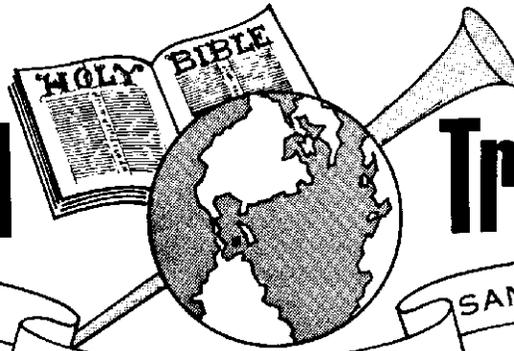


# The Gospel



# 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

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SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

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Vol. 48 May 2018 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?"

**THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER**  
USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in  
Newark, Ohio 43055.  
POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

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

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

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Print Shop Phone: 740-345-1312

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

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

**THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:**

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS  
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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We reserve the right to edit and/or decline any  
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articles or items.

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Vol. 48 May 2018 No. 5

# Guest Editorial

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

*Philippians 4:11*

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

*1 Timothy 6:6,8*

## LEARN TO BE CONTENT

Being truly content is one of the greatest blessings that a person can have in this life. Seemingly, everywhere you look today, people are discontented. Many are so unhappy with life in general that nothing ever seems to go right for them. They have one trial or hard place after another, and it looks as though their situation will never change.

If children of God are not careful, they will allow problems and misfortunes to cause them to complain and murmur. Trials, disappointments, persecution, and distress come to everyone. Do not let this rob you! Jesus said in John 16:33, ". . . that in me ye might have peace [this peace brings contentment and quietness]. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Because Jesus overcame, you, too, can be an overcomer!

Discontentment can breed unbelief; therefore, it will lead one to sin. Surely, every Bible student can recall how God so miraculously delivered the children of Israel out of Egyptian

bondage. God performed many mighty and wonderful miracles for them. God kept the promises that He made to them; yet, whenever He allowed the Israelites to go through a hard place to prove them, they become discouraged with the way. Soon they began to murmur and complain against God and against Moses. One time their discontentment and murmuring stirred God's anger to the degree that He sent fiery serpents to bite them, and many were destroyed.

Times of trial, affliction, and persecution will come to all. This is not a time to become discontented with God for the road He is allowing you to travel. Always remember that He has everything under control. He has a plan and a purpose for you to attain in each hard place you go through. Romans 8:28 brings encouragement to us as the Apostle Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Hebrews 13:5

*[continued on page 24]*

*Second Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,*

*2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our*

*Lord.*

*3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;*

*4 Greatly desiring to see thee,*

*being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;*

*5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

# Being a Godly Mother



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **Basic Principles in God's Word**

In the month of May, a day is set aside to honor mothers, and rightly so. If there were ever a time when there was a need for Christian mothers, it is today. Everyone likes to think their mother is the best, and that is good, but not every mother is a good mother. Most mothers in this world are not pleasing God. There is much more to being a good mother than bringing a child into the world. It was Napoleon who once said, "The future destiny of a child is a work of its mother." Mothers have a

great effect on their children. They can influence their children to do good or to do evil. When a little child comes into this world, he can only see God through his mother until he comes to an age when he can know the true God.

Biblically speaking, to be a good mother is to be one who pleases God. That may not be the world's definition, but one who is a good mother is a Christian. You cannot find fulfilment as a mother until you find fulfilment in Jesus Christ. You have no hope of being a good mother without Christ. When I speak of being a good mother, I am not measuring

by the world's standards, but rather by the Word of God and what God has to say about the subject.

Some people in the world may think that being a good mother is never disciplining a child and giving him everything he wants, but you have to understand that in the beginning, God set up the family order. Feminists, atheists, social workers, government, and writers of books have actually come against the Word of God. Then what do we have in society? Many times we have juvenile delinquents who are used to having their own way

all the time.

We must not get away from the basic principles in God's Word. God is the founder of the home. He gives guidelines to help us through. If people ignore them, they are going to suffer the consequences.

Paul mentioned that Lois and Eunice left a godly influence on Timothy. Their influence was so strong that it persuaded Timothy to choose the right path in life. Acts 16:1 says, "Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek." Luke mentioned in this passage that Timothy's father was a Greek. Paul, writing to Timothy, passed Timothy's father by completely. That gives the impression that Timothy's father was either unconverted or perhaps he had passed away.

This Scripture shows us that, though it appears that Timothy's mother did not have much help raising Timothy, she was still able to instill godly principles into that young man. The grandmother and the mother taught him to have faith in God so that when Timothy heard the Gospel, he eagerly took hold of it. He was a product of his grandmother and mother. The Scripture says his faith was unfeigned, or without hypocrisy and insincerity. The mother and the grandmother were the ones whom Paul mentioned, indicating that they did their job well in raising Timothy.

Today parents need to step up along that line. Mothers need to instill godly principles in their children's lives. They ought to teach them about the Ten Commandments, such as, "Thou shalt not steal," "Thou shalt not lie," and "Thou shalt not bear false witness."

What was one thing Timothy's mother taught him? Second Timothy 3:15 tells us, "And that

from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." The Holy Scriptures that Paul mentioned here were not New Testament Scriptures, but rather Old Testament Scriptures. It is wise to teach children the Scriptures at a very young age. Even before they can talk, you should talk about the Scriptures around the house, instilling the Word of God in their little minds.

### **The Power of a Mother's Influence**

A Jewish Rabbi once said that as soon as a boy is five years of age, he ought to be applied to the Holy Scriptures. He felt that when a child begins to talk, he should be conversed with about the Word of God. The Old Testament teachings were the foundation for Timothy receiving the Gospel. The Old Testament Scriptures were the foundation for his faith in Jesus Christ.

Being a mother is a tremendous responsibility. It is an impossible task without the Spirit of God. There is a great deal of pressure, and it takes a lot of wisdom, knowledge, and patience to keep up with a fast moving task of this world. It is a position of tremendous influence and responsibility, and it is a very high calling. The word "mother" is used two hundred forty-five times in two hundred twenty-six verses in the Bible. Mother is a name given to the New Jerusalem; it is a name given to the church. The Bible says in Galatians 4:26, "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

A lot of mothers in this world are not pleasing God. As a mother, one day you are going to give an account of how you raised your children and of how you influenced them one way or the other. A mother who pleases

God will live a life of serving the Lord before her children. She will be careful of her conduct and her motives. She will back the Truth with her words and in her daily living. I believe my children can truthfully say they never heard my wife or me run down the message of the church. If we said anything, just trying to understand, it was done in private, but we did not run down the message. You must be careful of what you say in front of a child.

Timothy's mother was careful of her conduct, and evidently her life was a good influence on Timothy, because Paul mentioned their names. One of the greatest powers in this world is that of a praying mother. A praying mother has tremendous power. First Samuel 1:9-11 says: "So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head."

Hannah's prayer changed the whole course of the history of Israel. Hannah was barren, but she wept and prayed before the Lord. She vowed a vow that if the Lord would give her a man child, she would give him back to the service of the Lord. She even got specific in telling the Lord that she wanted a baby boy. From that prayer came a great prophet named Samuel who had tremendous power with God.

As I was studying for this message, I thought of another godly mother named Susanna

Wesley. She was very good at counseling her children. Before John was ordained a deacon, he had a heart-searching talk with his mother. Her life, as well as his father's, had a great bearing on his faith in God. John Wesley lost his earnings, his friends, and his reputation because he placed a higher value on having a clean heart, being single eyed, and being a soul filled with the Spirit of God. When John and his three brothers were summoned to the bedside of his dying father, his father, Samuel Wesley, whispered to him, "The inward witness, son, the inward witness; this is the proof, the strongest proof, of Christianity."

A mother's prayer and a mother's counsel are still needed yet today. Praying mothers can still help mold the lives of their children. For some of us who have moved on from this stage, we can help mold our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We can do our best to help mold their little lives out in a lost and dying world.

Mothers have a great amount of influence. I want you to read the testimony of Thomas Edison: "I did not have my mother long, but she cast over me an influence that lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training, I could never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time I experienced, I should never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber I should have turned out badly, but her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness with potent powers would keep me in the right path. My mother was the making of me. The memory of her will always be a blessing to me."

### **Influencing Your Child**

I want you to notice what influenced Timothy's life. Paul

put it in his letter for a reason. As a mother, you are either influencing your children toward God or away from God. A mother's love is surpassed only by God's love. A story was told of an old woman who was up in years and in bad health. She tripped and fell from the top of a stone stairway in Boston as she was coming out of a police station. They called the patrol and carried her to the hospital. The doctor examined her and said to the nurse, "She will not live more than a day."

When a nurse had won her confidence, the old woman said, "I have traveled from California, stopping in every city and port between San Francisco and Boston, visiting two places always: the police stations and the hospitals. My boy went away from me and did not tell me where he was going. So I sold all my property and made this journey to seek him out. Someday he may come into this hospital, and if he does, tell him that there were two who never gave up on him."

When the night came, the doctor was standing beside her. He said, "Now it is down to just a matter of a few minutes." The nurse who had won her confidence bent down low and said, "Tell me the name of the two, and I will tell your son if I ever see him."

With trembling lips and her eyes overflowing with tears, she said, "Tell him that the two were God and his mother," and then she was gone. God and his mother were searching for that young man.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." As a mother, which way do you want your child to go? Many times parents are thrilled over their child's job or education, but what about that child's spirituality? If you want

your child to be spiritual, then you need to help direct him in the direction of spiritual things.

Do you want your child to be worldly and to be directed toward the world? How do parents direct a child toward the world? They give him his own cell phone when he is young. They give him access to the Internet at a young age, and then they do not worry about him knowing about the filth of the world. He easily gains the information they are withholding. They let him play strong, violent video games. They have ratings on those games for violence, talk, and graphics. Some parents let their children make their own choice regarding whether or not they want to go to church. They believe they should allow them to make up their own minds.

Many times children are used as an excuse for parents not coming to church. They say, "I would come to church, but little Johnny doesn't want to come." You make him go to school. He does not have a choice there. Someone may say, "Well, that is against the law to keep him home from school." I would much rather face the law of the land than the law of God. Which way do you want your child to go? I am thankful that I was converted in time to influence my children while they were young. Now, they are not all serving God, but that is with them. It is not because they were not taught right.

### **A Virtuous Woman**

Proverbs 31:10 states, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." Being a virtuous woman means that she is a force of strength and courage and that she is noble. A virtuous woman's price is far above the rarest of gems. I know this was a description of one in the Old Testament, but it suits every age in time. She is one who

can be trusted. She will do her husband good all the days of his life. She provides well for her household. Her children and her husband praise her. Above all, she fears the Lord. She does not praise herself, but her good works praise her.

The Word of God covers mothers, young and old. First Timothy 5:14 says, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." Now, she cannot guide the house if she is rarely in the house.

Titus 2:3-4 reads: "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children." Where did the writer of Proverbs, Chapter 31, get all this wisdom? Proverbs 31:1 tells us, "The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him."

### Ungodly Influences

There were some in the Word of God who influenced their children in the wrong way. First Kings 22:51-53 says: "Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin [he was an idolator]: For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done."

Who were the two responsible for raising Ahaziah in idolatry? His parents, Ahab and Jezebel, were responsible. Ahazi-

ah was an evil king, and his reign was cut short; it lasted only two years. He was influenced by his father and mother. That is the reason the writer put that in there. It is so necessary to have a godly influence on your child.

Let us go to the New Testament and read a little about John the Baptist. Matthew 14:3-8 states: "For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. [Is that not something for John to have made a statement like that to someone who had the power to take off his head? You talk about showing Holy Ghost boldness!] And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger." Her mother had gotten stirred up against the truth and counseled her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist.

### Being a Faithful Mother

Of all the careers a mother can get involved in (and there are a lot of them out there today), nothing is as challenging as being a mother. This is not something that you can learn at the feet of a college professor, but rather this is something that you must learn at the feet of Jesus. As a mother, you are filled with the responsibility that has been surpassed by none, and to fulfill it right, you need to be filled with the Holy Ghost. I want you to read a poem written by George W. Wiseman, entitled "God's Helpers." It reads:

*God could not be in every place  
With loving hands to help erase  
The teardrops from each baby's  
face,*

*And so He thought of mother.  
He could not send us here alone  
And leave us to a fate unknown;  
Without providing for His own,  
The outstretched arms of mother.*

*God could not watch us night and  
day  
And kneel beside our crib to pray,  
Or kiss our little aches away;  
And so He sent us mother.  
And when our childhood days  
began,  
He simply could not take command.  
That's why He placed our tiny  
hand  
Securely into mother's.*

*The days of youth slipped quickly  
by,  
Life's sun rose higher in the sky.  
Full grown were we, yet ever nigh  
To love us still, was mother.  
And when life's span of years shall  
end,  
I know that God will gladly send,  
To welcome home her child again,  
That ever-faithful mother.*

Are you a mother who is doing her best to please God and to raise your children to reverence God? If not, you need to talk to Jesus. Why? Because you hold in your arms a precious little soul that is going to have to give an account to God, and you need to give him all the help he needs to meet that requirement. If you are not where you need to be and your soul is crying out for that help, then you need to talk to Jesus. He will not cast you off or throw you away. He is bidding you to come to Him if there is leanness in your soul. Mother, what a responsibility you have! The only way that you can fulfill your responsibility is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Won't you let God direct you as you direct your family?

*(Compact Disc TR-1886)*

Deuteronomy 7:1 *When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it [speaking of the land of Canaan, but we get a spiritual inheritance], and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou [God helps you to drive out and keep out sin and things that are not good for you];*

2 *And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:*

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

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

5y *But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.*

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

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

8 *But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

9 *Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God [He will have the final word], the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand genera-*

tions;

10 *And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.*

11 *Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.*

12 *Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:*

13 *And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.*

14 *Thou shalt be blessed above all people [that is true and pertinent to the day in which we live]: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.*

# God's Chosen People



*Brother E. David Stegmeier*

## God's Standard for His People

Sometimes when I have read from the Old Testament, some people have gotten upset. They

think the Old Testament is antiquated, and they do not like to refer to it anymore. The Bible lets us know that we learn wonderful, valuable truths in the Old

Testament. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now all these things [in the Old Testament] happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written

for our admonition [which means our warning and caution], upon whom the ends of the world are come."

What has happened in the past should serve as instructions and warnings for us. We can receive valuable information from looking at history. That is the reason history is taught in schools. An old adage is, "History repeats itself," and it does. God has a chosen people.

I am reminded of a lady who had a problem with smoking cigarettes. One time she said, "Every time you preach, you bring up cigarettes."

I said, "Every time?"

"Every time!"

I asked my wife how often I mentioned smoking and she said, "Oh, maybe once a month." Do you know what her problem was? It was the Holy Spirit speaking to her, telling her to get rid of the cigarettes. One day as I walked into the vestibule, she said, "Brother Stegmeier, I got the victory over my cigarettes."

I said, "Well, praise the Lord! That is awesome."

Then she said, "Just in case of an emergency, I have one pack above my stove in the kitchen, way up in the cupboard."

As Paul Harvey would say, "And now you know — the rest of the story." She died of lung cancer. Her children said, "We will never smoke cigarettes."

God wants you to drive out everything harmful to the body and harmful to the soul, and keep it out. These principles are woven throughout the Word of God. If you will truly be 100 percent obedient, you will have the very best life possible.

God has a special, chosen people, and they are the apex of His people the world over. We have the privilege to be God's chosen people. God has always had a special people. In the Old Testament, it was a physical, literal people. In our day it is a spir-

itual people, those who have been born again and who have placed their confidence and faith and trust in Jesus Christ. To be God's special, distinct people, God has certain requirements that must be met. First and foremost, God's people must be a separate people—separate from sin, separate from the world, and separate from false religion.

In Leviticus 20:22-26 Moses gave these instructions to His people: "Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes [I do not believe that the Word of God is redundant; every word is important], and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out. And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation [in this case, the religions of the world], which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.

"But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people. Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine." The Amplified Bible reads in Leviticus 20:24, "I am the LORD your God, Who has separated you from the peoples (or pagan nations)."

### **A Separate People**

If you want to be one of God's special people, you have to be separate. You must separate

yourself from all sin, from the sinful things of the world, from worldly fashions that are sinful, from places of amusement that are sinful, and from false religion. Second Corinthians 6:14-18 says: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

"And what concord hath Christ with Belial? [None. Throughout my college days, I was alone to a great extent. In the military service, I spent a lot of time alone as well. It is best to spend your time alone with Jesus Christ. You must be careful of mingling with the world. You need to caution your children that there is a danger in that. You must not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. I was thinking it is better to be alone than to compromise your stand with God in any way. I would rather have God pleased with me than anyone else.] or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? [None.] for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate [God has a separate, distinct, and unique people], saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

I believe the members of the congregation of the Church of God in Corinth were intermingling themselves too much with the world, and that can happen. That can happen to individuals, to families, and to congregations. God's people are a separate, distinct, special people. Separation

from the world and its ways help to keep the church pure and holy. God's people are a separate, distinct people to God, and we must keep that stand.

We are to be separated from sin, from the world, and from false religion. God has separated you and me for a special purpose. We are to represent the true New Testament Church of the Living God. God has a church in this age. As the Church of God, we are marching to the beat of a different drummer. We are endeavoring to march according to the rhythm of Christ's drum, not the world's.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 1:1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." God wants you to be careful where you get your information, where you get your instructions, and who you listen to. You will never go wrong getting it right from God. First John 2:15-17, talking about God's special people, says: "Love not the world, [That means the things of the world, things that lead to sin and ungodliness. I like to view the countryside—like the mountains, the rivers, the streams, and the oceans. God has created the beautiful world in which we live, but it is the sinful things that man has come up with that we must not love.] neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." If your love is set on the world and what it has to offer, you will eventually lose your love for your Heavenly Father and eternal things. Also, you will no longer have the desire to walk

closely with Him and endeavor to please Him.

### Walking Close to God

I want to walk as close to God as I possibly can. Therefore, I have to listen very keenly to all the nuances of the Spirit of God. God can lead you. I like the song by Fannie Crosby entitled "Close to Thee." She wrote:

*Thou my everlasting portion,  
More than friend or life to me,  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Savior, let me walk with Thee.*

*Not for ease or worldly pleasure,  
Nor for fame my prayer shall be;  
Gladly will I toil and suffer,  
Only let me walk with Thee.*

*Lead me through the vale of  
shadows,  
Bear me o'er life's fitful sea;  
Then the gate of life eternal  
May I enter, Lord, with Thee.*

*Close to Thee, Close to Thee,  
Close to Thee, Close to Thee,  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Savior, let me walk with Thee.*

That is my earnest prayer. Besides being a separate people, God's people are not chosen according to their number. Some ministers have huge followings of ten to thirty thousand people. You can mark it down, their Gospel is a watered-down version. The Church of God preaches the Gospel in full strength. Again, God does not choose His people because they are many in number; they are few in number. God is not impressed with numbers. He is impressed with quality. In our Scripture reading, Moses wrote that they were the fewest of all people. Verse 7 says, "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor chose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people."

The choice is up to you. You can be one of God's chosen people if you desire to be.

### The Choice Is Yours

Years ago, on my very first teaching assignment, I was teaching at a high school in Montana. They had the gym filled with all the students in school, the junior high and the high school. They brought in four prisoners from a state penitentiary. At the front of that auditorium, they had a large banner that said, "The Choice Is Yours." They had four men there, shackled in chains for murder, stealing, and other offenses. They were trying to get across to the student body that they could be in their place someday according to their choices. Again, Deuteronomy 7:7 says, "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people." The choice is up to you.

Not many serve God and choose to go all the way with Him. When God's requirements are difficult to follow because of the flesh, many people recoil and draw back. In the end of Christ's discourse about partaking of Him by drinking His blood and eating His flesh, John 6:66 tells us, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." At this time, only the twelve disciples remained. Later, one betrayed Him, and they all forsook Him in the darkest hours of His life here on earth. Your attitude should be that of Peter's in John 6:68, which reads, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" I first attended a camp meeting at God's Acres in 1963, and I have been attending them ever since. I say, where else could I go to find a richer fellowship than what we enjoy there? I mean that.

Peter said in John 6:68, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." At

many, many junctures over the years, my wife and I had to make decisions and choices. We prayed and sought God during troublesome times, but thank God, we are where we ought to be today. Again, your attitude and determination should be that of Peter's in verse 68, when he said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He taught in Matthew 7:13, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, [You have to separate yourself from all sinful things. God wants a separate people, and you can choose to be one of them.] and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Many churches offer a watered-down version of the Gospel. I am judging according to the Word of God, because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few people find the way to eternal life.

Since the way of salvation is not pleasant to the flesh, few want to walk therein. Probably the biggest difficulty in establishing a congregation is dealing with the immodesty among the women. God wants people who are willing to put down the flesh. Since we have salvation, which is not pleasant to the flesh, few want to walk therein. Few find the way to life because the way is too confining and too difficult for individuals who want to live to please the flesh.

### Full Obedience

The second earmark of God's people is that His people have chosen to obey Him in everything. God's people have chosen to obey Him in every detail. Obedience is an earmark or identifying feature of God's special people. In Luke 8:19-21 Luke recorded the following: "Then

came to him his mother [Jesus' mother] and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."

One cherished Church of God hymn contains strong words of an intent to obey in the song entitled "Obedience" by D. S. Warner. It reads:

*By Thy blessed Word obeying,  
Lord, we prove our love sincere,  
For we hear Thee gently saying,  
"Love will do as well as hear."*

*Feigned hearts Thy name professing,  
Thy commandments cast aside;  
But we feel Thy great salvation,  
And in all Thy truth abide.*

*Every word Thy mouth hath  
spoken  
Is essential to our life;  
All Thy mandates love betoken,  
To oppose them is but strife.*

*In Thy wisdom, Lord, confiding,  
We will follow in Thy way;  
With Thy love in us abiding,  
'Tis delightful to obey.*

*Each commandment Thou hast  
given  
Is a waymark on the road,  
Leading up from earth to Heaven,  
To the blessed throne of God.*

*Dear Redeemer, we would hallow,  
All Thy word, so firm and true,  
In Thy footsteps meekly follow,  
Thy commands we love to do.*

The third distinguishing earmark of God's people is, they do not lay aside any commandments. They wash feet, take the Lord's supper, baptize by immersion, dress modestly, and so on. Strife comes from opposing God's mandates.

### Implicit Faith in Christ

An additional prerequisite to being a child of God is, you must place implicit faith in Jesus Christ. Your faith and trust must be in God. When a person chooses to serve Christ, he becomes a chosen vessel. First Peter 2:9-10 says: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." When you chose to serve God, you became a chosen individual.

Romans 3:21-23 says: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Jesus stated in Matthew 22:14, "For many are called, but few are chosen." When you chose to place your full and implicit faith in God, you chose to follow Him, obey Him, and separate from the things of this world. Again, you became a chosen individual. Today God accepts everyone equally, and it is up to you. If you place your faith and trust in Christ, you become part of God's chosen people. God does not recognize any social or national classes of people above any others. People on all continents are precious.

Peter said in Acts 10:34-35: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Galatians 3:27-29 says: "For as many of you

as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

God's plan of salvation is the same the world over. It is universal. There is only one door, and there is only one plan of salvation. We find it all revealed in the Word of God. All saints the world over must live according to principles of God's Eternal Word. I am proud of the Word of God. It is a universal plan for all the world. It does not make us militant so that we fight or kill people as some religions do. We love all people and endeavor to win them for Christ.

### **A Tried and Faithful People**

Ephesians 4:4-6 states: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." God's plan of salvation is the same for all people. Peter preached in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Acts 17:30 reads, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

The final requirement to be part of that chosen people is that we are a tried people, but we are faithful. In the Book of Revelation, we find they that are with the Lamb make war against the eighth beast, which is the World

Council of Churches. All the churches in false religion are a part of it.

The latter part of Revelation 17:14 says, "And they that are with him [the Lamb, or Christ] are called, and chosen, and faithful." I want to be faithful. Saint, people are counting on you to be faithful. No matter what God's people encounter in life, they remain true to their commitment. You can count on them; they will be there.

I often think of one great man of God, D. L. Moody. I have read many of his books—not his autobiography, but I did read his biography. They say everywhere D. L. Moody went, the world over, he would look over thousands and thousands of people and comb the audience to look for two sisters in the faith to pray. They were his prayer warriors. God is counting on you.

We are going to be tried, but we must remain faithful. No matter what God's people encounter in life, they will remain true to their commitment. All down through the annals of history, God has had a tried and faithful

people. In the Old Testament, you can read about the faithfulness of Job, Noah, Joseph, Daniel, and the three Hebrew children. In the New Testament, you can read of the Apostle Paul, eleven of the Apostles, and women who stood by Christ at His crucifixion. God's chosen people are made up of all those who accept Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, God's chosen people are made up of all those who accept Jesus Christ through faith and have that desire within them to do whatever God wants them to do. They will go wherever He wants them to go and be whatever He wants them to be. The Church of the Living God has come through some very difficult situations victoriously. Jesus said in Luke 12:47, "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." God wants you to do your best to further the cause of God.

*(Compact Disc TR-1933)*

### **FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST—**

**Put DANIEL in the lions' den;**

**Cast his THREE FRIENDS in the fiery furnace;**

**Made STEPHEN the first martyr;**

**Took JOHN THE BAPTIST'S head off;**

**Caused PETER to be crucified;**

**Brought PAUL to the execution block;**

**Burned EARLY CHRISTIANS at the stake.**

**QUESTION: What does it cost you?**

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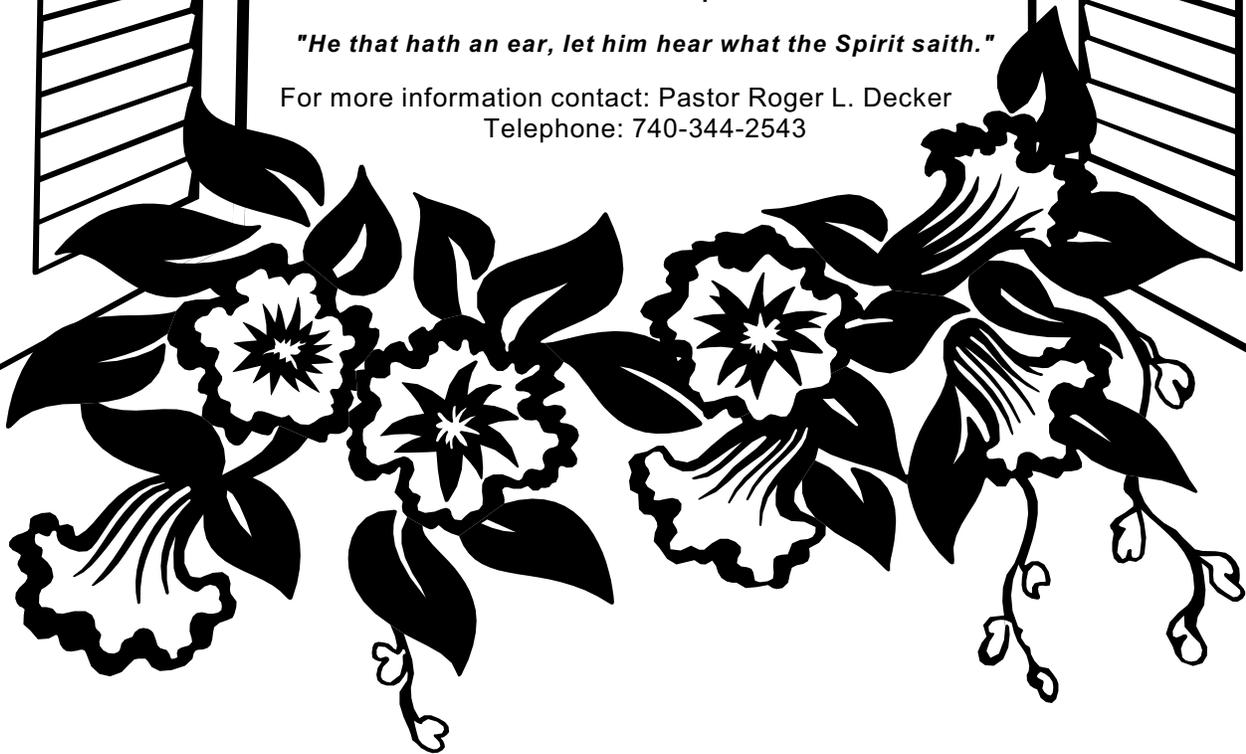
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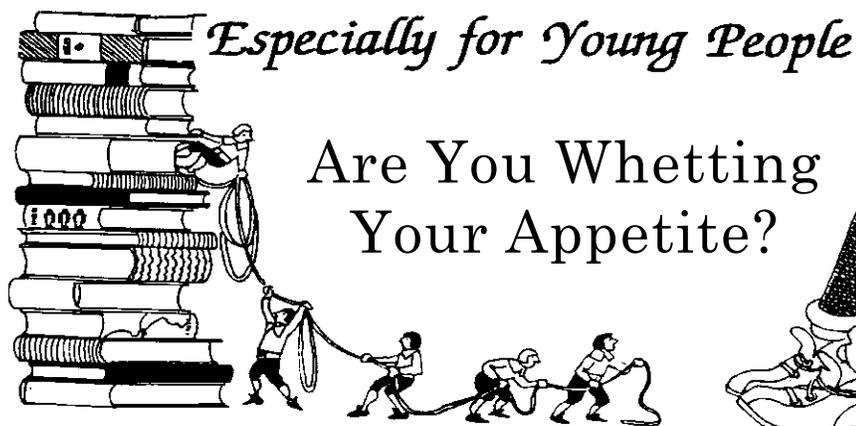
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*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith."*

For more information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker  
Telephone: 740-344-2543





*Especially for Young People*

## Are You Whetting Your Appetite?



Have you ever had your mom tell you, "Don't eat that now; you'll ruin your appetite"? Or have you ever smelled something awful and felt that it had ruined your appetite? Just as some things can decrease your appetite for a good meal, other things can make you hungry. These are often described as "whetting your appetite." This figure of speech refers to a whetstone (a sharpening stone used for knives and other cutting tools). Ecclesiastes 10:10 speaks of the importance of whetting, or sharpening, the edge of an ax.

How important is it to whet your appetite? To whet your appetite is to sharpen your appetite as a whetstone sharpens a blade. Consider the following: a movie trailer, the dust jacket on a book, food samples at the grocery store, a food or drink commercial, a billboard, and fast food advertisements. What do all these things have in common? Each of them is trying to make you want more—to watch the entire movie, to read the whole book, to buy a full-sized product, or to eat a meal at a certain restaurant. By providing a picture, a video, a description, or a small taste, your appetite is being whetted for more. Likewise, many catchy slogans have been created. What do you think of when you hear "Finger Lickin' Good" or "Eat Fresh" or "Snap, Crackle, Pop"? These oft-repeated phrases cause many people to instantly think of fried chicken, a sub sandwich, and breakfast cereal. They are whetting one's appetite for these foods.

Just as we can whet, or sharpen, our appetite for literal food, there are some things that we can do to whet our spiritual appetite. The Bible tells parents to diligently teach their children about God (Deuteronomy 6:7) and to do it in such a way that it makes them hungry for more. Parents are responsible for making sure their children are fed both physically and spiritually. However, as you get older, young person, the responsibility begins to shift. You must begin to take responsibility for your own eating habits. When I was growing up, my father drew up a Bible reading chart and posted it on his bedroom

door. My siblings and I were expected to write down what we had read each day. This was to help us establish regular Bible reading habits. As we became teenagers, we were not held accountable by our parents to record exactly what we had read. We had to take personal responsibility for our spiritual eating habits.

Do you struggle to find time to read your Bible? Do you find yourself dreading it or not understanding what you are reading? Is there anything you can do to make Bible reading more enjoyable? Let us compare whetting one's spiritual appetite to whetting one's physical appetite by considering this question: Are you filling up on junk food? Zero nutritional value foods are defined as foods that contain only calories. They often have little or no protein, minerals, and vitamins (the nutrients needed to stay alive). A diet that is primarily made up of these foods will, in time, bring sickness and quite possibly death. These can include candy, ice cream, potato chips, and soft drinks. Have your parents ever said, "If you want dessert, you have to finish your dinner"? They were trying to make sure that you ate plenty of healthy foods first.

Have you ever considered that there might also be spiritual zero nutritional value foods? Just as the body needs to be fed nutritiously, the soul also needs nutritious food. What kinds of foods might the soul need? It needs foods that will help you to grow, to keep you alive, to make you strong, and to help prevent illnesses, foods that are healthy, nutritious choices. These can include Bible reading, prayer, meditation, listening to Gospel music, and church attendance. What might be considered spiritual junk food? These would include time wasters (empty calories), things that have little or no worth, things that accomplish nothing worthwhile. These may not necessarily be sinful things. You might enjoy reading a book, playing a video game, or checking your social media. However, what do you think will happen to one's spiritual appetite if this is the only spiritual food consumed

all day, or if one spends only five to ten minutes in prayer and Bible reading while feeding on spiritual junk food for the rest of the day? Compare this to eating candy bars and potato chips all day long, but then eating a bowl of broccoli before you go to bed. Will this build and strengthen your physical body? Is your spiritual body any different?

If you are eating too much spiritual junk food, the first thing you must consider is changing your eating habits. This is similar to changing one's physical eating habits. A healthy eating habit involves eating more vegetables, which might taste a little strange at first. When our children were very young, they would spit out many new foods. However, we kept trying them, and in time they grew to like them. Another healthy eating tip is this: eat all the healthy foods first before eating junk food. Spiritually speaking, a good eating habit to establish might be: first, not checking social media before you have had prayer; second, listening to Gospel music at the start of your day instead of other music choices; and third, not watching videos or reading anything until you have read your Bible.

Another way to change your eating habits is to identify "junk food." Spiritual junk food is often addictive. It can change your behavior (your way of thinking or talking) and ruin your appetite for the things of God. Have you ever watched a video or checked your social media and then thought, "I would really like to read my Bible right now"? Have you ever spent a lot of time on the Internet and then thought, "Now would be a great time to have prayer"? Probably not. Spiritual junk food makes you less (not more) interested in spiritual things. You need to ask God to help you either to limit these "junk foods" or to completely eliminate them, if necessary.

Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." When you begin to work on reducing or cutting out spiritual junk food and eating more healthy foods, you will begin to hunger after the right things. You will start to recognize spiritual hunger pangs (hungering after righteousness). These might be presented as questions (Why is this important?), as needs (I was too irritated; I need prayer), or as criticisms (being spiritually undernourished often makes one critical of others). Consider what might be the outcome of feeding spiritual hunger pangs with worldly music, books, or videos. While you might not feel hungry anymore, you will not be filled with righteousness.

What are some other ways to whet your spiritual appetite? Just as thinking about certain foods can make you hungry, much of your thought life determines how spiritually hungry you are. What are some ways that you can begin to think about

healthy spiritual food? You could meditate by thinking of a Scripture, by thinking of the words to a hymn, by remembering an answer to prayer, or by thinking of a recent testimony that encouraged you. It is important that you do not skip meals. Have you ever been too busy to eat? Did you feel weak and lightheaded? It is the same spiritually. You should not be too busy to go to church, to attend Sunday school, and to attend youth services.

What are some ways that you can tell that your appetite needs to be whetted, or sharpened? Have you ever been told, "Don't play with your food"? Did you know that many people only "play" with their spiritual food? They are just moving the food around, not really eating it. When the pastor is preaching, some may think about other things. When the Sunday school teacher is teaching, some may talk to their friends. During testimony service, some may check their social media. The food is there, but they are not eating. Others are "picky" eaters. They only like a few select foods. Spiritually speaking, there are people who only like some parts of the spiritual diet. They may say, "I don't mind Bible reading, but I don't like praying" or "I don't mind attending church, but I don't care for Sunday school." Something is wrong with their spiritual appetite.

Many support groups have been formed to help people develop healthy physical eating habits. What might happen if you were to spend more time with healthy spiritual eaters? Perhaps they might share a spiritual recipe with you, such as, "I have started keeping a prayer journal; let me show you how." The encouragement and the accountability that come from keeping company with God's people can whet your appetite. Exercise is another thing that can increase your appetite. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:7, "Exercise thyself unto godliness." In other words, you need to do the things that make you more like God. You must learn who God is and what He likes through Bible reading and prayer, and then you need to put those things into practice in your life. The more you exercise, the greater your hunger will be for the things of God.

Young person, How is your appetite for healthy, spiritual food? Are you eating too much spiritual junk food? Are you ruining your appetite? By incorporating some of the healthy eating tips in this lesson, you can whet your appetite and say as David wrote in Psalm 42:2, "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God."

Sister Sheri Strelecky

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

*2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

*3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thou-*

*sand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

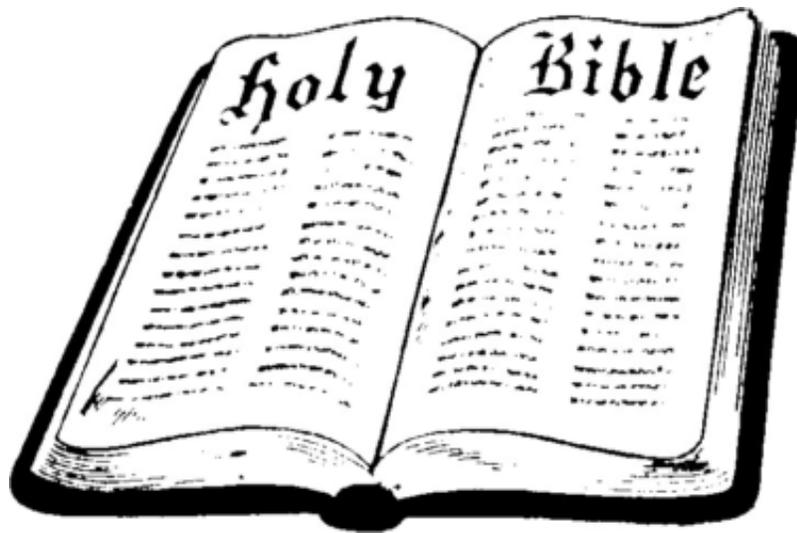
*4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they*

*lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

*5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

*6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

# Will There Be a Millennium?



*Brother Paul Prinkey*

## **Introduction**

The word *millennium* does not appear in the Bible, yet there seem to be more discussions and more preaching on it in this country than any other topic. There are three schools of thought on the subject of a millennium. The first school of

thought is postmillennium. Postmillennialists teach that the world is getting better and that it will eventually enjoy a golden age of one thousand years, after which Christ will come and set up His kingdom.

The second school of thought is premillennium. This is a popular theory being taught in our

country today. Premillennialists teach that the world is getting worse and will continue to do so until Christ returns and overthrows all governments, sets up His kingdom on earth, and reigns a thousand years with His headquarters in Jerusalem. The prefix "pre" affixed to the word millennium means that Christ will

come before the millennium, and the suffix "post" means that He will come after it.

The third school of thought is non-millennium. Nonmillennialists teach there will be no need for a millennium because Christ has already set up His kingdom. I am a nonmillennialist. There is no time for a millennium because at His Second Coming, everything, including time, will end. There is no place for a millennium because the world will be destroyed when Christ comes again.

### **Why Is the Postmillennial Theory False?**

As I mentioned previously, the postmillennialists believe that the world is getting better and will experience a golden age, but there is a reason that this cannot be true. First of all, according to the Bible, the world will be wicked in the closing days. First Timothy 4:1-3 reads: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Second Timothy 3:1-5 states: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Does that sound like

a golden age? Does that sound as though things will be getting better? The answer is no.

Second, the postmillennial theory cannot be true because the Bible teaches that scoffers are going to point out the wicked times to prove that things have been as they have always been, and they are no better. Second Peter 3:3-4 says: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

What was going on in the beginning of Creation? In Noah's day the Bible says it repented God that He had made man, because they dwelt on evil continually. Jesus said in the last days it will be just as it was in the days of Noah, and so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man. They were marrying and giving in marriage and living in riotous living until the day that Noah entered the ark, and God shut the door. The phrase "marrying and giving in marriage" simply means what we understand today as people marrying, divorcing, remarriage, and divorcing. That is what is going on in our day. It is not getting better; it is getting worse. If you look at the statistics, you will find that things are getting worse today. They are not getting better.

The third reason that the postmillennial theory cannot be true is that Jesus taught the good and the bad are going to be living together when Jesus comes back. Matthew 13:38-41, speaking of the parable of the tares and the wheat, states: "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world;

and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity."

Did you know that God never intended for one soul to die lost and go to hell? Peter told us that it is not His will that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance. This is still God's will. The call that went out in Revelation 22:17 says, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Jesus said in John 3:17, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." God never intended for one soul to die lost and go to hell. This is the reason the Prophet Isaiah, in Isaiah 5:14, said, "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself." Why is that? People are dying and going to hell, but God never intended them to go there. God never intended one of His crowning creations to die lost. He intended for everyone to get saved and have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and not perish, or die lost.

### **Why Is the Premillennium Theory Wrong?**

Now I want to deal with the premillennium. Premillennialists are those who teach that the world is getting worse and will continue to do so until Christ returns and overthrows all governments, sets up His kingdom on earth, and then reigns one thousand years with His headquarters in Jerusalem. I think most of the political leaders of our nation believe this. This is the

reason they support Jerusalem and have given them billions of dollars, airplanes, and ordnance to protect the boundaries of Jerusalem. They believe this is what is going to happen. They support this idea, but God's Word does not.

Why is the premillennial theory wrong? I repeat, there is no need for a millennium. Christ has already set up His kingdom. Matthew 3:1-2 reads: "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 states, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Since John the Baptist was preaching that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand to those people, and since Jesus was preaching that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand to those people, He would not wait for another couple thousand years to set it up. They preached with full expectancy that it was going to take place very soon.

Luke 16:16 says, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." It takes effort to press into the kingdom. Christians are not lazy. D. L. Moody once said that in all his ministry, he had never once seen a lazy man get saved. Laziness is part of the old nature. There is no such thing as a lazy Christian. It is not time for retirement when you get saved. When you get saved, you get busy working for God.

The Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it. John 18:36 reads, "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

Jesus was speaking of His kingdom as one that already existed. He is not coming to set it up in a Second Coming or in a millennial reign. The kingdom already existed at that time.

Luke 17:20-21 states: "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

The premillennialists are expecting Jesus to come back and then set up His kingdom and rule from Jerusalem. If that were true, why did Jesus say, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you"? Jesus let us know that no one can point to it and say it is here or there, because the Kingdom of God is within you. Thank God, Jesus Christ has already set up His kingdom.

Romans 14:17 tells us, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." The kingdom is not something that you can see, something that is physical, or something that is at a certain location in this world. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. It has already been established; therefore, the premillennial theory is wrong.

### **Reigning in This Life**

The second reason that the premillennial theory cannot be right is that God's people are reigning now. We are not waiting for a thousand year reign. Romans 5:17 states, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall

reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."

When you get saved, you yield yourself to God, and He does something for you. He forgives your sins and gives you power, by the infilling of the Holy Ghost in this life. He makes you a king and a priest. I thank God that I am a king over the earth. What earth am I speaking of? This pile of dust that I live in. I rule over this fleshly kingdom. When the devil says, "Why don't you go out and do this sin?" I can say no and make it stick. He cannot make me do something wrong.

Some people say, "The devil made me do it." No, you chose to do what you did. We all are tempted when we are drawn away of our own lusts. The Bible says every man is tempted, but you do not have to yield to temptation. When you get saved, God gives you power so that you do not have to yield to temptation. You can rule over the flesh. God can cause you to be an overcomer and to reign in this life. You do not have to wait for something to happen in the future. I am living in and experiencing the kingdom right now; it is a reality. I thank God that I am saved and that I have the victory. Sin is defeated in my life, and I am dwelling in the Kingdom of God.

Revelation 5:9-10 reads: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Do you have a new song in your mouth? When I was a sinner, I sang the blues, but God put a new song in my mouth when He saved me. He lifted me up out of the miry clay and set my feet upon the Rock. He established my goings and put a new song in

my mouth, even a song of praise to my God. I am not waiting for it to happen; it has already taken place. Jesus has already set up His kingdom. He has already helped me to reign in this life. I am a king and a priest to my God.

How are we priests? We are priests because we offer up worship to God. We offer the sacrifice of praise from our lips. We offer up our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We could not do that on our own. Humanity could not do that in the days of the Old Testament under the old Law. The people back then had to go to the Levitical tribe and let them worship for them, but now, thank God, I am a priest. I can worship God myself. The Bible says that I can come boldly to the throne of grace that I may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. I have access to the throne of grace by one—Christ Jesus. Those are some of the benefits that you get when God saves you and helps you to reign in this life. That is part of the blessings of the Kingdom of God.

Luke 10:19 says, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Jesus Christ has already set up His kingdom, and He has already given us power. Jesus said in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me."

When you kneel and humble yourself at the feet of Jesus Christ and ask forgiveness for your sins, He will lift the burden of sin from you, but He does not stop there. Some people do not want full salvation. They just want forgiveness. They do not want to quit sinning and doing evil because they like it. It gratifies the flesh. They want to be forgiven for the evil that they have done so that they can avoid the penalties of

evil. Jesus Christ does not stop when He forgives your sin. He cleanses you from sin and establishes you in the way of holiness. He gives you a life free from sin, and He gives you power over sin.

### **Free From the Dominion of Sin**

Sin does not have dominion over me; I have power over sin. How do I know that? Whenever the devil comes with his temptations, I can say, "Get thee hence, Satan." I can rebuke him in the name of Jesus, and he has to flee. He cannot stay when I rebuke him and resist him. The Bible says to resist the devil and he will flee from you. I have proven that to be true over and over again in my Christian experience. How can I do that? I am already in the kingdom. I am already reigning over this "earth." I am a king and a priest to God. I praise God for salvation, and I praise God for the Church of God. I am glad that I know the Truth. I am thankful that I am not in darkness.

The majority of false religion's teachings make room for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof. One reason for the teaching of a premillennium is that they say Christ is going to come one day to set up His kingdom, reign from Jerusalem for a thousand years, and that Satan is going to be bound. When they preach that, people look forward to an age when they will have victory. They believe that they cannot have victory now because they have to give in to fleshly passions and desires. They say, "I cannot stop myself." They believe that only when Jesus returns can they reign victoriously. Friend, that is a lie of the devil.

I listened to a preacher on the radio one day, and he read from the Book of Revelation about the thousand year reign. I could hardly believe the amount of falseness that came out of his mouth. There was not one shred

of truth in anything he said about the Revelation. He literalized everything and put the kingdom off to a far distant age. I thought, "God have mercy on the souls of the people who are listening to that and who believe it. False doctrine is damning souls to a lost eternity."

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." You must put some energy into your Christian experience and be an aggressive Christian. God intends for every Christian to be aggressive and to lay hold on eternal life. Many Scriptures in the Word of God indicate that Christians are aggressive. They are moving forward. They forget the things that are behind and press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. They are going after what they love. Do you love Christianity? Do you love God? Do you love serving Him? If you do, you need to get busy working for Him. You should not be idle in the Kingdom of God.

### **Christ's Work on Earth Is Finished**

What is another reason the premillennial teaching is wrong? When Jesus hung on the Cross, He said, "It is finished." Someone may say: "Oh, He was talking about dying. He was going to give up the ghost, and they were going to put Him in a tomb." No, that is not what He was talking about. Christ's work on earth is already finished. He fulfilled every prophecy that was given about Him. When men came to get Jesus and tried to push Him over the precipice to His death, no man could lay a hand on Him. The Bible says He walked through the crowd and they tried to get Him, but they could not touch Him. When they tried to take Jesus at the feast, He sneaked past them. No man

could lay a hand on Him. Why? It was not His time yet, because He had not fulfilled all the prophesy.

Christ is already reigning, so we know the premillennial theory is wrong. First Corinthians 15:20-28 states: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

"Then cometh the end, [Then comes the end, not the beginning. The premillennialists are saying that when Jesus comes again, that is going to be the beginning of His reign. What did you just read?] when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, [He will have delivered it up. I want you to notice that the premillennialists say that He is coming to establish it. 'Did we miss the thousand year reign?' Is that what they are going to be saying if they do not get saved before He returns?] even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

"For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

The same way that this universe started, and the same way that humanity got his start is the way that it is going to end—with God. God is going to be all in all. Christ is reigning now. Acts 2:29-35 says: "Men and

brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

"Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; [Remember, premillennialists say that He still needs to come and establish His kingdom so that He *could* have a throne. Where is the throne room? It is at the right hand side of the Father. It is not someplace where you can take hold of it physically.] He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool."

Christ is reigning now. He has ascended to the right hand side of the Father, and He ever lives to make intercession for you and me. Jesus Christ is reigning right now. God has made Him the head of the church and everything in the church. The body is the church, and Christ is the head.

### **What Will Happen When Christ Returns?**

What is another reason that the premillennial theory is wrong? Christ will offer up the kingdom when He returns. You read about that already. When Jesus returns, He is coming back to deliver up the kingdom to God

the Father. He is not coming to establish it; He is coming to take it back.

Let us drive another nail in the coffin of the premillennial theory. As I mentioned earlier in the message, there is no time for a millennium. First, the righteous will be raised at the last day, not a thousand years before the last day. John 6:39-40 states: "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." Verse 44 reads, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." Verse 54 says, "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." He was not talking about a thousand years before the last day, but rather "at the last day."

Second, the wicked are going to be judged on the last day. John 12:48 tells us, "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." Another reason there is no time for a millennium is that both classes of people, the just and the unjust, are going to be raised at the same time. John 6:28-29 states: "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

Let us read a little of the Old Testament. Daniel 12:2 reads: "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." The just and the un-

just are going to be raised at the same time. Acts 24:15 says, "And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Both classes of people are going to be raised at the same time. In addition, the just and the unjust are going to see Him when He comes.

Revelation 1:7 states, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Every eye shall see Him, the just and the unjust. Again, there is not going to be time for a millennium. When we are resurrected and have to make our way to the Judgment, there is not going to be any millennium. It is going to be judgment without mercy. The works that you have done in this life are going to judge you, whether they are good works or bad works. They are going to either stand to condemn you or justify you before God on Judgment Day. Two resurrections are not taught in the Bible.

First Thessalonians 4:13-17 says: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

## Every Eye Shall See Him

There is no teaching in God's Bible of two separate resurrections. When Jesus returns in the clouds, He is not going to come down to this earth. He is not going to climb on a white horse and ride it down Main Street with blood up to the horse's bridle. His foot is not going to touch this terra firma again. He has already fulfilled that calling. When He lived here for about thirty-three and a half years, that was the only time Jesus needed to touch this earth.

The Bible says He will come in the clouds and every eye shall see Him. Those who are dead in Christ shall be raised up, and those who are alive in Him will be caught up together with Him. Where? They will meet Him in the air, not in Jerusalem, not in the governments of this earth, where Jesus now has power. Why would people think such a thought when the Bible says that God still rules in the kingdom of men?

If God already rules in the kingdom of men, why would He need to come back and gain rule over it again? Jesus already professed this when the devil came to tempt Him after He had fasted for forty days. The devil said if He would bow down and worship him, he would make Him ruler over all of this. Jesus did not need the devil to give it to Him. He already owned it, and He still does.

Both classes of people, the good and the bad, or the just and the unjust, will be at the Judgment and get their eternal rewards at the same time. There will not be any thousand year space in between. There will not be any reign in between. They are both going to be at the Judgment at the same time. Again, they are both going to receive their rewards at the same time. I have Bible for that. In Matthew 25:31

Jesus stated, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." That is going to be a mighty host.

Did you know that God gave angels to watch over you? People sometimes say flippantly that we have guardian angels, but we really do have angels to watch over us. I can testify to that. I would not be alive today if He did not have angels watching over me. If God has angels to watch over all people throughout the world, that is a mighty host of angels. I think the angels have the church outnumbered.

When Elijah said to his servant, "Lord, open his eyes," he looked up and saw a mighty host surrounding all the Syrian army. He said, "I perceive there are more with us than with them." We still have the world outnumbered. When Jesus returns, He is not coming alone. The Jews tried to take advantage of Jesus because He only had a few disciples following Him. We have the whole Jewish nation behind us, spiritually speaking. One man with God is still in the majority. Jesus is going to return, not by Himself, but with a whole host.

## The Judgment

At the Judgment, there will be no appeals. There will not be a higher court to which you can take your case. God is the highest court that you will ever stand before. Every man, woman, and child will fear and tremble, because it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God. Everyone, even if he is an atheist or an agnostic, is going to realize on that day that there is a God and that He still rules and reigns in the kingdom of men.

There will not be any pre-millennialist believer standing on that day who can justify that ungodly, devilish belief. I want to

make it clear to you that I am not against any person, but I am against any false teaching and any system of religion that would try to promote it. It is damning people's souls to hell. I will slay it with God's sword every chance I get. I want to put it to death.

Matthew 25:32-34 states: "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

The Kingdom of God has been prepared since the foundation of the world. Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. In other words, God already had this in mind from the beginning. This was not an afterthought. God had it perfected from the very moment that He created the world. God's way is perfect.

Matthew 25:41 reads, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." I told you earlier that God did not intend for one human being to die and go to hell. You read the Scripture in Isaiah that says hell hath enlarged herself. Why has hell enlarged herself? Because people are not believing in God, and they are dying without God in their lives.

God, being the just God that He is, has to give a just recompense of reward. Therefore, He has to condemn them to a lost eternity and punish them with everlasting fire. I repeat, God never intended it to be that way. What was the everlasting fire prepared for? We just read it: for the devil and his angels, not for humans. God did not prepare

everlasting fire for the crowning creation of humanity.

Friend, it is God's will that you yield yourself to Him and be saved. Do you want to die lost? There is hardly a person who would dare to say: "Yes, I want to die lost. I do not ever want to know God as my personal Savior. I want to spend eternity in everlasting torments." I do not think a person alive and in his right mind would choose that. God has given you a space to repent. It is called time, and it is a very small space. Your time might be shorter than someone else's.

You may say, "Well, I am only twenty." Age does not matter. You can drive up and down many roads and look at the wreaths and the crosses and the flowers where parents go out and put something in remembrance of their teenage son or daughter who died at a young age. You have no guarantee of how long you are going to live. God did not give you a lease on life. You do not know how short your time is going to be, and life at its longest is very short. God wants every man to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the Truth.

### **Eternal Life**

Matthew 25:42-46 reads: "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life

eternal."

I praise God that I have life eternal right now! God has given me life eternal. Now, I have not realized the fullness of that eternal life yet because I am still here on earth. When I yielded myself to God and asked for His forgiveness, Jesus Christ put His Spirit within me, saved me, cleansed me from all unrighteousness, and established me in the paths of righteousness; then He gave eternal life to me. We get eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. I have it now, but to get it, you must believe on Him.

John the Baptist preached on this without ever being able to realize everything that Jesus Christ came to give. John the Baptist preached that if you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you have eternal life. Any man who does not believe on the Son is under the wrath of God (John 3:36). God has already given me eternal life, but there is going to come a day when I draw my last breath. Someone is going to come and pull my eyelids down, and others are going to bury me. Before they get that far, I will already have realized the end of my salvation.

Eternal life is going to be fully realized when that happens. I am going to be released from this prison house of clay. This body that I struggle with will be released from the struggles that I have. I am going to be released from the people who want to give me problems and make hardships for me in my life when I did not do anything wrong. I am going to be joined up with everyone of like precious faith. Everybody there is going to be just like me, and I am going to be just like them. They are going to know me just as I knew them when they were here on earth.

Even though I have never seen the Apostle Paul in physical life, I am going to know him when I see him. Because the same

one that gave him eternal life has given me eternal life, and we will recognize one another, just the same way you recognize someone when you are walking through the supermarket and see someone from your congregation. You will know even as you are known. You will be released from this body, and you will have a body that will not perish, a body that will be immortal and incorruptible.

I will have a crown. You cannot see it now, but I will get one. I am doing everything I can to put all the jewels in it that I can get into it right now. I want to put more jewels in it. It is not because it is a competition, but it is because I want to see more souls salvaged, saved, and redeemed before it is too late.

### **The Earth Will Be Burned Up**

What is another reason that the premillennial theory is wrong? The earth is going to be burned up, so there is not going to be any place for a millennium. How can Jesus come down and set His feet on something that will not exist? Have you ever missed a step and fallen two feet or more? Perhaps you did not turn on the lights because you did not want to disturb anyone else in the house, so you missed the first step. The next thing you know, your nose is sanding off the varnish on several lower steps. What happened? You stepped out on something that was not there.

How could Jesus step on something that will not be here? There is not going to be any earth to put His feet on or to set up a kingdom. There is not going to be a Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is going to disappear. Second Peter 3:10 says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great

noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." There will not be any earth left for Jesus to serve His one thousand year millennial reign, as false religion is teaching.

I want you to notice that this verse of Scripture tells us the earth will be burned up and the heavens will pass away. Revelation 20:11 states, "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." Again, there is not going to be any earth here after Jesus splits the clouds. It is all going to disappear, and it will be just as it was before Creation. Time will be over, and eternity will be the only thing in existence, besides our never-dying souls.

Last of all, Hebrews 1:10-11 tells us: "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment." God is still going to exist. As much as people try to deny Him today, they are going to have to acknowledge His existence on the Day of Judgment. The earth is going to pass away and people are not going to have anything to distract them from the divine.

We have so many distractions in the world today. People are looking here and looking there. They have everything taking their attention, but what they ought to be focusing on is their never-dying souls. They need to get right with God and live for Him for the rest of their days. There is not going to be a distraction on that day, but it will be too late to get saved then. Now you have a opportunity to make your decision.

### **It's Time to Make a Choice**

I told you that I am a non-millennialist. A non-millennialist teaches and believes there is no need for a millennium because Christ has already set up His kingdom. There is no time for a millennium because at His Second Coming, everything, including time, will end. There will be no place for a millennium because the world will be destroyed when Christ comes again. With all of that being said, you need to get enough of God's grace in your heart to be able to reign over the devil that is turned loose right now. That is the only way to enjoy any kind of reign. You must get saved, get your heart right with God, and live for Him right now.

Luke 1:73-75 says: "The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."

Have you made up your mind to serve God yet? What are you waiting for? You will not get any more chances after death. I will go one step further and say that you will not get a better opportunity to make up your mind than today. This is the best chance you will ever have of making your heart right with God and making the decision to live for God all the days of your life.

I did not get saved just to try this out. I did not get saved to fool around with religion. That is more dangerous than putting a loaded gun to your head. I did not get saved just so God would bail me out of trouble. I got saved because I was sick of sin. I was sick of the ungodly life that I was living. I was sick of the guilty load of sin that I was carrying around. I was sick of the company that I had to keep with the

low-life living.

I decided at the age of sixteen to yield myself to God and get saved, and I have not looked back since that time. I determined in my heart to live for God then, and I have determined in my heart every day since then that I am going to live for God in righteousness and holiness all the days of my life. I have the power to say that, and I have the power to do it because I have the Kingdom of God reigning within me right now. I am experiencing the saving and keeping power of God right now every day of my life.

In the years that I have lived for God, no matter what has happened to me, I have never

changed my mind. I have never given up on God because someone said something mean to me, because someone accused me of being backslidden, or because someone said I did not do something a certain way. I have determined in my heart that I am going to live for God, be faithful to Him, and listen to His voice. I am going to follow Him, walk in the ways of righteousness, and stand by the Church of God and the ministers of the Church of God. This is the right way to live.

You need to get it settled in your heart today that you are going to live for God all the days of your life and that you are not changing your mind. You must do God's will every day that you

live. There are no apologies necessary for living right. You do not have to apologize for doing the right thing. You will never have too much of the goodness of God in your life.

The Bible says to press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. Are you doing that? You need to get on fire for God and ask for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. If you do not have the Spirit of God, you need to ask for new life, salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. He will give it to you right now. Do not wait until later. You need to pray and take care of it now.

*(Compact Disc TR-1944)*

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*[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]*  
gives a beautiful promise. It reads, "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Contentment is not something that is sent down from Heaven as a special gift or laziness where one does not care what happens. It is a state of mind and heart. It is not dependent upon situations or circumstances. Being content is a lesson that all must learn. The secret of success is learning to adapt yourself to conditions and being at rest with those conditions. Rather than looking on the dark side of the problem, you must learn to look on the bright side. You need to look for the good that you can attain from each obstacle.

Again, Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul not only enjoyed the good things from the Lord but also patiently accepted and endured the things that came upon him that caused him to suffer. Therefore, whether he was rejoicing with the good or suffering with the reverses, he

had learned the wonderful secret of how to apply himself in every situation that came his way. He possessed a deep contentment and calmness within his soul, knowing that God would lead him through safely and with victory. Paul experienced a sweet peace within that enriched his life while enduring the unpleasant things that befell him.

The Christian must learn this valuable lesson of being content. The command is to "be content with such things as ye have" (Hebrews 13:5). You must stop fretting and worrying about the things that you do not have. Also, you must lay aside the anxiousness over the future and what might happen. Instead, you should look up and be thankful for all that you do possess. Peace and contentment does not come from the abundance of worldly goods that one acquires. It comes from knowing Christ and having Him dwell within your heart.

To be truly happy and to be able to sing the joyful songs of praise, one must put forth the effort to learn the joy of contentment. You must strive daily to

find contentment and war against the things that would destroy it. You need to cultivate your spirit and allow your faith and trust in God to grow. You must follow the pattern that God has laid out for you. You need to find contentment in whatever state life finds you in. Then you can boldly sing the songs of glad rejoicing, knowing that your life is resting in His protective care.

Selected

**NO MAN IS  
POOR WHO  
HAS A GODLY  
MOTHER**

# Teach Them to Pray

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:22-24).

Before the Lord gave that wonderful promise to His disciples, He spoke another word, in which He points out that faith in the answer to prayer takes its rise and finds its strength. Have faith in God; have faith in the promise of an answer to prayer. The power to believe a promise depends entirely and only on faith in the Promiser. Trust in the Person begets trust in His words. It is only where we live and associate with God in personal, loving fellowship, where God Himself is all to us, where our whole being is continually opened up and exposed to His mighty influences that are at work, where His Holy Presence is revealed, that the capacity will be developed for believing that He gives whatsoever we ask.

This connection between faith in God and faith in His promise will become clear to us if we think about what faith really is. It is often compared to the hand or the mouth, by which we take and appropriate what is offered to us. It is of importance that we should understand that faith is also the ear by which you hear what is

promised and the eye by which you see what is offered. On this the power to take depends. You must hear the Person who gives you the promise: the very tone of His voice gives you courage to believe. You must see Him: in the light of His eye and His countenance, all fear as to your right to take passes away. The value of the promise depends on the Promiser: it is on your knowledge of what the Promiser is that faith in the promise depends.

It is for this reason that Jesus, ere He gives that wonderful prayer and promise, first says, "Have faith in God." That is, let your eye be open to the Living God and gaze on Him, meeting Him who is invisible. It is through the eye that you yield yourself to the influence of what is before you. You must allow it to enter, to exert its influence, and to leave its impression upon your mind. Believing God is looking to God and what He is, allowing Him to reveal His Presence, giving Him time, and yielding your whole being to take in full impression of what He is as God, the soul opened up to receive and rejoice in the overshadowing of His love. Yes, faith is the eye to which God shows what He is and does: through faith the light of His presence and the works of His mighty power stream into the soul. As a Christian, that which you see lives in you, so by faith God lives in you.

Faith is also the ear through which the voice of God is always heard and fellowship with Him is kept. It is through the Holy Spirit that the Father speaks to us; the Son is the Word, the substance of

what God says, and the Spirit is the Living Voice. The child of God must let the Holy Spirit lead and guide him. The secret Voice from Heaven must teach him, as it taught Jesus, what to say and what to do. You need to have your ears open toward God. A believing heart, waiting to hear what He says, will hear Him speak. The words of God will not only be the words of the Book, but proceeding from the mouth of God, they will be Spirit and Truth, life and power. They will bring in deed and living experience what are otherwise only thoughts. Through having an open ear, the soul tarries under the influence of the life and the power of God Himself.

The chief blessings of prayer is to exercise faith in God, as the living, mighty God who waits to fulfill in us all the good pleasure of His will and the work of faith with power. See in Him the God of love, whose delight is to bless and to impart Himself. In such worship of faith in God, the power will speedily come to believe the promise too: "All things whatsoever ye ask, believe that ye receive." Yes, see that you in faith make God your own, and the promise will be yours too.

The precious lesson that Jesus has to teach this day is to seek God's gifts, but God wants to give you Himself first. We think of prayer as the power to draw down good gifts from Heaven, and Jesus as the means to draw yourself up to God. You want to stand at the door and cry; Jesus would have you to first enter in and realize that you are friends and His child. Let every experience of the littleness of your faith in prayer urge you first to have and exercise more faith in the living God, and in such faith to yield yourself to Him. A heart full of God has power for the prayer of faith.

Selected

*Camp Meeting*  
*July 11-15*

**Ninth Street Church of God  
of New Castle, Indiana**

*invites you to attend Camp Meeting at*

**Central Friends' Campground**

5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana 47302

Two services daily, except Wednesday: Thursday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. & Sun. 9:00 a.m.

(The first service begins Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.)

Three meals served daily, including continental breakfast  
Snack stand will be open after the evening services

Air-conditioned dining hall. Age appropriate activities during non-service times.

Lodging is available on the campgrounds. Campers & Tents are welcome  
Please make reservations in advance, if possible.

Please bring your own bedding & towels

*We welcome everyone!*

For reservations contact: Sister Michelle Gingerich @ 765-808-8705  
For further information contact: Pastor Allen Polston @ 765-521-8284

# Meeting Announcements

**MT. PLEASANT, PA**  
Continuing thru May 6

**Revival:** Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
Evangelist: Larry Dishman, Hurly, Mississippi  
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
For further information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey  
Telephone: 724-547-2151

**SUMMERSVILLE, WV**  
Continuing thru May 6

**Revival & Fellowship Meeting:** Church of God, 74 Armstrong Rd., Summersville, WV 26651  
Evangelist: Brother Leamon R. Whitehead, Minerva, Ohio  
Service times: Mon. - Thurs. 7 p.m.; Fri. 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Meals will be provided by the local congregation Friday thru Sunday following each service.  
Lodging may be obtained at the Econolodge for \$50.00 per night by calling 304-872-6900  
Tell them you are there for the Church of God meeting.  
Visit the website @ [www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com](http://www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com)  
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders  
Telephone: 304-872-4047

**KENSETT, AR**  
May 25-27

**Memorial Day Fellowship Meeting:** Kensett Church of God, 409 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Kensett, AR 72082  
Special Guests: Brother Leamon & Sister Patty Whitehead will be ministering in message and song.  
Service times: Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m. will be a teaching class on "Introduction to the Book of Revelation." A dinner will be served at 4:00 p.m. The Saturday evening 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

**NEWARK, OH**  
June 17-24

**Camp Meeting:** Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055  
The first service begins Sunday 10:00 a.m. All campers - please stop by lodging first to register & obtain a water regulator. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.  
For lodging/camper reservations, please contact Bro. or Sis. Bush at 740-345-1213  
See page 12 for additional information regarding the meeting.  
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker  
Telephone: 740-344-2543

**CANBY, OR**  
July 9-15

**Camp Meeting:** Church of God, 522 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Canby, OR 97013  
The first service begins Monday at 7:00 p.m. See page 15 for additional information regarding the meeting. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.  
For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier  
Telephone: 503-266-9297

**MUNCIE, IN**  
July 11-15

**Camp Meeting:** Ninth Street Church of God, 125 S 9<sup>th</sup> St., New Castle, IN 47362  
47362. The camp meeting will be held at the Central Friends' Campground, 5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana. The first service begins Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
See page 26 for additional information regarding this meeting.  
For more information contact: Pastor Allen Polston  
Telephone: 765-521-8284

**NEWARK, OH**  
July 29-August 5

**Camp Meeting:** Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055  
The first service begins Sunday 10:00 a.m. Three services daily: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Please make reservations in advance, if possible.  
For lodging/camper reservations, please contact Bro. or Sis. Bush at 740-345-1213.  
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker  
Telephone: 740-344-2543

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