

The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 47 May 2017 No. 5



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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Vol. 47 May 2017 No. 5

Guest Editorial

*Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come
even to his seat!*

Job 23:3

Discouragement May Come

In this Scripture Job was suffering with deep heartache. Within a short time he had lost everything he had. His children, his servants, and his cattle were taken away suddenly. All that he owned and cared for was lost. Remember that Job was a righteous man in God's sight. He walked pleasing before the Lord day after day. His wife failed to be the support that she needed to be.

Next, we find that Job was sorely afflicted in his body. In his hour of desperation, this trial had become very heavy and burdensome. From a human standpoint, it looked as though God had forsaken him. He felt so alone, and it seemed that he was unable to gain God's attention. You can read in Job 23:3 that Job cried out from the depths of his soul, "Oh that I knew where I might find him!"

Job went on to say what he would do when he found God. He said in verses 4-6: "I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me. Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me."

Although Job was sorely oppressed and knew not which

way to turn, he had faith and knew that God was able to help him. He was assured that God would come to his rescue. Job was unable to feel God's presence, yet he kept his confidence fixed in God's ability to deliver. In the midst of losing all he had, he had to contend with three so-called friends who accused him of being unrighteous. Pressure and trouble was coming in from every side. This severe trial appeared to be more than he could bear, still he refused to abandon his integrity. Job's steadfast life and faithfulness has brought comfort and encouragement to millions of people throughout the ages as they have faced trials.

When we think of the many people who are cumbered with adversity and trials of various types, we understand their feelings of discouragement. Discouragement can come to any one of God's children; however, it is something that each individual must overcome. If not dealt with quickly and properly, this tyrant can lead a person into murmuring and complaining, and then finally into sin. Trials are never designed to turn anyone away from God. Their purpose is to strengthen a person's faith and build spiritual maturity. During times of trials and afflictions, a person may

[continued on page 6]

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be

unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

The Judgment



Brother Roger L. Decker

All Must Appear Before the Judgment Seat of Christ

I believe there is a lack of the old-fashioned fear of God. Verse 10 of our Scripture text reads, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done,

whether it be good or bad." It is needful to be reminded of what lies out ahead for each of us. This life is not all there is. There is something beyond this life. If there was ever a time that you needed to be serious about life, it is now. Life after death awaits every one of us, either in the bliss of Heaven or in the torments of hell.

As we look to see what the Scriptures have to say about the Judgment, the first thing we notice is that the Judgment is compulsory. We must all appear before God there. No one is exempt. There will not be any "draft dodgers," as in the military.

We read in John 5:28-29: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is

coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Here Jesus was speaking of the final resurrection. He said all that are in the graves will hear and come forth.

I want you to notice in this Scripture there is no choice in the hearing or in the coming forth, but in this life we each have a choice. In this life you do not have to hear, and you do not have to obey. On the other hand, the Judgment is something that no one can avoid. In all areas of this life, you can change your mind. For example, you can cancel appointments or you can turn things down. However, when the final trumpet blows, there will not be any delays or excuses. All shall hear, and all shall come forth. The Judgment is compulsory. Paul said, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."

Next, we find that the Judgment is personal. Each one must give an account for his or her own life. You cannot answer for your husband or wife. A father or a mother cannot answer for a son or a daughter. What will be brought up at the Judgment? The Bible is very explicit along this line. Ecclesiastes 12:14 states, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

If you like to party on the weekends, do not think that God does not see that. Do not think for one minute that God does not know what is going on. You will never get an experience with God until you deny yourself and truly let God take the reins of your life. God saw the party that Belshazzar had, and that was one party that He interrupted. God sees every secret thing, whether it is good or evil.

Again, verse 10 of our Scripture text says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to

that he hath done [that is personal], whether it be good or bad." This Scripture does not mean the good outweighs the bad; it is either good or bad.

Who will judge us? In John 12:48 Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Revelation 20:11 tells us, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."

Absolute Justice

Sometimes in our society the criminal walks free and the innocent are sentenced; however, at the final Judgment, the innocent will go free and the guilty will be cast into the lake of fire. Every wicked deed will receive its proper dues. It will not make any difference who a man knows or how much wealth or influence a man has in this world. Absolute justice will be handed out at the Judgment.

Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." The Judgment is an appointment. God set it up, and your name is somewhere on God's calendar. It is appointed. God did not let us set it up, because we would never do it. It may come as a surprise, but it will come. You may not want to hear about death, but it is good to think about it once in a while to let the good, old-fashioned fear of God come back into your life.

Once death comes upon you, you cannot change anything. You cannot do any last minute fixing of anything. Just as a tree falls, so shall it lie. At the Judgment, no one will be there to plead your case, and no one can try to bribe the Judge. No famous attorney will be able to find a loophole in the law. We are going before the Judge who sees all, hears all, and knows all.

John 2:23-25 reads: "Now when

he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." Jesus knows what is in you, and He knows what is in me.

Luke 5:17-22 says: "And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

"And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But when Jesus perceived their thoughts [He knows what every one of us is thinking], he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?"

In Genesis 6:5, speaking of before the flood, God had this to say about that generation: "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." You are going to be standing before a God who knows your thoughts and your actions.

First Samuel 2:3 reads, "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." Another translation for this same Scripture says: "Stop your loud boasting; silence your proud words.

For the LORD is a God who knows and he judges all that people do." I repeat, God knows your thoughts and your actions.

What else stands out in verse 10 of our Scripture text about the Judgment? Paul said we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and everyone will receive the things done in the body according to what he has done, whether it is good or bad. What else do we see? The Judgment is universal; it takes in the whole world.

Everyone will be at the Judgment. Kings will be there, presidents will be there, movie stars will be there, drunkards will be there, rapists will be there, adulterers will be there, terrorists will be there, and you and I will be there. No one is going to slip out of it, and no one can hide from it. All people will be there. The Apostle Paul included himself.

Attributes of Salvation

I want to tell you how to prepare for this great event. We can get through it with victory. John 3:3 reads, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Joining a church, water baptism, or speaking in tongues will not bring about a change. There has to be a definite change in your life. You have to put off the old man and become a new creature. You must be born again.

Sin has to be removed from your life to be ready for the Judgment. Sin will not go away by ignoring it or by forgetting about it. It will not go away by trying to do better, but you must confess and forsake it. Proverbs 28:13 states, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper [people use a lot of coverings for sin—church joining, water baptism, speaking in tongues, and good works—but this Scripture tells you how to get your sins covered the right way, the Bible way]: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh

them shall have mercy."

What is needed to get through with victory at the Judgment? God must have mercy on you, but mercy can only be given to you when you are totally obedient to God's Word. You must repent of your sin, turn away from sin, and forsake sin. Certainly, you cannot remember everything wrong that you have ever done in your life to commit sin, but you do know that you are a sinner and that you need to repent, and you know that you need Christ in your heart.

You have to be willing to lay down every sinful habit, every wrong attitude, all unforgiveness and bitterness, as well as gossiping. Your husband or your wife cannot control your life pertaining to spiritual things. The wife should be submissive to the husband, because the husband is the head of the home. However, when it comes to spiritual things, the wife is duty bound to obey God.

What are some attributes of one who has been born again? He is easily entreated. James 3:17 reads, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." What does it mean to be easily entreated? It means that a person is not stubborn or obstinate. One who is easily entreated has a yielding disposition. He is one who is submissive, meek, and easy to talk to. Does that describe your character? Are you easily entreated or do you become overly agitated at the first sign of being upset?

Christians should be able to talk to one another without losing their temper or getting out of control. That is a long way from Christianity. If you cannot discuss things with civility, then you should not discuss them. You should just walk away. Christians ought to treat one another with respect.

Christians should not act like the carnal people of the world. When one is born again, he restores that

which belongs to someone else, whether it is a borrowed tool, a saw, a hammer, money, clothes, or whatever one might have borrowed. Maybe you owe someone an apology. Maybe you need to ask someone for forgiveness. A true Christian will do his best to clean up any dirty tracks that he has left behind. God's people do not keep company with those who have a tendency to follow into lukewarmness. They get away from following somebody who might lead them astray.

The Severity of the Judgment

When one is saved, he has a desire for God's Word and a desire to be with God's people. He would rather be at the house of God when the doors are open than at a social event or any place else. There he receives instruction for his soul, encouragement, and admonishment. At the house of God, his spirit is strengthened.

Dear one, you do not want to go to the Judgment unprepared. You do not want to go to the Judgment clothed in carnality; you want to go to the Judgment clothed in righteousness. I do not think you could even fathom in your mind how severe the Judgment is going to be. At the Judgment, there will be wrath like you have never known, but with no mercy or comfort. Remember, the rich man wanted just a *drop* of water. He did not ask for a two-liter bottle. There will be no mercy at the Judgment. In this life the rich man had all good things, but he had no time for God.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 Paul wrote: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Apostle Paul mentioned two classes of people that will suffer vengeance from God. One is those that know not God but remain in heathen ignorance. Two is those that

refuse to obey the Gospel. This takes in all disobedience, and it is caused by lacking the fear of God. Too many people do not fear God enough. They take for granted that God is merciful and understanding. Some people want to cast off all their failures and say God understands. Dear one, time is moving on, and you are traveling to the Judgment where no one will be there to plead for you. You have either done good or evil. Do you lack the fear of God?

The thought of going to the Judgment unprepared should send chills up your spine. When you go to the Judgment, your sins have either gone before you or they will follow you. If you have sin in your life, God wants you to come before Him in repentance now. Do not put it off until later, because you do not know if later will ever come.

Some people think they will go out and have a good time in sin, and when it comes time to die, God will be merciful to them. Friend, you

cannot count on that. You could be in a hospital all drugged up and not have the right use of your mind. To get hold of God, you are going to need to have a clear mind. Whatever you do, do not procrastinate. Do not put off something that you know you need to do. James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

(Compact Disc TR-1025M)

[Guest Editorial—continued from p. 2]
become weary because of the lingering circumstances. If that person is not careful and prayerful, the situation can lead him to give up in the battle.

Discouragement is neither an uncommon nor an abnormal situation, and it is not a sign of failure. Some have fallen captive to discouragement through no real fault of their own. Sometimes circumstances arise and there seems to be no way out, but you must remember that God is a waymaker. When there is no visible way out, you must trust that God will create a way. The children of Israel stood helplessly at the Red Sea with nowhere to turn. Their defeat and doom appeared to be sealed. In that hour of desperation, Moses told the people, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of

the LORD" (Exodus 14:13). By faith, they obeyed, and God made a way just in time. He will do the same for you! Your part is to simply stand still and keep your faith fixed in Him. God will not fail a trusting soul!

Many things surely look discouraging and hopeless in the day in which we live. It appears that sin and ungodliness is prevailing on every side. Dear friend, God in Heaven has everything under His control, although we may not see it. Remember, God has never forsaken His people, and He is not about to now. When the time is right, God will step in and make a way for His people to overcome and to be victorious. It is our responsibility to trust and obey His never-failing Word.

Are you going through a deep trial of adversity or affliction? Be

encouraged, lift up your head, and look to God. You must endeavor to look beyond the discouraging circumstance facing you and realize that Jesus is ready and able to help. There is no situation known to man that is too great for God to handle. I challenge you to put your faith and hope in the One who can bring you through with overcoming victory. There is no reason for a saint of God to remain in a discouraged condition indefinitely. I invite you to ponder the words of the Psalmist as he spoke so profoundly in Psalm 42:5. He said, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."

Selected

Something to Think About

**A lot of Christians are like wheelbarrows—no good unless they're pushed.
Some are like kites—if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away.
Some are like kittens—they are more content when petted.
Some are like footballs—you can't tell which way they will bounce next.
Some are like balloons—full of wind and ready to blow up.
Some are like trailers—they have to be pulled.
Some are like green neon lights—they keep going on and off.
Others are letting the Holy Spirit lead them. Which are you?**

Psalm 73:1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return

hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.

11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence.

14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

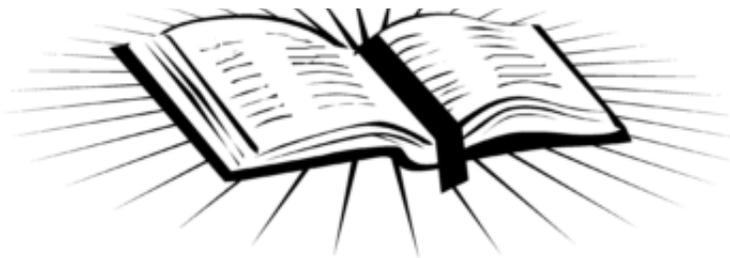
25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

The True Concept of Life



Brother E. David Stegmeier

A False Understanding of Life

In this message I want to focus on the thought of the true concept of life versus a perverted notion of our existence. A concept is something that we conceive in the mind, such as an idea, a thought, a notion, a

belief, or an opinion. A perverted notion is an idea to turn from what is right, true, desirable, good, or morally right. In general, the world has accepted a belief or an opinion that is leading them away from that which is true, desirable, and good. The majority of the world's popula-

tion has a perverted notion of God and what His plan is for people's lives. Many people have a false understanding concerning what life is about.

Our Scripture text, as well as Psalms 74 through 83, are a tribute to Asaph, who was the author. He

and his male descendants were put in charge of the music used in the worship of God by King David. In 1 Chronicles 15:16 Ezra wrote, "And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy." Music plays a very important part in the work of God.

In verse 1 of our Scripture text, Asaph held the sound principle that God is good. No matter what happens to us, we can say that God is good. That is the underlying premise that Asaph put forth. This psalm begins with the author expressing the goodness of God and ends by saying, "It is good." However, between verses 1 and 28 something happened. Verse 1 says, "Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart." Those who have clean hearts are the true Israel. In the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus said in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

In Romans 2:28-29 Paul wrote: "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

Connecting to that so beautifully, Paul wrote in Galatians 6:15-16: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." Israel represents the church, those who have clean hearts. Asaph was looking around. Again, in our Scripture reading in verse 1, Asaph said, "Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart." You can get your eyes focused on that which is not good. You need to keep your eyes focused on God and His goodness.

In our Scripture lesson, Asaph

noticed that the ungodly seemed to be prospering and the righteous were suffering. This perverted notion caused Asaph to falter in his faith for a brief time because he was looking in the wrong direction. You need to be careful of what permeates your mind. If something comes to your mind that is not edifying and that will not build you up, you need to stop it right there. For a short time, Asaph thought he was wasting his efforts in struggling to do what was right in the eyes of God. In Asaph's mind what he was calling good was not exactly what God calls good. Asaph was basing his thoughts and notions on what he saw with his eyes. He was not looking beyond.

Focus on Eternal Realities

I was saved as a small boy, and I have never left the church in all those years because I am convinced that the church has the Truth. You may ask, "Have you ever had any struggles?" I have had lots of struggles. There have been times when the devil has attempted to draw me back. He has shown me the glitter of the world and said, "How about this?" or "How about that?" but I looked beyond. I have tried to be careful of where I focus my eyes. God has always helped me to keep my vision focused on eternal realities.

There is an old song that I have sung over the years. In part, the song reads, "I came to Jesus sick of sin, He did not fail me then; He made me new without, within, And did not fail me then." No one will ever be saved or live successfully for God until he has had enough of sin. Often you can tell what is going on inside a person by looking at the outside. For example, on a clock you see the hands slowly moving, so you know something is going on inside. What you put on the outside is indicative of what is going on inside.

For a time Asaph was walking by sight and not by faith, and when you are walking by sight and not by faith, you are going to have prob-

lems. Asaph was troubled by what he was seeing. The Apostle Paul said in Hebrews 10:38, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." That is very strong. I want to encourage you to stay in the race until the very end. No matter what your problem is, you need to get to church.

You must walk by faith and not by sight. Abraham was promised a child when he was seventy-five years of age, but it did not come to fruition until he was one hundred years of age. The Bible says in Romans that he refused to look at the conditions; he looked to God. So it is in your own life. You must look to God; He does the impossible. Many times in life you will come to a roadblock. What should you do? Where should you go? How should you handle it? God will always see you through if you will look to Him. You need to give it a little time and exercise a little patience. One song entitled "By Faith and Not By Sight," by Clara M. Brooks, reads:

*Following Jesus from day to day,
Gently He leads me along the way;
E'er will I trust Him all foes
despite,
By faith and not by sight.*

*Jesus has purchased me for His
own;
Sweetly He reigns in my heart, His
throne,
Pardon He granted, and washed
me white,
By faith and not by sight.*

*Seeking to enter the holiest place,
Boldly I came to the throne of
grace;
Sanctified wholly, He's my delight,
By faith and not by sight.*

*When I was held in affliction's
chain,
Suffering much from disease and
pain;
Jesus then touched me and healed
my quite,
By faith and not by sight.*

*Walking with Jesus till we shall
meet,
When in His likeness I stand
complete,
Where with the ransomed in
Heaven's light,
My faith is lost in sight.*

*Walking with Jesus I'm in the light,
Walking with Jesus in robes of
white;
Walking with Jesus my way is
bright,
By faith and not by sight.*

Seeing According to God's Perspective

When you are in the house of God, you are there to worship. You need to watch, because the devil will try to get your thoughts somewhere else. God might have something special for you right when your mind is drifting off somewhere. Asaph received help when he went to the house of God and listened. He was almost overtaken by a perverted notion, something that could have led him away from God. If you are not careful, you can have perverted thoughts.

Asaph was almost overtaken by the perverted notion that the lost were being blessed and the righteous were suffering; however, when Asaph went to the house of God, his thinking began to change. When people go to church, their thinking begins to change. As Asaph sat and worshiped God and heard God's Eternal Word, he began to see things according to God's perspective. The Bible lets us know that people accumulate things and lay up treasures for when they pass away. They do not know for sure who is going to prosper from them, whether it will be someone who is worthy or someone who is not. The best thing is to lay up eternal treasures in Heaven.

The all-important goal in your life should not be what you possess, but where you are going eternally. Jesus said in Luke 12:15, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness:

for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Verse 4 of our Scripture reading says, "For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm." The unsaved may seem to die without suffering or experiencing a terrible or violent death, but we do not see what lies beyond for them.

Friend, do not be led away with a perverted notion that things are better out in the world, because they are not. I take my salvation and my calling extremely seriously. My job is to build up a healthy, wholesome, God-fearing Church of God congregation. It is not easy today, but that is first and foremost in my mind. I have sacrificed and labored arduously for years. I must do my best for God. We are only going to be here one time.

I remember one time a brother was visiting a large hospital. He had gone into a room to visit one of the saints, but he heard tremendous turmoil outside in the hall, so he walked out to see what was going on. Doctors were coming and going. A man in another room was screaming and hollering: "*I'm burning! I'm burning!*" The brother asked someone what was going on and was told that a man was dying.

Sometime you should read the little book entitled "Voices at the Edge of Eternity." When Queen Elizabeth was dying, she said, "I would give my whole kingdom for one more moment of life." Every one of us will come to that experience sooner or later.

The Prophet Amos said to Israel in the latter part of Amos 4:12, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." It may appear that the unrighteous are leaving this world peacefully; however, what does the Bible say? When you go to the house of God, it should give you a clear perspective of life.

People out in the world are not getting along well, even though it may appear that they are. Life is difficult for people who are living without God. I have no desire what-

soever to go out into the world. Truly God is good to Israel, to those who have a clean heart.

Making Eternal Choices

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, recorded in Luke, Chapter 16, we can get a true picture of both the righteous and the sinner. Luke wrote in Luke 16:22-23: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." The rich man begged that things could be different. He is still there, and he is still as thirsty as he was when Jesus first told the story. He is still wanting to get out, but the Bible says there is a gulf fixed. The rich man was there in hell, and Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom. There was no way that either one could go from one place to the other. It was fixed.

What goes on in a true Church of God congregation is far more important than what goes on anywhere else! Individuals are making eternal decisions that will affect the body, soul, mind, and spirit. That is the reason I tell my congregation, "I know that sometimes you might have to leave a service early, but if you do not have to leave, you ought to stay until the final amen." There may be some at the end of the service who are making eternal choices during the altar service. As an awesome hymn sounds forth to compel and draw souls with the beautiful lyrics, if you leave, you might disturb the wooing of the Holy Spirit.

In the life of the rich man, the Bible says he received good things. Many people are receiving their good things here in this life. When I was a child growing up, I had a very godly mother, and we lived in a hovel. Sometimes we visited relatives who had all the finer things of life. Mother would say to us as children, "They have their good things now." It is not wrong to have good

things, but where is your heart? Your heart should be in the things of God. In this life the rich man received good things, but Abraham said Lazarus received evil things. However, when they each died, we find Lazarus comforted and the rich man tormented.

In the house of worship, you get a true picture of life and eternity. There is where you get your spiritual vision put into proper perspective. As I said, the majority of the world is overcome with a perverted notion. People say: "Oh, I'll take care of it. I want to accumulate some things. I want to get this and that. I want all the finer things of life. I'll deal with my soul someday."

Once I asked a high school administrator, "Do you ever think about eternity?"

He replied: "No, not really. I'll think about it when I see that I'm about to die." That is taking a chance. The majority of the world is overcome with this perverted notion.

For a period of time, the Psalmist was battling the perverted notion that the wicked were getting along better than he was. He was being tempted strongly to envy the wicked rather than to pity them. He should have been pitying them.

A True Picture of Life

Asaph told how he got into this temptation. How do some people get into temptation? They get their eyes off Christ, the good things of God, and what God has done for them. Asaph's eyes were not where they should have been. You must guard your eyes. I have never looked at pornography, but some people have a struggle with it. As a father, you need to be careful. God expects you to leave an impeccable record in your community. The Bible says of Jesus in John 1:4, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Your life needs to be a light.

Asaph's steps had almost slipped; that is dangerous. Not long ago out on the Oregon Coast three young men were walking near the

huge cliffs on the coast. A big spray of water came up over the rocks, so one of them turned to go back. When he looked the other direction, his buddies were gone and were never seen again. It was more than just a light spray. They had gotten too close to the edge.

I tell our young people not to play around with a snake, because it will bite you. One time some young boys at a zoo were messing around with a lion that seemed to be sleeping close to the edge of the cage. One boy put his hand inside the cage and the lion shredded his arm. The lion was not sleeping; he was watching. The boy got too close. The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." This is the reason you need to watch and be careful. Do not get too near the edge.

Asaph told how he got into the temptation and how he gained the victory. When he looked at the prosperity of the wicked, he almost went back, but he went to the house of God and got the victory. You should never lay out of church. If you have a headache, ask your pastor to anoint and pray for you. By looking to God's Word and listening to the man of God, in the end Asaph realized how fortunate he was to have a true picture of life. You need to be careful of where you are and what you look at. Keep your eyes on Christ.

Let us consider Job. He suffered severely for a long period of time. It might have appeared to others that his serving God was in vain. His wife thought so. Job's loss was great. He said that he had come to realize a man that is born is going to have trouble. Job wrote in Job 5:7, "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Job lost his material possessions, his family, his health, and his three close friends.

Sometimes good people are called upon to suffer, but God has a reason for everything that happens to us. Paul said in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work

together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." In the end God blessed Job greatly. In Job 42:10, 12-13 we read: "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. . . . So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters."

Placing Your Values on Eternal Treasures

Asaph came to realize that when he had God, he did not need anything else. When you have God, you have more than the wicked could ever have, and what you have will last for eternity. The Bible says in Galatians 6:7-8: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 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."

God is going to bless you for your faithfulness. He will take care of the wicked; they do not get by. Let us look at a few examples. Pharaoh published an edict that the Hebrew boy babies were to be drowned, but in the end God drowned Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea.

Daniel was delivered from the lions' den, but the people who wrongly accused Daniel were thrown in and became the lions' food. God will vindicate His people. Haman had an intense hatred toward Mordecai. Haman's wife helped him conceive a plan to hang Mordecai on a gallows. He had it all fixed, but the table turned, and Haman hung on the gallows intended for Mordecai. God is in control, so you need to leave it to Him.

In Acts, Chapter 12, you can read that Peter was delivered from

prison. The iron gate opened and he walked out. When the guards found that Peter was gone, those who were to guard him were executed.

King Herod had James killed. You can read in Acts, Chapter 12, that later he made an oration. Verse 22 tells us the people said, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man." Herod died immediately. So, you see, God *is* in control. If you ever have a problem with your spiritual vision, you should lay down your tools, take care of all your things quickly, and get to church. God will give you what you need through

your pastor. He will use the Word of God and the Spirit of God to make your vision clear again.

When you have a problem of any kind, the best place to go is to church. For a true picture of the reality of life, look in the Scriptures and get to church. The world has embraced and imbibed the false notion that it is better to go after the things of the world and leave off serving God until the end, but that is a perverted notion. God's people have accepted the real concept of life.

Young person, you should serve

God while you are young, and you will never regret it. You need to place your values on eternal treasures that will last forever. The things of this life are temporary. In the end of Abraham's life, he said in Genesis 23:4, "I am a stranger and a sojourner with you." You know, as Christians, you and I are what I would call displaced persons, because this world is not our home. Our eternal home is in Heaven.

(Compact Disc TR-1384)

Love Mends Broken Hearts

Broken hearts can be mended by God's love. He can turn disappointments into joy. Only God can take a shattered dream and turn it into a beautiful dream. Only He can heal a wounded spirit and make it whole. God can take the unlovely and shape it into something beautiful.

To a life that is saddened through the circumstances of life, He will send His love like a flowing stream and fill the empty life full of joy. When we allow Him to come into our lives, He empowers and makes us strong. He capitalizes on our potential within to bring out the beauty of a soul yielded to Him. Our greatest potential lies in letting Him use us.

His Word is an indepth study of how to live in His Spirit. When we look into His Word, it is a mirror of His reflection, clearly showing us His image and how we are to live.

God gives a new dimension to our lives and continually adds to it. We climb one step higher every day on Heaven's ladder. While on earth below, the path is leading steadily upward to our heavenly home. If we keep in step with Christ, we will not slip or fall. Living for Him should be our highest goal. With that goal always in our minds we

will safely make our journey.

Christianity is a moving thrust because the Holy Spirit moves us into action. The closer our relationship to God, the better He can use us. When we see less and less of ourselves and look full in His face, that is when we will see our way clearly to do His will. Living for God happily is an inner satisfaction that God alone can give. Once we have tasted of His goodness, nothing else can satisfy.

We shouldn't try to live off someone else's experience of God, but each of us should seek God for ourselves. Let us release our problems to God and let the fullness of His love come in.

At the dawning of the day, when I kneel to pray, from earthly cares my spirit is set free. In the quiet hour I draw strength from His power. My soul is lifted from toil and care on the wings of prayer. Prayer is a time of refreshment as the soul comes in touch with the Spirit of God living within. Prayer awakens within us deeper levels of consecration and dedication. Through prayer we see God's hand at work changing lives: His wisdom I highly prize. Prayer is the key to spiritual liberty. It is the renewal of the mind and heart. Prayer revitalizes the

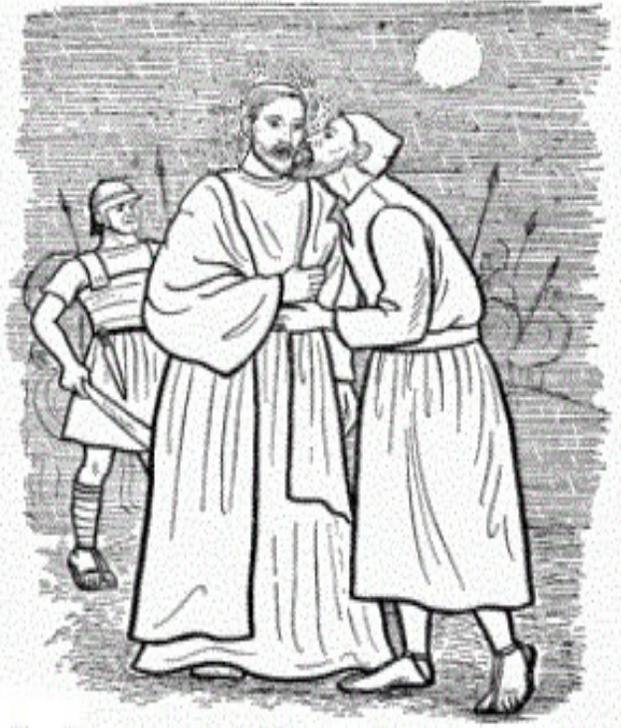
Matthew 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted

with him for thirty pieces of silver.

16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Could You Become a Judas Iscariot?



Brother Jeff Wells

God Is a Discerner of the Thoughts and Intents of the Heart

A question to you is, What will you sell Jesus for? Peter said in Matthew 26:33, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." Jesus said to him in verse 34, "Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." We know by reading Matthew 26:69-75 that Peter did deny Christ three times. When Peter heard the cock crow, immediately after his third denial, he remembered what Jesus said to him; then Peter went out and wept bitterly. This shows that Peter had a very contrite heart.

If you want to keep this salvation, you will have to keep God as your strength. You see, Satan cannot take your salvation from you. He will tempt you, but he cannot take it from you. However, you must stay strong. How can you stay strong? You can only stay strong in the Lord. Have you ever heard the saying, "Everything has a price tag?" Satan knows that, and he uses it continually.

Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The thoughts of the mind and

the intents of the heart belong to you, and God has knowledge of them. However, once they are exposed by acting on them in public, it becomes public knowledge and could become a stumbling block for others as well as yourself. We all have thoughts, but what we elect to do with them tells the story.

We see this in Mark, Chapter 14, when Jesus was anointed in Bethany. We read in Mark 14:3-6: "And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why

was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me."

What I want you to notice is that some had indignation, or anger, within themselves concerning the waste of the precious ointment as it was poured out. The value was brought into play because it could have been sold for more than three hundred pence, which was equal to about a year's salary for a farm worker at that time. This indignation, or anger, grew inside them to the degree that they began to murmur against the woman. Their murmuring was enough for Jesus to say in verse 6, "Let her alone."

Jesus knew what was going to play out beforehand, and He went on to state in verse 9, "Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." This was a place where jealousy could have easily taken hold. There were followers of Jesus being told to "Let her alone," and then He built her up to the point of setting her on a high pedestal. Jealousy is something that could creep in on you and cause you to react in a way that might cause you to lose out with God.

Resisting God's Way

Many people do not want to be told what God expects from them. For example, someone may say, "Well, I just don't see it that way" or "I don't *want* to see it that way." The flesh is never satisfied. A good rule of thumb is, whenever you are happy about the way of self, you are feeding the flesh; in other words, you are getting your own way. All children are happy as long as no one is crossing them.

Mark 3:13-15 reads: "And he goeth up into a mountain, and

calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils."

Jesus called "whom he would," and He ordained twelve. He had a purpose in ordaining those twelve. This falls in line today when a position needs to be filled. God does not need an advertisement in the "Help Wanted" section of a newspaper to get it filled. We need to pray and wait on the Lord for these matters, even when we get impatient. Sometimes people get impatient because it is human nature. God might allow things to be prolonged for a reason. His reasons are always to help His people to become better children, better soldiers, and better Christians.

The disciples were ordained to go out and preach the Gospel. As they were out preaching, I wonder how many people might have commented, "This is man rule"? If you read the "Sermon on the Mount," starting in Matthew, Chapter 5, and ending in Chapter 7, you will have read the doctrine of Jesus Christ that He preached to the multitudes. Matthew 7:28-29 says: "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." Jesus was flesh and blood at the time when He preached the "Sermon on the Mount." His message to the people then is the same message that He wants preached today. I am sure there were people who did not like it or who did not want to measure to His doctrine.

In John 7:16 we read, "Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." Sometimes people from other churches or denominations say, "That is man rule" when we get into discussions. Sometimes people say that when they are resisting the Bible standard of holiness.

I believe we are living in a time

when the fear of God and respect for the place of worship is nearly gone. As a parent, are you teaching your children respect for the place of worship? Remember, your children will enter society as a product of your teachings, and then it carries on to your grandchildren.

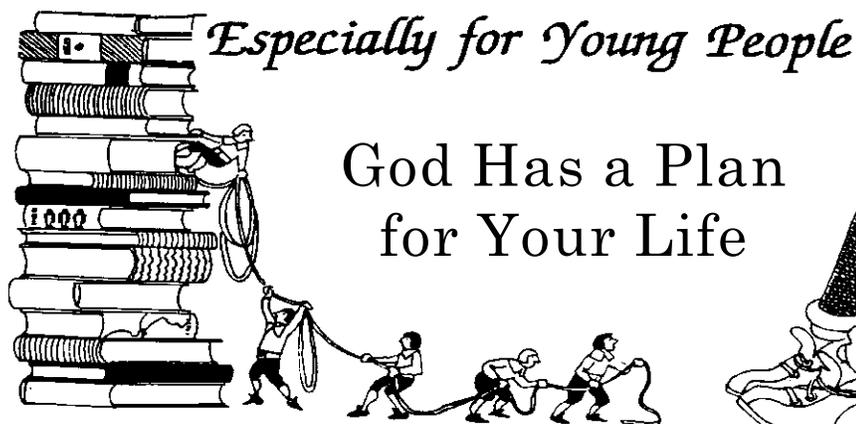
First Corinthians 12:18 says, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." God places members of the body of Christ in a congregation to worship in Spirit and in Truth, and you will find no finer place in the entire world for you than where God has put you. How you conduct yourself in the house of God is important. Are you a stumbling block for visiting individuals?

The Devil's Bondage

The twelve disciples had a message, and power was given to them by Jesus to heal the sick and to cast out devils. You can read this in Mark 3:13-19. In verse 19 Mark labeled Judas Iscariot as the one who betrayed Christ. In Luke 6:16 Luke labeled Judas as the traitor, and in John 12:6 John labeled Judas as a thief. Society has labels for everything. When you get involved in sin, the devil will make sure that you get a label. You see, the devil uses labels to keep you in bondage. He will tell you that you cannot get saved because you did this or that so you are too shameful. The devil does this to try to insure that you do not come out of his bondage. He will tell you that you have gone too far, that God will not forgive you, and that people are talking about you. The saints of God are praying for you and talking to God about you. Also, they are fasting for your soul to be moved from the grasps of Satan. That is the only way I got out of sin. People were praying for me.

If you are a sinner, God will forgive you for your sins. In fact, Psalm 103:12 states, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he

[continued on page 22]



Especially for Young People

God Has a Plan for Your Life



I want to primarily dedicate this to the graduate. Certainly, a lot of things would be worthy of being said, but most important would be to tell you to serve God with all your heart. You should love the Lord, serve Him, put Him first, be prayerful, and be faithful. God seemed to draw my attention to Jeremiah, Chapter 1, where He made it known to Jeremiah that before the Lord ever formed him in the belly, He knew him. Jeremiah 1:4-5 reads: "Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Before Jeremiah ever came forth from the womb, God sanctified him; in other words, He had a purpose for him.

Dear one, God has a plan for your life. As a graduate, whether you are graduating from high school or college, you have come to a place in your life when God has a work that He wants you to be engaged in for the Kingdom of God. However, there are forces that will work to prevent God's plan from coming to fruition in your life, or from being implemented. There are forces that will endeavor to interfere with the plans of God. God knows what you are made of. He knows your flesh and the characteristics that He has placed within you, and He has a purpose to work in conjunction with those characteristics.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, the

Apostle Paul said much about working together in the body of Christ, about the Christian finding his place, or following the plan of God. In verse 7 Paul said, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." God has created and formed you so that He may work with how He has made you "to profit withal," or to profit the work of God. You should not just be interested in your own self-benefit, but you should want to profit the Kingdom of God.

At the end of this chapter, Paul wrote in verse 31, "But covet earnestly the best gifts." God has given you some things that He instilled within you even before you came into this world. Before you were even born, God knew what characteristics you would have. He knew that some would be more beneficial in one way, and others would be more beneficial in other ways. God put certain things within you so that you can profit the work of God. Therefore, the Apostle Paul said to "covet earnestly the best gifts."

Now, the Apostle Paul was not saying that you should want somebody else's gift or that you should try to do somebody else's job. You need to be happy with what God has given you to do. He was not saying that you should desire somebody else's work, but he was saying that you should desire to make your work the very best that it can be.

At this time in your life, you will probably receive recognition for what you have accomplished, but I

would like you to consider the gift that God has put within you that you can use for the Kingdom of God. God would like to help you to identify that gift and bring it to the surface in a way that it can be profitable in the work of God.

God wants you to covet earnestly the best gift and to truly desire it in such a way that you put it before other things. You are allowed to desire and to make what God has put within you the very best so that it can be profitable. A lot of effort is being put on things in this world, but God would have you to desire to be the very best person for Him that you can be.

The Proverb writer said in Proverbs 13:7, "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." You should use the life that God has given you for that which you can do for Him to honor Him and to profit others, not merely to benefit yourself.

A German writer once said, "Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance." That is an example of someone who has used what God has given him to set a good example. While he has been rich in the things of God, and while he might not have much of what the world has, he is wealthy in the things of God. Psalm 66:12 says, "Thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place." If you will use what God has placed within you and become the very best you can be for God, He will bring you to a wealthy

place.

The writer said in Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Young person, you have come to a great point in your life when you have graduated from high school or college, and there is much that lies ahead of you. However, the most important thing is to use what God has placed within you. You can do something unique that others may not be able to do in the same capacity.

Proverbs 31:10 says, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" When I thought about that, I thought, "Who can find anything that God has for us?" God has lots of things available to help you.

The Corinthian writer said in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Your eyes have seen lots of beautiful things. Think about the beautiful sunsets and the Grand Canyon. There are some things that are absolutely wonderful to behold with the eyes.

There are things that you can hear with the ears that God has given you that are amazing. The birds sound beautiful. Think about the beautiful sound that you can hear when someone that you love says, "I love you." Some music and some messages that come forth from the pulpits across the land where Truth is declared are wonderful sounds.

When the Corinthian writer said, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him," he was not talking about when we get to Heaven. He went on to say in verse 10, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit." God's Spirit, or God's presence, working in you can be absolutely amazing.

Who can find the things that God has prepared? The writer said in 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God

by us." What was the writer saying? He was saying that every one of the promises of God are available to you. The Book is filled with them. There are good things that the Scripture tells us God wants to reveal.

In John 3:16 Jesus said, "whosoever believeth," and that includes you. The reason that many people are not finding the wonderful things of God is that they are not seeking them. It is very easy to blend in with the world. Those people are seeking the things of the world, the material things. Often they call it, "Keeping up with the Joneses." They are going after temporal things. If you are not careful, you will get drawn into that.

In Matthew 7:7 Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." You need to seek those things which are above. The Prophet Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 29:13, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." You can find the good things of God when you search for God with all your heart. You should put your heart into that which God has given you to do. Colossians 3:23 states, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." You should put your heart in the work of God. In your home congregation, you should put your heart into building it, put your heart into laboring for souls for God, and put your heart into sharing the Truth. You should do it heartily as to the Lord and not to men.

In 1 Corinthians 10:31 the Bible says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Doing all things to the glory of God in this world is seemingly the exception. Even in Jesus' day, when the ten lepers were healed, the Bible says that only one returned to give glory to God. Would you be that one?

As you go forth in life, at times it is important to say no. Hebrews, Chapter 11, speaks of a lot of great

men and women, but I want you to read a couple of Scriptures about Moses. Hebrews 11:24-26 says: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." Sometimes you have to say no, as Moses did. There are going to be times when you have to stand and refuse. Isaiah 7:15 says to "refuse the evil, and choose the good."

Leviticus 19:32-36 reads: "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD. And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt."

You need to watch how you weigh things in your life. God was teaching the people in Leviticus that even the aged men ought to be regarded with respect and reverence. Again, verse 34 states, "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

This Scripture brought my mind to Hebrews 13:2, which says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." You never know who might have the advice, the help, or the words of encouragement that you need and that can be beneficial to you. I do not think God would have you to be disrespectful or to disregard anyone, but you must

weigh things carefully. You need to watch how you weigh things, even your responses, your words, and your actions. You do not have to get in a big hurry.

You should take the time to weigh the decisions that you make carefully. Perhaps you have to make college decisions. If so, you need to weigh the cost against the benefits. Just because someone giving you advice is older does not mean that he or she does not have valuable insight. You may be tempted to look upon such a one as a "stranger," and say: "He's not one of us. He doesn't

know anything. He has no clue. I'm not going to pay any attention there."

You must be careful of how you weigh things. You need to seek God's help and guidance, because He has put something within you that He wants to use for the Kingdom of God for His glory. God wants to utilize your gifts for the work of God. However, the devil would like to exploit those gifts. Whatever characteristics, talents, or gifts God has given you, the devil would like to manipulate those things and use them for His purpose.

Therefore, you must be careful to weigh things cautiously. You must seek God with all your heart. He has a great life in store for you if you will seek His face. All the promises of God are available to you. One song says, "*Every promise in the Book is mine.*" I trust that you will seek God and look to Him, and do whatever He would have you do with all your heart. I encourage you to put God first in all your endeavors.

Brother Allen Polston

The Undelivered Pardon

The prisoner was being led from prison to the gallows, amid the shouts of the crowd. A great distance off a messenger on a horse galloped desperately with a pardon. As the grim procession wound slowly through the streets, the rider whipped his beast in a frenzy of haste, frantically trying to cover the remaining miles in time. At a neighboring town the messenger traded animals and leaped upon the fresh horse to urge it at a break-neck speed along the narrow highway.

The prisoner was bound and stood pale and silent before the gallows while the proclamation of his execution was read aloud. Into the approach to the town dashed the messenger, his animal wild-eyed and almost uncontrolled in its frenzied haste.

In the market square the prisoner ascended the fateful stairs and listened while prayer was made for him. In the hush that fell upon the crowd, distant hoof beats sounded as the messenger entered the town gates, lashing his horse like a madman.

The black hood was placed upon the head of the prisoner, and the noose slipped around his neck. Then, amid a cloud of dust, the messenger urged his exhausted beast into the crowd and flung himself, gasping and spent, at the foot of the gallows, his precious message outstretched before him.

Saved by a pardon! A pardon delivered just in time!

I read another story too. It, however, had a very sad ending, for the messenger was forcibly delayed against his will, and although he did his best, he arrived just a moment too late. The story was a great tragedy. I felt sorry for the prisoner and also for the messenger who tried so hard.

But what of a story that told of a messenger who was entrusted with the pardon and sent on his way by a king himself, urged to bend every effort to deliver it, and then who whiled away his time at a local inn, unconcerned about the issues at stake? Surely the reader would be filled with despair at the thought of the pardon duly signed and sealed, lying in the pouch of the messenger, who is enjoying food and drink and the comradeship of the servants at the inn. Such callousness and indifference would make the story a double tragedy, for it would mean not

only the death of the prisoner but also the disgrace of the messenger as well.

An undelivered pardon . . . a double tragedy!

"Well," you may say, "those are only stories, so what does it matter? Such things don't happen in real life!"

I'm not so sure. I see a parallel to the double tragedy of the undelivered pardon. A pardon has been procured at tremendous cost by the Prince of Peace. It has been entrusted to messengers by the King of kings. He has plainly commanded the messengers to take it to those who lie bound in the prison house of sin and to spare no effort to see that it is delivered.

We are the messengers, and we are responsible before God to deliver the message of salvation to those for whom Christ died. Yet today millions have no hope of pardon from the penalty of sin. They do not know that Christ has paid the price of sin in their stead, and today He offers them pardon.

What answer shall we give to the King when we stand before Him and are asked why so many did not receive the word of the salvation He provided? Will we answer as indifferent messengers who have been more interested in the acclaim of the world, the attractions of society, of the comforts of a well-paid job?

Every day thousands of people are being led off into a lost eternity by the inevitable hand of time. How many more will pass along before we realize the urgency of our commission and put our hearts into delivering the message?

What will it be, young person? The main burden of actually going to these unreached places with the Gospel rests with you. All of us have a part, it is true, but in almost every case, it is the young person who must go. This is a responsibility and a privilege given by God Himself, which cannot be ignored. We cannot avoid a reply to His command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

True, all young people cannot go to a foreign mission field. There is work at home too. Many millions are still without the message of God's love. *Will you be His messenger?*

Selected

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of

disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy,

for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

God's Love Toward Us



Brother Richard Talbot

God Makes All Things New

If you are truly saved, God has changed your life and made you a new creature in Jesus Christ. He has raised you up to His level and made you able to sit together with Him in heavenly places. That is amazing!

I never want to forget what God has done for me. I could not have done it myself. My mother and father tried to guide me in the right

way, but they could not do it for me. My pastor loved me so much that he wept tears, prayed, and spent a lot of time with me, but he could not do what Christ did for me. One day I truly met with Jesus Christ. He dealt with my soul in a marvelous way and melted my stubborn, stiff-necked, hardhearted heart. He brought me to a place where my life truly changed completely. I do not understand how it happened, even

though I was there. Finally, the old Richard was gone. I struggled for a long time, but I was a stubborn fellow.

Ephesians 2:7 reads, "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." We read in Romans 5:6-8: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a

righteous man will one die: yet per-adventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Parent, if you have a child who is difficult to deal with, take courage. Sometimes my mother would cry on my father's shoulder at night, saying: "I don't know what I'm going to do with that boy. I correct him, punish him, and do everything I can think of to work with him, but he still will not learn to mind."

My father would say, "Just be patient." It is easier for a father to say that because he is working outside the home for eight hours a day. One day God got hold of me and totally changed my life. I knew that I was changed because I no longer had to struggle with my problems.

There is an old song called "The Wonder of It All." It reads:

*There's the wonder of sunset at evening,
The wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me.*

*There's the wonder of springtime and harvest,
The sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that's only begun.*

*O the wonder of it all!
The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O the wonder of it all!
The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.*

God knew my needs before I ever understood them. Today many are not really living the life that Christ came to bring. When I was discouraged and disheartened, He still loved me. When I drifted, He still loved me. When I disappointed Him, or maybe even brought shame to the name of my Savior, He still loved me.

When I first began my walk with Jesus, He loved me. He expressed His love for me in the sweet forgiveness of all my sins. He not only forgave me, but He forgot them. His love gave to me a new beginning. I was truly born again. It was a precious morning when Christ saved me. I was not in church. I was at home getting ready for school. I was in the tenth grade of high school, and it was January of 1963, when God expressed His love to me. As I began to truly live for Him, I realized His love for me had just begun.

Every day since that day, He has shown His love for me repeatedly. He walks with me, and we commune together. He is in my mind, and He floods my heart. He is never far from my thoughts or my desires. My love for the Lord gets stronger and more real every day. There is a real feeling of attachment, of belonging, and of deepness with Him. Salvation is like a good marriage. When you are married to a good companion, that love grows and grows. When you are in love with your companion, there is nothing like it. Nothing is stronger than the love between a husband and wife except the love that God has for His people.

"Man Became a Living Soul"

When comparing man to the vast universe, David wrote in Psalm 8:3-9: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

Man is the very personal creation by God Himself. Man was not spoken into existence, as was the animal and plant life, the sun, the moon, the waters, and the firmament. Those things were brought into existence by God's spoken Word, and He said it was all good. However, when He thought about man, He did *not* say, "Let there be man," and "poof" man appeared.

This great God kneeled down and scooped up the dust of the ground and formed man in the likeness of Himself. Then He breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living soul. God took a very personal interest in the making of man. Only man has a conscience that makes him aware of the basics of life. Only man has the capability and the reasoning ability to determine good and evil. The animal kingdom has no reason to know that. The birds of the air and the fish of the sea have no need to know those things. Man is born with a conscience wherewith the Spirit of God can talk to his soul.

Man has within him a receiver through which the Spirit of God can speak to him. From the very first man, Adam, God placed a responsibility on man's shoulders. No man since then has ever been free from dealing with the weight of that responsibility to the Higher Power. No man is free or excused from shouldering his responsibility to Almighty God. Every human being must shoulder that responsibility. What is man that God is mindful of him?

Back in the beginning, in Genesis, Chapter 6, you will find that God got upset with man, His creation. I can picture God looking over the horrible wickedness and sin that man had gotten himself into. In Genesis 6:3 you can read that the Lord spoke from the depths of His heart, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." God was letting people know that man was reaching His limits; then farther down in the chapter, you can read that man had reached His limits; therefore, God decided to destroy this world with a

mighty flood.

As God was getting ready to destroy the world with the Flood, He looked out over the world again and said: "Wait a minute! A man named Noah has found grace in My eyes—this one righteous man. Let us hold off on the Flood," and God began to talk to Noah. You see, God cares about His creation, and He will do anything He can to reach unsaved souls. He will do anything He possibly can to see that you come to the place where you get saved and get into the ark of safety.

God tarried for one hundred twenty years while the ark was being built. Looking back, one hundred twenty years is not really that long. Think about it. Every day they were plodding along. It is the day by day dull routine of life that gets a lot of people in trouble.

During those years, children were born and grew up hearing their parents talk about an old man saying that a flood was coming, but they had never seen rain. Those children grew up, got married, had children, and heard the same thing; however, none of them really believed it. They had heard it repeatedly, yet God was tarrying to give them time.

God knew the wrath that was to come. He knew that as soon as He issued the word, the heavens would open and rain would begin to fall. All that held it back was God's word. He even said that it repented Him that He made man. God was very upset with man.

A Space to Repent

Farther on in history, God was going to wipe the whole nation of Israel out of existence and start over with Moses, but Moses stood between Israel and God and pleaded for the people's lives. Because Moses interceded for the people, God changed His mind. God cares, and He is mindful of His creation.

God is going to call each of us to account for the deeds done in the body. Friend, you will have to give an account of your life. One day He

is going to send you a summons that you will not be able to reject. He is going to put you under spiritual arrest and bring you before the Eternal Judge.

God knows that a time is coming when every knee will bow before Him. Some people are so stubborn in their constitution that they say, "I will never bow my knees!" The tongue that you have used to curse God and swear is going to confess to the Lord. Some have bowed in repentance and confessed on this side of eternity and made peace with God. Others are going to bow in eternity, when it will be too late to repent of their sins.

Are you struggling in your experience of salvation, battling a warfare within yourself? I know what it is to struggle within yourself, to wrestle within your own heart and mind. I got to a place where I was so fed up with myself. I was sick of the way I was living, but I never wanted to pay the price to get the help I needed. God was mindful of me in my most unlovable times. God loved me.

God is not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance. The Scriptures say that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Now, some people feel that they are religious but they have only enough religion to take them comfortably to the grave. Lots of people are clothed in self-righteousness. They fill their lives with good works, but they have never really knelt, broken and contrite in their hearts, and confessed their sins, their unbelief, or their unworthiness and opened their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Many people are going to end up in a lost eternity who were seemingly good, religious people. They are good outwardly, and they are religious-minded people. Some are raising good families according to moral standards. They teach their children honesty and trueness, and you would almost think they were saved. However, if you were to ask them if they have ever confessed

their sins before the Lord, they would say, "I have asked God to help me" or "I have asked God to be with me."

Unless a person actually breaks down the stiffness of the human heart and humbly confesses his sins before the Lord, he will go out of this world unprepared to meet God. Real salvation is made for the soul. It is the soul that needs saving. The mind must be renewed in its spirit in order to bring the body under the divine control of the Spirit of God. God is mindful of man's lost condition, and He visits him through the Word of Truth and by means of conviction. God visits the conscience within man so that he is left without excuse. God deals with every individual so that no one can stand before Him and say he never had a chance.

God's Unseen Hand

The word *wonder* means "to be filled with admiration, amazement, or awe; marvel, miraculous deed or event; some remarkable phenomenon; something strange and surprising; a cause of surprise, astonishment, or admiration; emotion excited by what is strange and surprising; a feeling of surprised interest; something tinged with admiration," like the wonder of a new girlfriend or boyfriend.

I got that sparkly feeling when I looked at my wife for the very first time. We had worshiped together for about three years before I ever saw her as someone that I would like for a girlfriend or a wife. I liked her as a friend, but I never thought of her in any other way. One morning it just seemed like God pulled the veil from my eyes. This happened as quickly as the snap of your fingers.

The Lord spoke to me in a Sunday morning service as she was singing a special song. The Lord said, "Son, you are looking all over the country for your wife, and there she is right in front of you." It came that clearly! That sparkle has not left my heart. It is stronger now than it

has ever been. It is a wonder, and it is so unexplainable how it happened. I found out later that she had been praying for me for three years. She had her eye set on me. There is a wonder with salvation.

In the Book of Genesis, we find that darkness already existed. Where God is, there is no darkness. The very first day God created the light and darkness. God wanted light divided from darkness, and He used light to separate the two. On the fourth day, He made the stars and set them in the heavens to give light upon the earth.

Isaiah 48:13 reads, "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together." We read in Isaiah 40:12-17: "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?"

"With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity."

God is big, powerful, and mighty. I like the last few chapters of the Book of Job. In Job, Chapter 38, God and Job have a tremendous conversation together. We find recorded in verse 4, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?" Many times man stands in boldness against the Truth and fails to acknowledge the power of God. Think about God spanning the

Heavens with His hand and placing the stars in space.

The Scripture says He has named every one of them. Scientists are still finding more stars today than they ever knew existed. As they pierce through the heavens with those tremendous telescopes, they are able to see out into the vastness and find more planets and more stars.

The same God that comes down into worship services and touches hearts and takes time to whisper in someone's ear: "Son, come forward. O child of Mine, do not rebel against Me. Do not turn away from Me." The Savior loves you, and He is so mindful of you that He takes time to visit your soul because He knows what is out ahead. Jesus knows about eternal darkness and what it is to die lost. He knows what it is to be separated from His Heavenly Father.

When Jesus was hanging on the Cross, His own Father had to turn His head away and could no longer look upon His Son as He died as a sin offering for you and me. When Christ died that death, it gave Him a taste of the death of the lost. He knows the pain and the agony of the lost. The devils fear God and tremble before Him. They plead with God, "Do not send us to our punishment!"

I have seen men and women stand during altar calls while God's Spirit strongly dealt with them. They gripped the back of the seat in front of them and set their face in defiance against all that the preacher preached and all that the singers sang. They did not want to humble themselves and get the help they needed.

Seek the Master's Favor

God, who made all, understands what is out ahead for the human race. If you reject the love of God, there is no other recourse but eternal damnation. God is the light that lights every man that comes into this world. It is man that turns to his own ways and allows his heart to become

a place of darkness.

I want you to consider the wonder that the Lord would pay attention to fallen man, that He would be mindful of you and me. Psalm 103:13 says, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him." Dear one, you might have drifted so far from God that you no longer feel the fire of His love burning in your heart and soul. Please be reminded that even though you may not be able to feel that love burning in your soul, He still loves and cares for you. Perhaps you were once saved and you have fallen into sin. What needs to be understood is that the love of God still supplies the blood that covers all sin; He still forgives.

If you feel that you have been useless as a Christian because of heaviness of heart, discouragement, depression, or despondency, do not despair or throw your hands up and quit. God still loves you, and He cares about you! He wants to lift you out of that condition. His love is reaching out to your soul. He is still moved with compassion over every crushed heart.

You can read in the Book of Isaiah that He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not quench a smoking flax. That bruised reed represents one of the weakest, frailest things on earth. God said He would not break it, but that He would heal it and restore it. He said He would breathe upon the smoking flax so that it could begin burning again.

Trouble and tragedy can work against you. Sometimes things you do not understand can crush your heart. If you do not submit it to the Lord, it can wipe you out. God cares more than you do. He paid the price when you were unworthy of it. If you have allowed lukewarmness to crowd in and take over your soul, God is so mindful that He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock" (Revelation 3:20). If you will put forth a little effort, He will meet you half way. If you will open the door, He will come in and sup with you.

You can have what your soul is crying out for.

Honoring the Master

Matthew 25:24-30 talks about the talents, and one man failed to put his talent to work. He buried it, and when the lord of those servants came to reckon with them, he said in verse 28, concerning the man who hid his talent, "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents."

Verse 30 says, "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Why cast the man out? What had he done? He was not openly living in wickedness or ungodliness. What had he done to deserve such treatment? He had not done what he should have done, but he was not all bad. The Scriptures say he was "unprofitable," which means he was useless, or of no value. He was pronounced a wicked man because he was slothful, unprofitable, and did not seek the master's favor. What a tragedy!

Many people are building their spiritual hopes on the fact that they are not doing any harm to others.

They are basing their hopes of Heaven with this kind of explanation: "I am not hurting anyone. I live a clean, honest life." The question is, Are you honoring the Master? The man in the parable honored no one and thought of no one but himself. The other servants went out and honored their master's wishes and put their talents to work, and they increased their talents.

God has great mercy, compassion, forgiveness, long-suffering, love, and kindness. We wonder at the grace of God and how God could do what He has done for mankind. It is awesome to think about God's justice. Our human minds cannot comprehend what true justice is going to be like. In our justice system, some judges are moved by money, or bribery, and favors that are given to alter their judgment.

As a boy, when I was about to get punished severely, I would cry and plead with my mother: "Give me one more chance, Mommy, please! Oh, Mommy, no!"

Sometimes it worked, and Mother would back off and sit me on her lap or stand me in front of her and say: "You had better straighten up. I'll give you one more chance, but if

you ever do this again, you are really going to get it!" I deserved punishment, but I cried my way out of it. On Judgment Day nothing will affect the mind of God. You are either saved or lost. You are either right or wrong. There will be no slipping into Heaven.

God will judge the whole world quickly. Consider the wonder of justice and the seriousness of His warnings! The wonder of eternal damnation is hard to comprehend. We can comprehend an eternal Heaven much easier than eternal damnation. That is the reason many are changing the Scriptures and saying that eternity is a short time, because their minds cannot take in eternal damnation, which is never ending.

I ask you, as God is mindful of you, please be mindful of Him and respond to Him. As He knocks at the door of your heart, you need to be concerned enough about your soul that you reach out to Him. It is your soul that God is mindful of. The Spirit of God is tugging, but you have to make the move. Won't you turn your life over to Him?

(Compact Disc TR-1098E)

A SOLEMN QUESTION

**If you were arrested
for being a Christian,
Would there be enough
evidence to convict you?**

[Could You Become a Judas—contin. from p. 13] removed our transgressions from us." In my Bible Psalm 103 is labeled, "Thanksgiving for God's Mercy." In Christ you can obtain good labels and be a light to draw others to this wonderful life of peace and hope with Christ.

Eternal life with Christ is a goal that I want to obtain. In my mind I cannot even imagine what Heaven is like. My senses that God has given me here in my earthly form have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit, but I do not have the vocabulary to explain the peace and the joy that I have received since accepting Christ as my Lord.

Have you ever heard of a professional liar? A professional liar tells the truth. Now, I know that does not make sense. How can something be a lie and the truth at the same time? I worked on the police force. When we interrogated people, we learned that a professional liar would not deviate far from the truth, but only one part of their story was a lie. It is almost impossible to tell that such a person is lying to you. That is what the devil does. He leads you to believe things that are not true.

John 6:64 reads, "But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him." Christ has foreknowledge of all things. He knew who believed and who did not, and He knew who would betray Him.

A criminal will plot his crime beforehand because he wants to obtain something and not get caught in his crime. If anyone knew of his plans, that would get him incarcerated, so he would change his plans. Christ sends out messages and warnings on things that you could have coming up in life that would determine whether you end up in Heaven or in hell at the Judgment. He has this foreknowledge.

In John 13:18-19 Jesus said: "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth

bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he." Jesus was foretelling His disciples of an event that was going to come about so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. Jesus' warning was for the sake of all His disciples, including Judas. Jesus was telling His disciples, "I speak not of you all" in verse 18. In verse 19 He said, "Now I tell you before it come."

Your Adversary

As a child of God, you have an adversary, the devil. Things happen in life that could be a stumbling block to you, and that is what Jesus was saying. He was telling the people beforehand, just as a message tells you beforehand. Satan will plant things in your path, and it might be something that has no appearance of sin. Satan will try to get you to the point of thinking, "What's the use?"

Satan will use unbelief in your spiritual life. There is a reason that the devil will place this stumbling block in your path. Again, in John 13:18 Jesus said, "I speak not of you all." The devil knows that a child of God who takes his trial to God in prayer will also have a burden for others until they give up the ghost. Christ foretold His thoughts because He was sending a warning, and that warning was so that we can see and recover ourselves out of the devil's many snares.

I have often wondered why Jesus called Judas Iscariot to be His disciple, especially when you read what Jesus said in John 6:70, where He stated, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" Jesus gave all twelve of the chosen disciples the same opportunity and the same power. Any one of them could have become a traitor. That is what I want you to see, and it is very important that you see this. Judas followed Jesus just as the other disciples did. He saw the same miracles and heard the same doctrines

preached.

Now, I realize this is dealing with a time before the Day of Pentecost, because Christ was not yet glorified, as it tells us in John 7:39, "(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" A multitude of people followed Jesus as He went about teaching. The Scriptures show that Jesus had many disciples.

You can read in John 6:59-66 that many of His disciples had heard the message that He taught in the synagogue and murmured at it. We read in verse 60, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" This murmuring was among the disciples, individuals who were followers of Christ. They murmured because they did not understand what Jesus said to them in John 6:53, when He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." They took it in a literal sense and read into it their own understanding, and this caused them to murmur.

This happens in our time. A message goes forth and some people start bucking up against it. The flesh rises up, and then it gets other feelings stirred up. Murmuring is not content in itself. It spreads like a wildfire and can affect others around the murmurer. Many of His disciples were discontented with Jesus at this hard saying and for the reproof He gave them for it. Verse 66 says, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

Jesus knew those disciples were murmuring. He knew some of them did not believe. Jesus already knew the answer, but He asked the twelve in verse 67, "Will ye also go away?"

Being More Than a Conqueror

Again, John 6:70 says, "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen

you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" Jesus already knew one of them was leaving. This should have you question, "Could I become a Judas Iscariot?" As we look at the twelve chosen disciples, we can see that the characteristics of the disciples were different in many ways. If you look at each individual disciple, you can see the resemblances to us today, that we each have different characteristics. Jesus prayed in John 17:9, "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."

In this Scripture Jesus was praying not only for His disciples but also for the Church of God. Jesus' intercession was not for the world, but for us who were given to Him, or called to Him by God. Jesus knew that the world was going to be an entrapment for us. This prayer was to give us strength and hope.

Romans 8:34-39 states: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Saint, we need to see that we are in a gleaning time, and only the strong are going to make it. I will never forget what a sister told me when I returned to Christ. She was rejoicing in my salvation with me, and she said, "You get hold of God's arms with both hands and hang on, because there is coming a shaking time for you." Isaiah 17:6 reads, "Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in

it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel." If you want to make Heaven your home, you are going to have to be as these "gleaning grapes." God is revealing that as a society, people are moving further away from Him. I believe He is shaking the tree to warn His people to move closer to Him.

What Is Your Breaking Point?

Down through time, you can read of times when people wanted their own way and had their own opinions. In general, there has been a letting down of doctrine and the standard. I want you to look at Judas Iscariot as if he were you. In the beginning of Judas Iscariot's life with Jesus, he was chosen by Jesus Christ, just as you were called to God. The disciples each had different duties and functions that Jesus gave them to do, just as pastors today give out job functions that need to be done. Judas was in charge of the purse.

Judas was no different from some of the other disciples. We see this in Mark, Chapter 14, with the woman having the alabaster box of ointment called spikenard. Some had indignation within themselves regarding the waste of this precious ointment. As it was poured out, the value of it was brought into play. As I mentioned previously, it was worth about a year's salary for a farm worker of that day. That indignation inside them grew and they murmured. Their murmuring was enough that Jesus heard them and said, "Let her alone" in verse 6.

What you need to see is that Judas was not the only one murmuring about the waste of the money. Judas is still a disciple at this point. Was this his breaking point? If it was, my question is, What is your breaking point? Can you truly say, "By the grace of God, I will never be a Judas Iscariot"? Children who say they cannot wait to get away

from church do not realize that once they leave, other spirits are going to take hold of them and pull them down, and they will start getting labels put on their lives. They are treading on bad ground. If they ever come back, it will take saints praying and fasting to break the power of those spirits.

What is your breaking point? You are not above Judas. I wonder, Is it that your feelings will get hurt? Could it be pride that will break you? Will it be a wrong attitude? Could it be a stumbling block? Did you hurt another brother or a sister? The devil is going to use that against you. That could be a breaking point. Do you have a wrong attitude?

God knows each one of us. You need to be careful of how you say things to people, because you could create a stumbling block for another brother or sister. When that happens and that person no longer goes to church, the devil will work you over. You have to be careful of how you say and do things. Satan knows your weakness. He is going to come against you continually until he can wear you down and cause you to give up. Satan never gives up. He cannot take your salvation from you, but he can wear you down and beat on you.

Hebrews 7:19 reads, "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." You have to draw nigh to God. In other words, you have to be one with Him. Your communication has to get to the place where you hear what God has to say and not what you want to hear.

How to Avoid Being Like Judas

Mark 14:38 instructs, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:17-21 says: "And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. And they began

to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dipped with me in the dish. The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born." Jesus said one of them would betray Him.

I want you to look at two of the disciples that sold out Jesus. Judas Iscariot sold out Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and then Peter sold Him out when he denied knowing Him. Let us look at the way each one reacted to his sin. You can read in Matthew 26:33 that Peter said to Jesus, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." Peter's bold statement held no merit. His spirit was not as strong as his flesh. He gave in to the temptation of the world.

Regarding Peter's third denial of Jesus, you can read in Luke 22:60b-

62: "And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before he cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Peter wept bitterly. You see, he loved Jesus, which is what caused his boldness in the first place. Was it the cock crowing that made him weep? No, it was not until Jesus turned and looked at Peter, and then he remembered what Jesus said to him. When Peter went out and wept bitterly, he had a very contrite heart, and this is what it takes to receive Jesus Christ into your heart.

Judas also had a change of heart. His approach was completely different from Peter's. John 10:1 states, "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." Judas tried to undo his deed by returning the thirty pieces of

silver. He confessed his sin to a man, and then in frustration, Judas threw the silver on the floor and went out and hanged himself.

I pray that this message shows you how important it is to stay close to God. We are living in a time when the devil is attacking continually. He knows the world is getting darker, and he knows that the darker it gets, the light shines brighter and brighter. The devil is trying to put out your light. Child of God, my advice is to draw closer to God than you have ever been.

If you are a sinner, the eyes of the Lord are upon you. Won't you confess your sins as Peter did, with a contrite heart? If you will, He will give you a new heart and make you a new person; then your outlook on life will have meaning and substance beyond anything obtainable in this life. The best thing I ever did was give my life to Jesus Christ.

(Compact Disc TR-1712E)

Turning Your Hand

Standing before the little prayer meeting group, the preacher was talking about a yielded life. He was saying that a person must give up his own way and let God rule his life completely if he wants God to guide him in life.

"It is easy," explained the preacher, "to reserve a point here or there. You may say, 'Now, Lord, have Your way, except I want this little bit to be my way.' Then you hinder God from directing you."

The preacher held out his hand. "Look, I hold my hand flat and say, 'See, Lord, here is this matter. Now work it out however You want it to be. I don't want to tip my hand the least bit toward one side or the other. Just have Your way, Lord'."

How true this is. You may ask God to work out your affairs, but He cannot unless you get yourself out of the way. As long as you tip your hand one way or the other, you prevent His taking care of matters in His way. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).

The Flour Bin and Cupboard Were Empty, But Children Must Be Fed

"God always does above all that we can ask or think," said Miss Clara. "He delights in giving us good things."

I am going to tell you a true story of how God sent us food. My father was a minister, and sometimes we saw hard times. Once when I was a little girl, father had to travel to a meeting in another town, and he didn't even have one cent to leave mother to buy food with while he was gone. He told mother he would not go without leaving us money. She told him he must go and that God would take care of us.

We had some potatoes, a few cans of fruit, a little dried corn, salt and sugar in the house, but the flour bin was empty. Mother did not believe in going in debt, and we bought only what we could pay for.

We still had one loaf of bread when father left. When that was gone, there was no flour to make any more. Mother smiled and told us that God knew we needed flour, and for us not to worry. She had us all kneel with her while she asked our Heavenly Father to send us a sack of flour. Then she arose and made the rising for the bread just as if the flour bin was full. Then she said: "Now children, I've done all I can. God will do the rest."

We all went to bed strong in faith that God would answer our prayers. I almost expected to wake up in the morning and find a sack of flour in the kitchen. When my brother came downstairs, the first thing he asked was, "Has God sent the flour yet?"

Mother lifted the lid from the bread bowl and let us see how light and foamy the rising was. All it needed was the flour. We ate our scant breakfast of potatoes and salt, then mother knelt by the empty flour bin and praised God because He had said His children would never need to beg for bread.

Mother and I washed the dishes, and mother started to sing the old song, "Oh for a faith that will not shrink." My little brother who was looking out the window said, "Somebody is tying a horse and

buggy to our fence." A woman came up the path empty handed.

Mother invited her in, but she acted rather embarrassed and nervous. She was not a Christian and never had been to church. Her daughter had been converted, and she knew father and mother had been praying that she might be saved too.

She talked about the weather and kept twisting her scarf. Finally, she said, "I want to tell you a strange thing that happened to me this morning. As I was getting breakfast, I heard a voice say, 'Take Brother Hayden some flour.' I knew no one was in the kitchen but me, and I was scared. Then I heard it again. 'Go take Brother Hayden some flour.' I suppose I'm a fool, but do you need flour?"

By this time mother was crying and saying, "Praise the Lord!" She told the woman of her prayers for flour, showing her the empty flour bin and the crock of yeast rising. The woman began to cry. Going to her buggy, she gave my brother a sack of flour, and handed me a part of a smoked ham, while the younger brother and sister carried in a jug of milk and a bucket of butter.

"I just thought if the Almighty was telling me to take you the flour, likely as not you needed the butter too, so I brought some along," she said.

Mother kissed her and said, "You look like an angel to us." Then we held a real thanksgiving prayer meeting. Then the dear woman gave her heart to Jesus right at our home.

Before father came home from the meeting, people had come from all parts of town and gave mother both food and money.

Selected

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matthew 21:22

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mt. Pleasant, PA**
May 7-14
Revival: Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Monday - Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
A meal will be provided by the local congregation on both Sundays.
For more information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey
Telephone: 724-547-2151
- Minerva, OH**
May 15-21
Revival: Mt. Zion Church of God, 13353 Lincoln St. SE, Minerva, OH 44657
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Monday - Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor Leamon Whitehead
Telephone: 330-868-1016
- Canby, OR**
May 21-28
Revival: Church of God, 522 N. W. 2nd Avenue, Canby, OR 97013
Evangelist: Brother Richard Talbot, Mt. Pleasant, PA
Service times: Monday - Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday: 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor David Stegmeier
Telephone: 503-313-0227
- Kensett, AR**
May 26-28
Memorial Day Fellowship Meeting: Kensett Church of God, 409 SE 2nd St., Kensett, AR 72082
Service times: Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday a dinner will be served at 4:00 p.m., and the worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. Sunday Worship services will be at 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. A dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service.
For more information contact: Pastor Calvin L. Foster
Telephone: (Church) 501-742-3961 or (Cell) 501-593-5105
- Canby, OR**
July 10-16
Camp Meeting: Church of God Camp Meeting, 522 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013
The first service begins Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Two services daily: 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
A complimentary breakfast is available each morning at the motel.
A meal will be served after each morning service. Also, a snack stand will be open after the evening services. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For more information contact: Pastor David Stegmeier
Telephone: 503-266-9297
- Muncie, IN**
July 10-16
Camp Meeting: Ninth Street Church of God, 125 S 9th Street, New Castle, IN 47362
Camp Meeting will be held at the Central Friends' Campground, 5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana
Service times: The first service begins Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. The meeting ends after the Sunday morning service on the 16th, but dinner will be served. Three meals served daily, including continental breakfast. Air-conditioned dining hall. Snack stand will be open after the evening services. Age appropriate activities during non-service times. Campers & tents are welcome. *PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR OWN BEDDING AND TOWELS.*
For lodging/camping reservations, please contact Sis. Michelle Gingerich @ 765-808-8705
For more information contact: Pastor Allen Polston
Telephone: 765-521-8284
- Medina, OH**
Sept. 5-10
Revival: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, Ohio 44256
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Monday - Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 6:00 p.m., and Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
For more information call 330-725-5993 or 330-421-0187
- Chicago, IL**
Sept. 17-24
Revival: Harding Street Church of God, 3924 W 14th Street, Chicago, IL 60623
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
For more information contact: Brother Aurelius Raines. Telephone: 708-751-1725 or 708-747-1534

It's almost time for Spring Camp Meeting

June 18-25

We cordially invite you to attend our old-fashioned camp meeting at God's Acres.

Three services daily: 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
(The afternoon services will be teaching services.)

We have special services for children, youth services, morning prayer services, inspirational singing, Holy Ghost preaching, divine healing, and fellowship with the saints.

We have an air-conditioned dining hall where you can enjoy three delicious meals with freshly baked pies and desserts. After each evening service, we have a snack stand in the dining hall. For lodging we offer private rooms, dormitories, and full hook up camping sites. Most important of all, you will hear anointed men of God preach the Truth.

We welcome everyone!



Call or send reservations to: Brother & Sister David L. Bush
725 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055 Telephone: 740-345-1213
(Please make reservations in advance if possible.)

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