream, it will take hold of you like a venomous snake and bind you.

God was really dealing with my heart. I was so troubled, and I wanted to be saved and amount to something in life. When I came to Christ, internally I had bitterness, but I was only thinking about external things, such as alcohol, tobacco, and gambling, not realizing what I had. I attended a prayer meeting, and Brother Emerson Wilson prayed with me. I knew little about salvation. I came home and told the wife, "I got saved."

She said, "What's that?"

I said, "Well, I prayed and asked God to forgive me."

She replied, "Oh, okay."

Next, she wound up going to church and going to the altar and getting saved, but soon we got away from God. We took a vacation and went to visit some family, and it was a mistake to go there so soon. All the family was there, doing the same old things, and I wound up joining in with them; then I felt very depressed and discouraged. Things just went south, and we both got away from God.

A lot of religious people invited me to church, especially once they knew that I was away from God. A very good friend at work invited me to another church, but I said, "No, I don't know much, but if I ever go back to church, I know where I need to go." God protected us. Ones kept coming to the door, visiting us, and encouraging us to get back to God. After a while, my wife got back to the Lord. My wife had to fight a lot of bitterness, which I caused. Things got really severe in our home.

I wanted to get back with God, but I did not want to pay the price. I wanted God back in my life, but I really did not want to go through that door again, because I knew what going through the door consisted of. Things went on and on and on. Finally, a sister went to Brother Emerson Wilson and asked if there was any hope for me. It looked hopeless, but he told her, "Just hold on a while longer." I am so glad he said that. I finally went to church and stood at my seat in the back under conviction. Brother Wilson came back, put his hand on my shoulder, and said, "Brother Decker, is the Lord dealing with your soul?"

I said, "Yes, but I'm not ready."

He said, "Well, you never will be ready, but you ought to come when God is ready."

So I went down to the altar. I can remember my prayer. I told the Lord, "Lord, I don't know what I need to live for You, but whatever it is, please give it to me."

Seek First the Kingdom of God

I was changed again when I came through that door. I was a clean vessel. I did not even see the church. I did not see a lot of things, but my desires changed and my attitudes changed. I went to people with whom I used to fight and apologized to them. I decided to really work hard in the factory, and the people in the factory could see that I was a new creature. Now, I do not say that to brag on myself. I just say it because I am the only one I know anything about. I do not know anything about your experience.

When you come through the door, Jesus Christ, you are coming through an entrance. You may walk up to that door with disobedience and all kinds of vices and bad habits, but when you step through that door, you become a new creature in Jesus Christ. When you step through that door, you will be clean on the inside. Salvation cleans up the inside first, and then the outside naturally comes clean. What a change!

You can join a lot of religions by succumbing to their dogmas and creeds. However, all those who come through the door are changed. They no longer live the way they used to live. They do not dress the way they used to dress. They lay aside fleshly things, and they begin feasting on spiritual things.

When I first got saved, I worked second shift, and when I came home at night, my wife and I would sit at the table and read the Bible. It was so thrilling! God would show me little things, and I feasted on them. The next thing I knew, God would show me bigger truths. As I attended the services, I could not wait to hear the preaching. I loved it, and I still love it today!

Some people do not have the zeal and the thrill they used to have when they started. To keep that thrill and that zeal, you have to keep doing those basic things. Do not let go of those things. You may ask, "What are the basic things?" First, you should talk to God during the day.

Second, you need to make sure you read what God has to say to you. Third, you need to attend the house of God. Fourth, you should get up and testify once in a while. These are basic things, but they will lead you on to further things in Christ Jesus.

When you get saved, you start seeing things differently. You stop seeking fleshly attainments, and you start seeking the Kingdom of God first, before anything else. Have you come through the door or do you have just an outward form of religion? Have you ever really been changed on the inside? It is time to lay aside all forms of religion. When you come down to death's door, you will not be able to wave a rosary in

Jesus' face. You are not going to be able to say, "I'm a member of the Baptist Church." You are not going to be able to say, "I was baptized as a Methodist when I was a little child." All that is going to matter is that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life; that is what is going to make the difference.

John 10:7 states, "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." Verse 9 reads, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." The entrance into the Church of God is through the door; the entrance is by spiritual birth. Every member of the Church

of God has to come through the door, Jesus Christ. All members who get through the door have to turn away from their sins. They must be willing to quit sinning. They also must be willing to walk in the light of His Word.

The door to the church is Jesus Christ. I will tell you this much, dear one, that is one door that I am glad I walked through. I might not get through other doors, but I am glad I went through that one. This is the door of all doors—Jesus Christ.

(Compact Disc TR-1343E)

Are you open to consideration of seventh-seal light?

New Book Available!

The Worshipers Once Purged

Are you confused by the various teachings concerning works of grace?

Is there one? or two? or more?

What about blood cleansing? What does the Bible teach?

What about inherited sin and carnal nature? Do we inherit it?

These questions & many more are addressed in this book.

(We unchristianize no one & desire to enlighten everyone.)

Authors: Brother Roger L. Decker & Brother Earl R. Borders

**Please call the print shop for ordering information.
740-345-1312**

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one

of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon

Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

People Looking for a Church



Brother Calvin Foster

How to Obtain Spiritual Understanding

Some people look for a church that has lots of children who attend there, so if a congregation does not have many children, those people will not continue to go there. In the Book of John, Jesus had a conversation with Nicodemus. He was basi-

cally saying that people do not really see the church. They are looking for something, but they do not know what they are looking for. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3-6: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot

enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." I thank God for a born-again experience. The words "born again" are often misused. Being born again is a miraculous experience of salvation where God saves you from sin and changes your life completely.

Being born again is not being

sprinkled with water, church joining, being catechized, or being baptized. Being born again is a real, miraculous experience. A man can walk through the door of a church building as a sinner, go to an altar of prayer and get an experience with God, and walk out as a saint of God. Jesus was telling Nicodemus how a man who is spiritually dead can be made alive through the new birth, through the Spirit of God entering into his heart. He said a man cannot see the kingdom. In other words, the word *see* comes from the Greek word **horao**, which means "to become acquainted with or to know." I thank God that I became acquainted with God, the Kingdom of God, and the Spirit of God through a born-again experience. You cannot know spiritual realities until you are born again. There are spiritual realities that people cannot see or understand until they are born again.

We can see the reality of a building and the physical things around us. We know that we are here physically, but there are spiritual realities that people cannot see until they are born again. You can be sitting in a church pew with God working all around you, but you may not see it if you have not been born again.

First Corinthians 2:14 says, "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." God has to open up the mind of your spiritual understanding. You are a natural man until you are born again. You look at everything through the flesh, or the natural eyes, but when you are born again, you can see spiritual realities. I thank God for that.

"The Whole Duty of Man"

Some people may go to a pastor looking for a church that does not have many rules or requirements to live by. Jesus did not like the fact that the Pharisees made rules for God and then bound those rules on

the people. The Pharisees were legalistic; they thought conformity to the law alone saved people. Paul cried out against his own brethren in Romans 10:3 when he said, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness."

Jesus spoke against the Pharisees in Matthew 23:3-7: "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men. . . . And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi." They wanted to put the rules and laws on the people, but they would not submit to them.

We need to realize that God's laws and rules are necessary. No one would want to be a part of any institution or society without rules. I thank God for His laws and rules. You would not want to work in a place where they did not have rules. You would not even want to drive your car if there were no traffic lights and stop signs. I thank God for rules and laws in society.

We read in James 1:22-24: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

We need rules and laws in our homes and in every aspect of our lives. Brothers and sisters in the home need to learn to respect one another's property. For example, you should ask permission before you wear your brother's or sister's clothes.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 tells us, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole

matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." If you are looking for a church that does not have any rules or laws and you come to the Church of God, you have come to the wrong place. God's laws and His rules are our discipline. God gave His Word for us to love, to learn, to understand, and to obey.

Obedience is not legalism. Obedience shows that you understand the real spirit of the law of God. The whole duty of man is to obey God. If you are not obeying God, you are like a fish out of water. A fish out of water is fighting for his life. When you put it back into the water, what does it do? It swims, because that is where it belongs. People were made to live for God. I love living for God; it is a joy. I am a regular customer at God's house. Wherever God's people are, I am drinking what they drink. They are drinking of the Spirit.

The Key to the Treasures of God

Psalms 111:7-10 reads: "The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." Salvation is not by works, and it is more than lip service.

Paul talked about how the law of God is written in our hearts. Second Corinthians 3:2-3 says: "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

The law of God is written in our hearts. God does not make us do this; we are not robots. All Christians

are set free in Christ by obeying the Truth. First John 5:2-3 states: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." When you submit to God, you will find the key to the treasures of God. They are found through obedience and submission. That is how you find the joy of the Lord. The great treasures that God has for us are found in obedience.

Hebrews 5:8-9 reads: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Our salvation is eternal if we continue to obey the law of God. Romans 6:13-15 says: "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." If you obey God's Word and walk in His statutes, He will keep you from sin.

Reaping What You Sow

Another person may be looking for a church that is not so judgmental. Matthew 7:1-5 tells us: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of

thy brother's eye."

John 7:24 says, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." Again, some people are looking for a church that is not so judgmental. Well, the church is going to judge according to God's Word, and it will be righteous judgment.

The church promotes the righteousness of God. Romans 1:16-18 says: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

God has His eye on people who are judging unrighteously. They may find fault here or there, but they do not see it in themselves. Paul told young Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:22, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." God does not want you to sin, and He does not want you to go along with anyone else's sin. A person must keep pointing his finger at himself. Some have too much confidence in themselves and they look at other people and find fault with them. They need to take a good, long look at themselves. There is an old song that says, "*It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.*"

The church promotes sowing to the Spirit and not to the flesh. Galatians 6:7-8 reads: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap [you are going to reap what you sow; therefore, you ought to watch your steps and be careful of how you treat your pastor and other people]. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

The Bible says that in a place

where the true Gospel is preached, the Gospel will convict and encourage. We can see that happening in Acts 2:36-38: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent." That is what you need to do.

When the Word of God hits your heart and life, it will condemn you and prick your heart. What do you need to do? You should repent, turn to God, and turn away from wickedness. None of us can say that he has never sinned. The Bible teaches that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but thank God, you do not have to be a sinner anymore.

First Peter 2:21-25 states: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

Second Peter 3:18 tells us, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." The true church will welcome you with love and challenge you so you can grow. Jesus built only one church. He said in Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." I thank God that I am a part of something that is on the winning side. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the church that Jesus built. The true

church will welcome you with love and challenge you to obey God and grow.

Something Old and Valuable

Some are looking for a church that is not so old-fashioned. You may say: "I don't want to read from the books that my great-grandmother or grandfather read from. I don't want to sing one hundred-year-old songs." Some songs were written back in the 1800's. We were not even born then, yet many of those songs bless our souls today, such as the one that says, "*What a fellowship, what a joy divine Leaning on the everlasting arms.*" I remember the saints singing that song when I was a boy. Old songs bring joy to your heart. Saints put their experience in words in the old songs.

If you are looking for a church that is not so old-fashioned, what are you looking for? Some people are looking for "the church of what is happening now." If you are going to "the church of what is happening now," you may lose your soul and go to hell. God only knows how many drunken preachers are in the pulpits these days. They do not care about your soul. If you go to hell, it will be your own fault. This old-fashioned church and our old-fashioned preachers are concerned about your soul.

Man has always needed the Word of God for his soul. Spiritually speaking, some people are searching for God and do not know how to find Him. Some things grow more valuable with age. Antique dealers know that. They hope to walk into a garage sale and find something old and valuable. I thank God for the Bible. The Bible is old and valuable. It is still the best selling Book in the world. I challenge you to wipe the dust off your Bible and start reading it and obeying it. Why not see if God will bless your life? There are young men and women who are missing out on the joys of this great salvation. They are throwing their lives away in sin.

If you are chasing this and that, you are going to be sorry, because you are never going to find satisfaction. You need to study the life of King Solomon. He had all kinds of riches. He could have bought anything his heart desired. He had many wives and concubines; yet when it was all done, he said, "It is all vanity and vexation of spirit." It really did not satisfy him. The devil will tell you, "I am going to give you all of this," but he is a liar.

Some things never go out of style, and they are precious. Ephesians 5:25-28 reads: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

Do you value your relationship with your husband or wife? No relationship other is better than what you can have in a godly home. If you have a saved wife, you are blessed. Verses 29-31 continue: "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

The Bible says a man will leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife. Young man, you are to establish your own home. That young lady that you married is your wife, and she is your first priority in your family. I love teaching the old-fashioned truths of the Church of God.

This old ship of Zion just keeps sailing along. I am so glad to be a part of the Church of God. Ephesians 5:32-33 states: "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love

his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Every good marriage has a level of jealousy in it. For example, a husband may say: "That is my wife. Why are you sitting there talking to her so long?" By the same token a woman has a right to know what is going on with her husband. She may ask, "Why are you grinning at my husband all the time?"

Abide in the Doctrines of Christ

Another person may be looking for a church that is not so dogmatic. The truth of the matter is, Christ must be lifted up. John 12:32 states, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." You cannot live for Christ with a sharp and bitter spirit. You should not try to present Christ with a dogmatic spirit. The word *dogmatic* means "asserting opinions in an arrogant manner." Some people do not want a preacher to teach doctrine, whether it is in the right spirit or not. They do not want to hear sound doctrine, and they do not want it. They just want to get together with others to sing and to talk about the love of God.

Paul taught in Ephesians 4:15 that the church should walk in love so that we may grow. Nobody wants to go to a cold, unloving church. God will bless you if you go out of your way for people. That is old fashioned. However, having love in your heart for people does not mean that the church should not stand for Truth. Doctrine is important.

Second John, verses 9-11 says: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Acts, Chapter 20, talks about how the church should teach the

whole council of God. Verses 27-30 read: "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Therefore, we must teach the whole counsel of God and be watchful.

Second Timothy 4:2-4 states: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine [if you are looking for the church, you must search for one that teaches what the Bible teaches]. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

It is not popular to preach the Gospel. May God help you not to compromise the Truth. We can see in Paul's writing to the Galatians that he was tolerant and loving, yet he preached with conviction. Galatians 1:6-8 reads: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." That is preaching with strong conviction, yet having the right spirit.

In Galatians, Chapter 2, Paul spoke of those brethren who came around to spy out the liberty which the Galatians had in Christ so that they might bring them into bondage. Paul said in verses 5-6: "To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not

for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me." Paul could go on and be gentle. He did not say: "I am going to force you to take this. If you do not believe it, you cannot sing or feel happy here anymore." No, Paul was gentle.

Prepare for Judgment Day

First Thessalonians 2:1-8 says: "For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

"For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

Those are not just preachers being preachers, but those are men of God who work for God. They love the people, pray with the people, and go to the hospitals to visit the people. They live the Gospel, and they are gentle. Preachers need to know when to be strong and when to be stern. God is fair.

Some people may fall in love with a church building, but the true church is not a building. The church

is the people. You have to be born again to see it. Jesus said in John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." Romans 14:17 says, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." When you are born again, you can see the Kingdom of God. The terms "kingdom" and the "church" are used interchangeably in the Scriptures. The church is the kingdom and the kingdom is the church.

How do you get in the church? You enter the door through godly sorrow and by asking God to forgive you for your sins. You must ask Jesus, the Savior of the world, Who died for all your sins, to come into your heart and save you. You can pray: "Lord, I want to be free; I want to be delivered from sin. I want to be saved. I want You to change me, Lord. I'm sorry for my sins, I'm sorry for how I have lived, and I'm sorry for how I have treated You and others." If you are not saved, you need to pray that God will strike your heart with godly sorrow. You had better prepare for Judgment Day.

Matthew, Chapter 25, tells us a day is coming when God is going to separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be on His right hand and the goats on the left. God is not going to ask anyone how he was living; He knows. He is not going to ask anyone what church he attended. He knows that too. He is going to ask you: "Have you accepted My Son, Jesus Christ? Are you living your life free from sin?"

The Church of God does not have anything for you to join. There is no membership card for you to sign. You must be saved; you must let Jesus come into your heart. Man can put you out of his church, but in the church that Jesus built, you can only remove yourself by sinning. You need to keep these things in mind as you come to God and live for Him.

(Compact Disc TR-1391)

Isaiah 2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be estab-

lished in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house

of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Are You Walking in His Paths?



Brother Paul Prinkey

When Did the Last Days Begin?

As we consider the prophesy that Isaiah was giving by the Word of the Lord, I would like to draw your attention to a few things. I believe some things are good for us to understand about what God has established for the Church of God. First, I want you to notice in verse 2 that Isaiah began, "And it shall come to pass in the last days. . . ." Today

some people are confused about what the last days are. They believe the last days are yet to come, wondering when they are going to begin. I believe the Bible clarifies when the last days are. We are living in the last days right now.

You may ask, "How do you know that we are living in the last days?" The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 1:1-2: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in

time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." We find that the last days began after Jesus came on the scene. Look at the first verse. The writer said, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets."

You may ask, "What does the

Scripture mean by "sundry times" and "divers manners"? God used various ways to speak to His people in the Old Testament. He did not always speak to them in the same manner. In Exodus, Chapter 3, we read of Moses standing before a burning bush, and God spoke to him out of that burning bush. I do not know of anyone else that saw a burning bush with God speaking out of it as He did to Moses of old.

We can look in the Scriptures and read that Balaam was going against the will of God. He was going to try to curse the people of Israel, and God used his donkey to speak to him. God used divers manners at sundry times to speak to our forefathers by the prophets. When the Hebrew writer said "in these last days," he was speaking of the days in which we are living. When the writer wrote the Book of Hebrews, he was writing in the last days. We are not waiting on the last days to come; we are living in the last days.

There is a difference between B.C. and A.D. When someone told me he had found a coin dated B.C. 45, I told him that could not be true, because you cannot date B.C. until A.D. began. A.D. is a time measurement that began to be used after Christ came. However, that is not when the New Testament dispensation began. The New Testament dispensation began when Jesus, the Testator, died and a new will and testament was set in place. That took place on the Day of Pentecost. Sometimes people get confused about the New Testament.

The first four Books of the New Testament were placed in the New Testament in the Bible, but Jesus did not live in the New Testament era. He lived during the Old Testament times. How do we know that? Jesus practiced Old Testament Law. When He healed the ten lepers, what did He say to them? He told them to go and show themselves to the priest. Why? It was required by the old Law that they go and offer a sacrifice after they were cleansed of their leprosy. After the offering of a sacrifice, the

high priest would declare that they were cleansed. Then they would be allowed to mingle among the people again. Therefore, Jesus not only lived in the Old Testament times, but He practiced the Old Testament law.

According to the Bible, the New Testament began when Jesus, who was the Testator, died and a new will and testament was set into being. A will and testament is not good until the testator dies. So when Jesus died, the last days began. Now we are dating forward. We do not know when the end of time will be; no man does. It is not even given to the Son of God or the angels to know. God reserves that time to Himself. He holds His own counsel. He has not told anyone, and He will not.

Our God Is a Mighty God

In our Scripture text we find Isaiah saying in verses 2-3: "And it shall come to pass in the last days. [When are those days? They are right now. What is going to take place?] that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

In the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 12, the Hebrew writer began to take us back into the Old Testament and then bring us up to the New. He said in verses 18-23: "For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

We find that the Hebrew writer was drawing our attention back to the Old Testament, when God had Moses call all the people to the mount, and there God was going to converse with the people, God to man. When He gave the commandment, He told Moses to have the people draw nigh to the mountain, but not to touch the mountain. He also instructed Moses to keep the animals back, for if one so much as touched it, He would have to kill it or thrust it through with a dart. When God came down and began to speak to them, they feared exceedingly. Moses himself, the pastor, was fearful, and the people begged Moses to talk to God for them. They wanted him to find out what God had to say and then tell them, because they could not bear being in His presence.

Paul said that the husbandman ought to be the first partaker of the fruits, so the pastor being the husbandman to a congregation, gets to partake of the fruit first. He gets to taste whether it is sweet or bitter, and then he has to take it before the people and tell them the Word of the Lord. Again, Hebrews 12:21 states, "And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake."

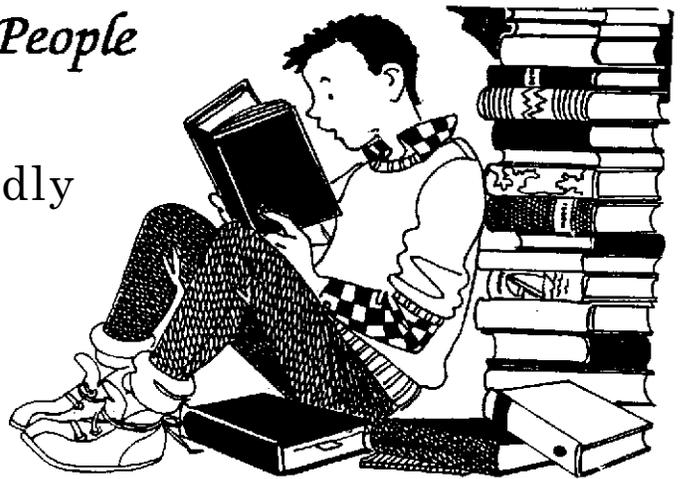
The Bible says in Hebrews 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." You should never get so proud or so puffed up in yourself that you do not acknowledge how great God is. In the Old Testament you can read of how King Belshazzar got lifted up in himself. He ordered that the sacred vessels they had taken out of the tabernacle in Jerusalem were to be

[continued on page 22]

Especially for Young People



Divine and Worldly Conformity



The Scripture says, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). Another Scripture says that you should be "conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29). There are two sorts of conformity, one of which is condemned and the other approved. Much is said by some classes of religious professors about worldly conformity, while little is said about divine conformity. It is my purpose herein to point out the essential nature of these two kinds of conformity.

By worldly conformity, most religious teachers mean outward likeness of dress, manner, and customs. This, however, is not its true significance. Conformity to Christ does not mean dressing as He dressed, speaking the language that He spoke, eating the same kinds of foods that He ate, or observing any externals that went to make up His life.

In the true meaning of the word, conformity goes deeper than externals. Two things may look very much alike and yet be very different in their natures. Pyrites of iron look so much like gold that it has deceived many a person into thinking that he had found riches. For this reason it is called "fool's gold." Likewise, things may outwardly seem very different, while in reality they are very much the same. A sparkling diamond seems very different from a lump of coal, but the chief difference is only in the arrangement of their particles.

Both are composed chiefly of carbon, so in nature they conform closely to each other.

Conformity is a thing of nature, not of external appearance. We were "by nature the children of wrath." Likeness to the world consists in a likeness of character, and for that reason, we must be transformed. This transformation is a change of character. First of all, it has to do with internals, not with externals.

Conformity to the world in most externals is not only advisable but necessary. We live in houses built like those around us, and we speak the same language as sinners. We have the similar habits of thought and speech in general that they have. We use the same implements and tools, we raise the same crops, and we employ the same methods of work and business. In fact, we conform to the world in all these things. We cannot avoid doing this without sacrificing what is vital and proper in our lives. Conformity to the world in these externals becomes evil only when such conformity has its origin in an evil principle in the heart or when it produces an evil effect.

When Christ prayed for His disciples, He said, "Keep them from the evil." Paul said, "As using and not abusing." It is the evil use that is made of externals that is obnoxious to God. A proper use of all things is permissible. If your heart is conformed to God, you naturally desire and seek only the

proper use of things.

The natural heart is wicked. It is set on pleasing itself, and it is full of vanity and pride. So long as this condition exists, the heart is not conformed to God. There must be a transformation, and this is not one which starts from the outside and works inward, for such at best could be only a reformation.

The real transformation is a thing that begins on the inside and works a vital change in the spiritual condition and character. When this internal change is wrought, it gives a new quality and direction to the whole range of thought and activity. It manifests itself in new desires and aspirations, in new habits and customs, in newness of speech and looks and behavior. When you are transformed so that you become a new creature in Christ Jesus, you act like a new creature. The body is not transformed: you still have a body of flesh, which retains its natural desires and appetites. These you may gratify in a lawful way without sin.

When the heart is transformed and purified from its vanity and pride, these qualities will not be manifested in external things. As long as pride and vanity remain in the heart, requiring a person to cease wearing worldly adornment is like trying to kill a tree by pulling off some of its leaves—the person may lay off such things under pressure, but he or she is no better than before. One must be taught the Bible standard of externals,

but the chief thing is to get the heart right. When the heart is conformed to the image of Christ, the words of the old song are true of it:

There's no thirsting for life's
pleasure,
Nor adorning rich and gay;
For I've found a richer treasure,
One that fadeth not away.

Neither force nor persuasion is required to get a person with such an experience to act properly regarding external things. In carrying out the idea of non-conformity to the world, some people have adopted a special garb or a special form of speech to distinguish them from others. This, however, is not a mark of real non-conformity, but a mark of sectarianism. The true and only difference needful between yourself and the world in externals is that you are to reject those things that are evil or that produce evil. All other things are lawful, though these lawful things must also be judged by the law of expediency.

Conformity to Christ means conformity in character. It means purity of desire, so that your heart reaches out for only those things that are pure. You are moved by pure motives and actuated by holy purposes. It means that you have a conscience toward God in whatever you do. It means to put His will before everything else. It means that the dominating purpose of your life will be to please Him in every detail, and not yourself. A heart like this is not attracted by the vain and sinful things of the world; on the contrary, it is repelled by them.

When the person is adorned with gold, jewels, costly or gaudy array, or immodest clothing, you must look for the root in the heart. There is where the trouble lies. There is the seat of the desire. It is useless to take off externals while the internal corruption is permitted to continue. God hates all vanity and pride. There is no such element in His character. If you

are conformed to Him, there is no such element in your character. If your character is purged from these things, you have no desire for their external manifestations. God loves meekness and modesty, and these are the opposites of display. If you are meek and modest in character, your dress and deportment will manifest these qualities. If you do not manifest them, it is because you do not possess them.

It may not be out of place here to call attention to the Bible principles relating to the subject of dress and personal adornment. In beginning this phase of the subject you should note that the Gospel is not a set of rules, but a revelation of moral principles. It is intended for all people in all countries, climates, and ages. You should not, therefore, expect that these principles as they relate to dress would be revealed in other than the most general terms, or applied to the details of the subject. There is just one principle involved. You may sum up the whole subject under that one heading. The Bible standard of dress consists of just three words, but these three words cover the whole scope of life. They are, "in modest apparel" (1 Timothy 2:9). This is the standard, and this is the whole standard. You are given a hint regarding how to apply this standard, but your own good judgment is sufficient to draw the line in the right place, provided your heart is conformed to the divine image. There is no excuse for fanaticism any more than there is for pride. Sound judgment and good sense will help you avoid both extremes.

A definition of modesty is, "Restrained within due limits of propriety; free from indecency or lewdness; not excessive or extreme; moderate." A Christian's apparel should be modest in cut, that is, in the way it is made. It should cover the body as a modest person would cover it, not displaying those parts that the prevailing standards of modesty require to be covered. Judged by this standard,

very many religious professors come far short, their clothing being less than decency really requires. Such a thing, of course, does not have its origin in a pure heart. The woman who displays herself to attract attention is anything but modest.

Clothing should be made to conform to modesty in all respects. Modesty is the avoidance of extreme. Christian apparel should be modest in texture; that is, it should not be so thin that it displays the body or the underwear. No man thinks a woman modest who wears goods so thin as to display her undergarments. Such things are very unbecoming to saints, and of course not less so to other people. Sister, dress so that a modest man will not feel embarrassed in your presence.

Some have thought it wrong to try to make our clothes becoming. This is not the case. The Bible says "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel"; that is, their apparel should be such as adorns or becomes them, so long as it is modest clothing. It should be adapted in cut and color to harmonize with the complexion, size, and height of the person. You owe it to yourself to make a good appearance. To make yourself outlandish in any way is unwise. It is violating modesty, and this is not consistent. It is only when you make a proper appearance that you can have a proper influence, and so be effective for God.

God delights in modesty in dress, in words, in actions—in all things. Pride and show are an abomination to Him. If you conform to Him in your inner life and character, outward conformity will naturally follow. If inward desire runs out after that which is immodest and gaudy, if the heart desires to display upon the person gold and jewels and finery, it is because it does not conform to the image of God's Son, but to the world.

Selected

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

4 But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God

will think upon us, that we perish not.

7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

12 And he said unto them, Take me up,

and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Are You Running From God?



Brother Donald Orr

The Great City of Nineveh

The Book of Jonah is quite amazing to study. I studied some

about the city of Nineveh; its history and archeology are very interesting. There are at least two types of running from God. The first is running

from a task that God wants you to do, as in Jonah's case. Then there are those who are running from salvation. Nineveh was mentioned in our

Scripture text as the city that God wanted Jonah to go to and proclaim that He was going to destroy Nineveh unless the people repented. It was a very large city.

Some people scoff at the account of Jonah, saying that it is merely a myth or a false story. They say it cannot be real because of various reasons. Bible scholars, according to recent discoveries, have proven that the city was a long city by the Tigris River, which is in Iraq, across the river from the current town of Mosul, Iraq. Another interesting fact is, for a period of fifty years, Nineveh was the largest city in the world. The city was on the main route between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean; therefore, it received all the commerce in between for a period of time. It was a long, stretched out city with many suburbs, but back then the whole area was called Nineveh.

It took Jonah three days to journey from one end of the city to the other. The whole time Jonah was proclaiming what God was going to do to that city. Jonah was called a prophet because of his message. He was prophesying what God was going to do unless the people of the city repented. Some radicals in the Islamic world are trying to destroy some of the purported artifacts of Jonah's day in that region. They are trying to crush them out because obviously they are very notable. The story of Jonah the Prophet is notable in many types of religions because of the time frame in which it happened.

Again, Jonah 1:1-3 states: "Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah . . . saying, Arise and go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD." Jonah did the opposite of what God told him to do. Instead of saying, "God, I need You to help me," he immediately ran away from the task that God had given him to do. In essence, God told Jonah, "I want you to go to this large, wicked city and proclaim that I am

going to destroy it unless the people repent." Instead of seeking God's help and obeying God, Jonah ran away from Nineveh.

Avoiding God's Will

Do we tremble at a task that we are given from time to time? The answer is, yes, we all do. Why? Because we are not super human people running around. We have feelings and emotions, and sometimes God may give us a task that we are not capable of performing on our own. However, with the power of God working in and through our lives, all things are possible.

Mark 10:27 reads, "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." When we have God dwelling on the inside and He gives us a task to do, we can accomplish it, not in our own strength, but with the power of God working through us. We must recognize that within ourselves we cannot do anything, but with God's help we can accomplish what God wants us to do.

Jonah fled from the presence of God and got on the ship that was heading in the opposite direction. The crew had no clue who Jonah was. It was not long into the journey that a storm arose. It was not just a normal storm; it was a very severe storm. They knew something different was going on. The God of the sea was not happy with somebody on that ship. Jonah was able to sleep in the midst of his disobedience. When you are not doing what God wants you to do, can you sleep? Can you take your ease?

Jonah paid for his running away the hard way. He spent three days of prayer in the belly of the great fish that God prepared for him. No one else in history has spent three days in the belly of a great fish praying and then lived to tell about it. It is a great children's story, but it is true. This is not a fable or a myth. It really happened. It goes to show the lengths that God will go in order to awaken

people.

Sometimes you may wonder when things happen to you, "Why is this happening?" It should cause you to do a self-examination. You should examine yourself and ask God if something is going on. Obviously if you are running away from God, you know exactly what you are doing. You know that you are disobeying God.

Now, we are going to give Jonah credit for a couple of things. He took all the blame for the storm and the distress of the crew. Once they got him awake and started questioning him, he admitted that he was the offending one. In essence, he said, "I am the man that God is after." He had a message from God, but he was not doing what God wanted him to do. He owned up to it and told them: "The only way the sea is going to be calm is if you throw me overboard. Separate me from the rest of you, and then you will be fine. God is after me." As soon as they threw him overboard, the fish was right there and swallowed him.

Jonah 2:1-10 reads: "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou hearest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

"When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that

that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah was praying in the belly of the fish. It was probably in a very tight place, but I am sure he was praying. He was in the exact place that God wanted him, praying. Undoubtedly, he told God that he was sorry for running away. He got to the place where he was willing to do whatever God asked him to do, so God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land. When God does something, He does it perfectly. There is no mistake, and there is no need to wonder why He did it.

In Jonah's case the rest of the people on that ship were suffering for what Jonah was doing. Does your family or do those around you suffer because you are avoiding God's will? It is a question that only you can answer.

Are You Obedient to God?

Jonah 3:1-7 tells us: "And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

"So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water."

After Jonah spent three days in

the belly of that large fish, he no longer wanted to avoid what God told him to do. Some people will go to great lengths to avoid what God wants them to do. I am going to cover a few of these. How about an apology? Suppose God tells you, "I want you to apologize to someone for something." People will go to great lengths to avoid humbling themselves and apologizing even though God has directly told that person to apologize for whatever it was that he did or said.

How about making a restitution? If God tells you that you need to make a restitution, He will give you the grace and the power to work it out so that it can happen. Many times some people say, "I can't do that; that's just not me." They run from the task that God has given them to do. When you are in that mode of running from God, one thing is going to pile on to another, and you are not going to be blessed.

How about your witnessing? God may tell you, "I want you to talk to this person." If God asks you to do that, then He has a reason. You must not run from the task that God has given you to do. There are different mind games that some people play to justify their position of avoiding what God wants them to do. There is a great battle in the mind that goes on, and once you settle that you are going to do what God wants you to do, peace of mind will come over you. God will help you from that point on to do that task. When God puts His finger on something and says you need to do this, you need to do it then. When you complete the task that God wants you to do, it feels as though a load has been lifted off you. You will feel so much better, and obviously you can go further and accomplish more things for God. A Christian must be obedient.

In the Book of Acts, Saul was causing havoc within the church. Everybody knew of Saul. As a Christian, if you had lived in the city where Saul was, you might have been captured, killed, or something bad could have happened to you. The

word came to Ananias: "I want you to go down to this place where Saul is and pray for him." Imagine putting yourself in Ananias' shoes. That would have been a hard thing to do, but because Ananias obeyed God, we have the majority of the New Testament. It is amazing that in one act of obedience so much was accomplished. Ananias committed it to God.

Brother Emerson Wilson told this story along the line of being obedient to what God wanted him to do. God told him to get dressed and go down to the courthouse and preach on a street corner. Obviously in a small town Brother Wilson wrestled with that one. Nevertheless, he got dressed, got his Bible, and went down to the courthouse and got ready to preach. God spoke to him and said: "These people will not listen to you, but this was a test. I wanted to see if you were going to obey what I wanted you to do." That could happen to any one of us. God could put you through a test similar to that. He might want you to witness to a stranger. You may think, "I could not do that." You are right. You cannot, but with God's help all things are possible. As a Christian, you are just a tool for God, and if you let God use you, it will benefit the Kingdom of God. That is why we are here.

Avoiding the Convicting Power of the Holy Spirit

Many people are running from salvation. My heart is burdened for those who seemingly avoid the conviction of the Holy Spirit. They know what they need to do, yet they will not yield to God. Sometimes they head out the back door almost at a run. They are constantly moving from place to place, and God deals with them in many different ways. God works in mysterious ways sometimes. Some get under conviction, so they move to another location, and God deals with them there. Then they move again, trying to escape what God wants them to do.

What they fail to realize is that God is everywhere. There is no place where they can hide. They could go to the highest mountain, to the deepest part of the ocean, or to outer space, but God is everywhere.

God is able to work through the smallest things to talk to you. You may cloud your mind with all kinds of things, but there comes a point when you have to quiet down and go to sleep. Sometimes that is when God will start talking to you. If you should die in your sleep, you know where you are going, and it is not Heaven.

Some people are running from God and the Holy Spirit in other ways. They use any excuse not to come to a church service or they will purposely plan things to conflict with a church service. Instead of just not coming and saying they do not want to deal with it, they make up excuses. They can tell anybody anything, but God knows exactly what they are doing. One of the reasons some people do not want to come to church service and be around God's people is that they are convicted of their sins. They do not want to feel that conviction or condemnation when they get around righteousness.

Some people still come to the church services, yet they are running from God. Once they get into the service, they devise many techniques to dampen or to kill the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. What are some ways that dampen or kill the effects of the Holy Spirit's convicting power? One way is to play with a cell phone, by checking a text or an email or by playing a game. There are other electronic gadgets besides phones.

Some people fall asleep, just as Jonah did. That is an easy way to avoid that convicting power of the Holy Spirit. I do not say these things to hurt anybody; that is not my intention. My intention is to try to help you to see what is happening.

Some people work on their shopping list while the service is going on. Of course, their minds are thinking of something else. Others pass

notes back and forth. The Holy Spirit is trying to work, but they are figuring out what they are going to do after service by passing notes back and forth.

Sometimes people will pick up a small child and play with that child so the Holy Spirit does not talk to them. Others daydream; their mind wanders somewhere else. They may think about going fishing or planning a trip, and before they know it, somebody says amen and the service has ended. There are many, many ways that ones try to avoid God. The concern that I have for those who do these things is this: although God is a very long-suffering God, there will come a time when His patience will end and it will be too late to turn to God.

Are You Hardening Your Heart?

A song in our songbook says: "There's a line that is drawn by rejecting the Lord." If you purposely avoid God, continually rejecting God's offer, there is a line that is drawn, and only God knows where that line is. When people continually do things to avoid the Holy Spirit, at some point, they will step over the line.

Genesis 6:3 reads, "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." God stated at the very beginning of time that His Spirit will not always strive with man. He will not always continually work with you. There is a line that you can cross over.

There is a hardening process that comes with rejecting God. Have you had any experience with wax? A candle that has been burning for several hours will liquefy. If you pour the melted wax on a cooler surface, in a very short time it will begin to harden. While it is still in a soft form, you can do many things with it, but once the wax hardens, it is no longer pliable. The same is true spiritually. This is more serious than I can make it. Is a hardening process

taking place in your life?

You cannot receive salvation unless God convicts you. Some people seem to think that they can get saved whenever they are ready on their terms, but it does not work that way. God has set up the plan of salvation; it is not our plan. We each have to follow God's terms. When He is drawing you, that is the time to get saved.

The enemy works overtime to cloud the minds of the lost. A sinner should truly consider his lost position and count the cost of being lost forever. The clear-minded, right thing to do would be to humble down before Christ and plead for mercy and help. It is so hard to get some people to really think about their eternal souls and where they are heading. The enemy works overtime to get you to think about anything except where you are going to spend eternity.

Do you know when your last breath will be? No, none of us does. You need to take the mercy and salvation being offered today. The Bible tells us that today is the day of salvation. Today, because we do not know about tomorrow, you ought to answer His call. Some run from God because of the mess that they have made of their lives. Some people were saved at one time, but they backslid and went back into sin. What happens? They come into the service and God convicts them and tells them what they need to do.

Often the devil brings in thoughts of the mess they have made and the things they are involved in. He will say: "If you get saved, people are going to know all about that. Then what are they going to think about you?" Many times they are embarrassed to admit the mess they are in. It would be better to humble themselves now than to take their pride to the Judgment. Some people are too proud to admit that they need help. Their lives are spiraling out of control, and they know it. They are not going in the right direction, and things are getting worse. A true Christian is praying that in some

way, somehow God will awaken them to the way that they are going.

Some people will not admit that they are an alcoholic even though they drink continually. They cannot take that step and say, "I am an alcoholic, and I need help."

Count the Cost of Being Lost Forever

God is a God of second chances. God's people feel the same way. We want to see ones get back on the right track. There is no greater joy than to see ones that you are praying for make things right. It is just like getting saved all over again. We want to see ones get their names restored. Sometimes when people get into deep sin, their names get trashed, because the devil leads them around to do bad things. God's people want to see people's names restored and see ones make it to Heaven. We are not here to run anyone down. No, we want to see everyone make it to Heaven. The ultimate goal is to see people gain help.

Second Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repen-

tance." God will go to great lengths to convict people and convince them of what they need to do, but it is their choice. God does not force anyone. We are not robot Christians. People have to want help.

If you are running from God, running from what God wants you to do, or running from the great gift of salvation, I beg of you to please stop running and yield to God and His will for your life. The Christian life is the best life this side of Heaven. No matter what the devil says, we know he is a liar. With all the trials and tribulations and things that we go through, we still have the best life. The greatest part of that is the fact that the life that we live has no regrets. We know where we are going, and we know what is on the other side. God will not ask us to do anything that we are unable to do. If He asks you to do a task, He will furnish the grace and the power to do it.

You should purpose in your heart, "God, I cannot do this, but if You will help me, I will do it." Once you purpose that in your heart, God will give you a power that you cannot explain. Something will come over you that will enable you to do the impossible. Some people might say that is impossible, but with God living on the inside, you can.

If you are running from

salvation, you need to count the cost of being lost. There is a cost involved. Salvation is free, but there is a cost of being lost, and that cost is damnation forever in eternity. How long is eternity? It is forever. How long is forever? You will have to ask God that because our human minds cannot fathom it. You might have loved ones waiting for you over in Heaven. They have gone on before you. They lived this life, fought the good fight of faith, and they have achieved the heavenly prize. If you ever want to see them again, you are going to have to follow the same path. There is no alternative path to Heaven; there is no secret way. You must follow the same path, and that is the path of salvation.

Jonah was running away from God. If you are running from a task that God wants you to do, it is not going to end well for you. If you are running from salvation, God is offering you a free gift. You are not going to have true peace down in your heart without Jesus. It is a peace that passes all understanding, no matter what happens. The place where you live could disappear in a nuclear holocaust. You do not know, but you can have the peace that you know where you are going.

(Compact Disc TR-1379E)

[Camp Meeting Report—continued from p. 2]
week our hearts were blessed and encouraged as the choir sang so beautifully and the special singers sang their harmonious melodies. With great joy we report that many souls joined together unto the Lord. On Saturday evening a young sister, 29 years of age from "Team Challenge" gave her testimony. She lived a sad life of suffering, and drug abuse entangled her while in sin. Through all her heartache and misery, God spoke to her heart and led her to a place of salvation and victory. Her testimony opened the door that led to many young people coming to the Lord. At this same service there were two gentlemen from Italy that visited the meeting. Without a doubt they

envisioned a sight they had never seen before. Surely all the praises, glory, and honor go to the Lord for His wonderful doings.

We would strongly urge you to order a copy of the messages preached in this outstanding camp meeting. Although you may not have had the privilege of being here in August, you can be enriched by the messages and songs delivered.

To order your copy of the recordings, please write to *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055 or call 740-345-1312.

A TRUE MINISTER

**God's man in
God's place, doing
God's work, in
God's way, for
God's glory.**

[Walking in His Paths—continued from p. 14]
brought in to their party. They were drinking and singing and dancing and carrying on, and Belshazzar allowed his guests to drink out of those vessels that had been dedicated to the worship of God. When they poured the wine and the strong spirits into those cups and began to drink, a man's hand appeared on the wall and began to write. Belshazzar did not know what the writing said, yet the Bible says his knees smote together, and fear took hold of him. God can get your attention no matter where you are, no matter how proud you are, and no matter how much you may have. God will find you.

"The Mountain of the Lord's House"

Moses feared and quaked in the presence of God and His voice. Again, Hebrews 12:21-22 reads: "And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels."

You may ask, "What does that mean?" Verse 23 tells us, "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." That is where we have come to. This is the prophesy that Isaiah was giving when he said, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains [I thank God that it is not in the hills, but in the top of the mountains], and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."

I had an opportunity to travel to Fairbanks, Alaska. Flying out of Seattle, Fairbanks, and Anchorage, I got to see what it was like to go up through the clouds and look at the earth from a little higher elevation. I noticed as we were flying out of Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, as I looked at those mountains from the

air, they were so beautiful. As we rose in altitude, I noticed that all those mountains were no longer visible except for Mount McKinley (recently renamed Denali); it was the only mountain that poked up through the clouds. If you would have been standing on top of Mount McKinley, you would not have been able to go up any higher because that is the highest one. That is the way the Church of God is.

When you are in a lower elevation, you see the hills of religion around you, but when you get up into Mount Zion, the Church of God, you can look up all you want to and you will not see a higher mountain. This is the top of the mountain, where God established the church in the top of the mountain. There is no other church like God's church. The hills of religion cannot get up this high. I praise God for that!

When you get on top of this mountain, you will find that it is God's mountain. Mount McKinley cannot even hold a candle to God's mountain, Mount Zion. It is higher than Mount McKinley. It is not a literal mountain that you can touch, but it is a spiritual mountain that we dwell in. It is the general assembly, the church of the firstborn. I thank God that I have been born again. Praise God! The church of the firstborn is written in Heaven.

Do you remember what Jesus said to the seventy disciples after He had sent them out? He sent them out by pairs and told them to go out, but not to take script or food or extra clothes with them, but go into a town or city and find a house that was worthy. He told them to find somebody that had enough food to feed them and an extra bedroom. He instructed them to dwell there and preach, "The gospel of the Kingdom of God is at hand." He said, "Whenever you are done, leave the city and leave your blessing on the house, unless they do not like your preaching. If they do not like your preaching, shake the dust off and it will be a curse against them." When the disciples returned to the Lord, they

were rejoicing and praising God. Why? They said even the devils were subject to them through His name, but what did Jesus say? He told them not to rejoice in this, but to rejoice that their names were written in Heaven.

God Established a Spiritual Mountain

When you get saved, God writes your name in Heaven. You might have your name written in some preacher's book, but if he does not like the way you dress or look, he can open his book and erase your name. I am so glad that God holds the precious Book of Life, and if your name is written there, no man can remove it. Jesus said in John, Chapter 10, that no man can pluck you out of the Father's hand. Your name is written in His hand. A mother might forget her suckling child, but God will not forget you.

Paul said if God be for you, who can be against you? Mount Zion is the mountain that God has established. This is what Isaiah was prophesying about. Isaiah said "that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." I praise God for that! I am not a Jew by natural birth, but thank God, I am a Jew by spiritual birth. God chose only the Jewish nation to begin with. When Jesus was walking along with His disciples and the Syrophenician woman came up to Him and cried out for His help, He did not respond, so she began to cry after the disciples. In essence, they said, "Lord, send her away, for she is troubling us." Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost house of Israel."

What did the angel promise when Jesus was conceived to be born? He said, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Israel was God's chosen nation. Jesus said it is not meet, or fit, to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs. He was

sent to Israel. I am not a chosen member to receive God's blessings. I am not of the right nationality, but here we find Isaiah prophesying and giving hope to all nations. He said all nations would flow into it.

Thank God, Isaiah was not talking about a literal mountain. You do not have to go over to the Middle East to a literal mountain to get into God's presence. God established another mountain, a spiritual mountain, and it is accessed through God's Holy Spirit. When you yield yourself to the Lord, ask His forgiveness, forsake your sins, and ask God to come into your life, you receive a spiritual experience. You become a member of the Church of God. Paul said the Church of God is the pillar and ground of the Truth. It is God's house, and thank God you can become a member when you get saved.

"All Nations Shall Flow Unto It"

Jesus said in John, Chapter 10, when he was talking about the sheep, that He had other sheep which were not of that fold. Those were strange words to them, because they were Israelites and God had chosen them. When Jesus spoke those words, it was a precursor for what was going to happen in the Book of Acts. Peter was at Simon the tanner's house, and Cornelius was praying. God told Cornelius to send a couple of servants down to Simon the tanner's house and get Peter, so he could preach to them.

Peter was up on the rooftop studying the Bible and getting ready for a church service when God gave him a vision. He lowered down a great sheet from Heaven, and inside that sheet were animals, some clean and some unclean. God told Peter to take and eat, but in essence, Peter said, "I cannot, because some of those animals are unclean and forbidden by the Jewish law." God told him not to call unclean what He had called clean. God gave Peter the vision again, and before Peter could get it all figured out in his head, there was a knock at the door.

Simon the tanner answered the door, and they asked if there was a man named Peter there. Peter went to the door, and they said they were servants sent from Cornelius' house. God told Cornelius to send them to take Peter back to preach. Peter was still trying to sort this out in his mind, but he got his notes together and traveled down to Cornelius' house.

When Peter arrived, can you imagine how hesitant he might have been, walking into a Gentile's house? Peter was very prejudiced. He got in trouble regarding that later on, because of dissimulation. He was staunch on the Jewish religion, and even though he did not agree with the religious leaders of his day, he was not going to buck them and cause problems.

Once Peter arrived, he started preaching, and the Holy Spirit of God came down and filled the house, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost. In so many words, Peter said: "I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons. The same way He blessed us in Jerusalem is the same way He is blessing right here in this house." God sent the Gospel out to other nations.

Our Scripture text says in verse 2, "All nations shall flow unto it." Where are all nations going to flow unto? They are flowing unto Mount Zion, the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels. Sometimes when I look around at my congregation, I think about there being two floors: I am living on the first floor, but there are many saints who have gone on before me who are living on the "upper" floor. This is the same church that is named in Heaven and in earth.

Living Testimonies

We read in Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. . . ." What witnesses was the writer speaking of? He was talking about the ones you read about in

Chapter 11. They were men of faith who held on to the Lord. The writer wrote in Hebrews 12:23, "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

Without you and me those just men of the Old Testament are not made perfect. In other words, the Old Testament brethren were not complete until Jesus ushered in the New Testament. They looked to Jesus, Who was to come. They had faith.

The writer said in Hebrews 11:39-40: "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." They died not receiving the promise. What was the promise? The promise was Jesus Christ. All the shadows and types and practices of the Old Testament were established by God. When God brought Jesus Christ on the scene, God proclaimed Him as the Messiah, and all those prophesies were brought to pass.

When Jesus hung on the Cross, He said, "It is finished." He was not talking about His physical life. He was talking about the fulfillment of the law and prophets. Every prophecy that was given about Him was fulfilled. Not an "i" was left undotted or a "t" was left uncrossed. Without us those of old are not made perfect. Why? Because they believed in Jesus Who was to come, and we believe in Jesus Who already has come. They were believing in the work that He was coming to do. We believe in the work He has done. We not only believe it but also confirm it. How are we confirming it? We confirm it with the signs following. When Jesus came, He brought redemption to mankind, to reconcile mankind, and to bring him back into right standing with God. I am living proof that it works. I trust that you will be able to experience it and know what it means.

What Jesus came to do, He has fulfilled. James promised it. He wrote in James 4:8a, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." God has done His work through Jesus Christ. What is He waiting on? He is waiting on you to make a move. The move is yours. When you acknowledge that Jesus Christ shed His blood for your redemption, and you come to Jesus, His blood will cover all your sins. You must acknowledge that and come to God and humble yourself; then you will be a living testimony that God saves through Jesus Christ.

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus in John, Chapter 3? He said, "Ye must be born again." He did not say, "You should be born again" or "It does not matter whether or not you are born again." What did Peter say when he and John stood before the counsel? He said in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus is the answer for sin-sick souls today. If you will accept the answer through Jesus Christ, you can have life anew. The "old man" will be crucified as Paul said in Romans 6:6, and you can be raised to newness of life through Jesus Christ. Old things will pass away, and all things will become new.

Verse 3 of our Scripture text in Isaiah says, "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." I praise God for that! God did not choose Babylon to send His truth through; He chose Zion. No other church is like the Church of God. Oh, others might dress modestly and have other outward standards right, but there is only one Mount Zion. Paul said there is a foundation that has been laid: the prophets and apostles, and Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone. Only one

building can be built on that foundation. It is Mount Zion. God approves of the Church of God. His Word backs it up. You can study this in God's Word. God lays it out right in His Word. Again, verse 3 tells us that "he will teach us of his ways."

Walking in God's Ways

Jeremiah prophesied and said "in that day." What day was he talking about? He was speaking of the last days. He said in that day He would call pastors after His own heart, they would feed His people with knowledge and understanding. How can we be taught God's ways? We are taught God's ways by God-called, God-sent men. How can a man preach except he be called and sent by God? Preaching inspires faith. We need to hear from God's man. What did the Lord promise in this last day in Mount Zion? He said He would teach His ways, not man's ideas, not what man has come up with and has written in a book.

A true man of God will teach us of His ways. If you are skipping church because you do not like the preaching, you might have a soul problem. You need to get into the church services. You should not just come in before the singing starts and leave when it is over. You need to stay for the message and the altar call. If you leave the service before the altar call, that is a clear indication that you needed to stay because you are walking in the wrong direction.

It is the pastor's, the preacher's, and the evangelist's job to teach you God's ways. How can you know that someone is teaching you God's ways? You need to follow him in the Book. Do you take your Bible to church with you? Many times people leave their Bibles at home. You need to have your Bible with you. Also, you should write down the Scriptures and study them.

The man of God fulfills his responsibility when he teaches us of His ways. Next, your responsibility is to "walk in his paths." Are you doing that? The preacher did his job;

now it is your turn. David said in Psalm 86:11, "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name." David made a vow, or a promise, to the Lord. In essence, he said, "Lord, if You will teach me Your way, I will walk in Your Truth." Is that the kind of confidence that God can have in you?

We are living in Mount Zion. This is the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. This is the assembly of the firstborn. We can raise our hands and testify to that and thank God for our great salvation. What is your resolve regarding God's Truth when it is preached to you? You need to have it settled, "Lord, teach me Your ways, and I will walk in Your Truth." David said something else at the end of Psalm 86:11 that might puzzle you. He said, ". . . unite my heart to fear thy name." Have you ever had your thoughts all scattered and felt that you were in the valley of indecision? Well, you need your heart united and pulled together. God does not want your mind to be all scattered out.

Paul said God will give you a sound mind. You do not need to be as James said, "a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed," wishy-washy and back and forth. God wants you to have a solid foundation and to be settled in your experience. Your resolve should be, "God, teach me Your way, and I will walk in Your Truth." I appreciate the Truth of God's Word that I have heard preached all my life. God has victory for you. You do not have to be whipped by the devil, God will give you victory.

(Compact Disc TR-1331M)

**It is never the
right time to do
the wrong thing.**

Fall 2015 Camp Meeting Recordings

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-1562 TR-1563	8-02-2015	Where Will You Be in Eternity? I Surrender All	Bro. Larry Dishman Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1564 TR-1565 TR-1566	8-03-2015	Does the Scripture Teach That Jesus Descended Into Hell? Leadership Qualities, Part 1 Divorce and Remarriage, Part 1	Bro. Earl R. Borders Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1567 TR-1568 TR-1569	8-04-2015	Understanding the Scheme of the Scriptures Leadership Qualities, Part 2 Divorce and Remarriage, Part 2	Bro. Earl R. Borders Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1570 TR-1571 TR-1572	8-05-2015	The Nation Israel Leadership Qualities, Part 3 Will There Be a Secret Rapture of the Church?	Bro. Roger L. Decker Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1573 TR-1574 TR-1575	8-06-2015	The Great Tribulation Leadership Qualities, Part 4 Sound Doctrine	Bro. Roger L. Decker Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-1576 TR-1577 TR-1578	8-07-2015	The House That God Is Building Leadership Qualities, Part 5 What Is a Sinner?	Bro. David Watson Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-1579 TR-1580 TR-1581	8-08-2015	Are You Leaning in the Wrong Direction? Leadership Qualities, Part 6 Little By Little	Bro. Leamon Whitehead Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1582 TR-1583	8-09-2015	Passive or Persistent Where There Is No Vision the People Perish	Bro. Richard Talbot Bro. Larry Dishman
TM-358 TM-359 TM-360 TM-361	2015	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4	
	2015	Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 1 Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 2	
	2015	All Morning Messages in MP3 Format (1 CD) All Evening Messages in MP3 Format (1 CD) All Teaching Services in MP3 Format (1 CD) All Songs for the Fall Camp Meeting in MP3 Format (1 CD)	

All messages and music recordings are available only on regular CD's or MP3 format. (Cassette tapes are no longer available.) The suggested donation for regular CD's is \$3.00 each and for DVD's is \$5.00 each. The suggested donation for MP3's is \$10.00 each. The postage is \$3.00 for one CD or MP3 and \$0.35 for each additional. Recordings may be ordered by writing The Gospel Trumpeter, CD Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling (740) 345-1312, the Print Shop. Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to The Gospel Trumpeter.

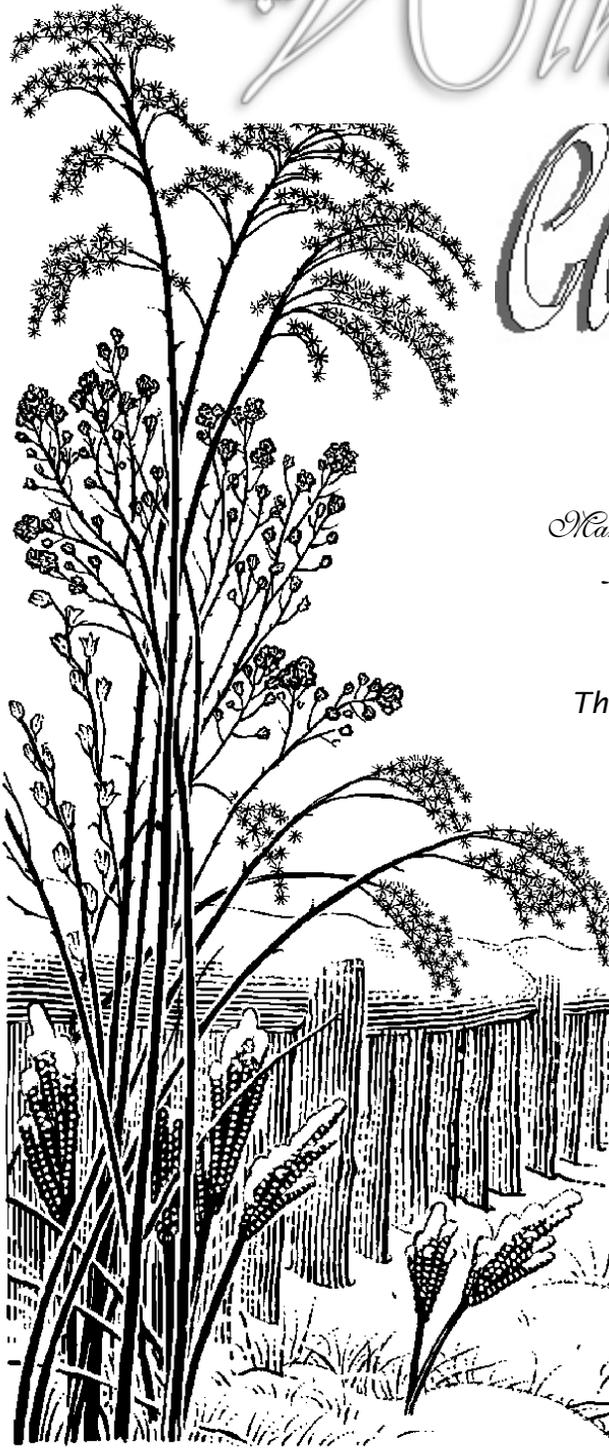


Winter 2015 Camp Meeting

December 27-30

*Make your reservations now to come and worship the
Lord with us in an old-fashioned meeting at
God's Acres, Newark, Ohio*

*The first service begins Sunday
at 10:00 a.m.*



Send reservations to:

*David L. Ostrum
725 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Oh 43055*

Or call

(614) 545-1213

Announcements

New Castle, IN
October 1-4

Revival: Ninth Street Church of God, 125 S. 9th Street, New Castle, IN 47362
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi. Service times:
Thurs.-Sat. 7 p.m.; Sun. school 9:45 a.m., Sun. 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Allen Polston
Telephone: 765-524-1776 or 765-521-8284

Morehead, KY
October 5-11

Revival: Blue Bank Church of God, 3200 Blue Bank Road, Morehead, KY 40351
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
For further information contact: Brother Jeff Fannin
Telephone: 606-784-2858 or 606-776-2639 or 606-784-9241

Old Fort, NC
October 12-17

Revival: Old Fort Depot, 25 West Main Street, Old Fort, NC
Evangelist: Brother Earl R. Borders, Heath, Ohio. *Preaching from the Book of Revelation nightly.* Service times: Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
For further information contact Brother Joe Brewer @ 828-738-3370

Medina, OH
October 19-25

Revival: The Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH.
Evangelist: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, Ohio
Service times: Mon - Fri. 7 p.m.; Sat. 6 p.m. & Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 4 p.m.
For further information contact the church at 330-725-5993 or call 330-421-0187

Summersville, WV
Oct. 26 - Nov. 1

Revival: The Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651
Evangelist: Brother Irwin Seshier, Heath, Ohio
Service times: Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 6 p.m., & Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders @ 304-872-4047
Visit our website: www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com

Canby, OR
November 26-29

Fellowship Meeting & Revival: The Church of God, 522 NW 2nd Ave.,
Canby, OR 97013 . Services will be held Thurs.- Sun. There will be a 10:30 a.m.
service as well as 7 p.m. each evening, and 6 p.m. on Sun.
For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier, 552 NW 2nd Ave.
Canby, OR 97013. Telephone: 503-266-9297

2016 Camp Meeting Dates

June 19-26 July 31-August 7

December 28-January 1

We hope you will plan your vacation time so that you
can join us in these old-fashioned camp meetings.



Postman send form 3579 to:

The Gospel Trumpeter

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

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



**REQUEST FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTION, CHANGE OF
ADDRESS, OR CANCELLATION**

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

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

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

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

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

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

(Please Print or Type)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

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

- Subscription Incorrect spelling of name or address
 Change of address Cancellation