

# The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

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

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

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 50 October 2020 No. 10



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

*Psalm 122:1*

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

# Fall 2020 Camp Meeting Report

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

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

## THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

## SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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

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## AN ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING MEETING

Regardless of the Corona-virus and the requirement to wear masks, we had a good camp meeting at God's Acres. Saints still gathered on the old campground for eight days of fellowship and feasting on the Word of God. This existing situation caused some inconveniences, yet we enjoyed a wonderful time with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We did not allow the mask requirement or having to sit somewhat apart from one another to hinder our worship. It was still a blessing to enjoy God's presence and fellowship with His people.

At ten o'clock Sunday morning, August 2, 2020, another glorious camp meeting came to order. Pastor Roger L. Decker opened the Fall Camp Meeting by greeting the saints, and then he prayed. The camp meeting got off to a wonderful start as the choir and the congregation lifted their voices in songs of praise to the Lord. These glorious songs of Zion sweetly rang out and caused our hearts to rejoice.

Brother David Stegmeier brought the first message entitled "Leaving an Inheritance." For a Scripture text, he used Psalm 16 in its entirety. He expounded on the thought of God's goodness to us. In his sermon he stressed the importance of living a righteous life. Brother David Stegmeier also reminded us that it is vital that

we leave our children with a godly inheritance. Sunday evening his son, Brother Reggie Stegmeier, delivered a sermon entitled "Entanglements." He used 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, as the Scripture text for his message. His thoughts centered on people becoming too involved with the less important affairs of life. He listed several hindrances that endanger spiritual progress with the Lord. These snares of the devil must be avoided to successfully finish our Christian race.

Brother Abraham Burton was the evening evangelist for the meeting. He began on Monday evening and preached a two-part message on behaving ourselves in the Church of God. Throughout his message he expressed the great necessity of the Christian living a righteous life. Tuesday night he continued to stress the point of being right with God and living right. Thursday evening Brother Burton began another two-part message entitled "Have You Gotten Rid of Everything That God Has Told You?" God used him to remind everyone to unload every weight that hinders victory.

The Lord blessed our presence by moving in several services without preaching. Wednesday evening a quartet from Oregon sang the song, "He Didn't Throw the Clay Away."

*[continued on page 12]*

*Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*

*8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book*

*which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.*

*9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.*

*10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.*

*11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*

# Signs of an Apostasy



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **A Deception Working**

According to history, John was rescued from the isle of Patmos and was the only one of the twelve apostles to die a natural death. John returned to Ephesus, and he preached to many people in a time of apostasy. There is no rougher time to preach than when there is a falling away.

John returned to Ephesus as a pastor, and it is said that he died at Ephesus. When John returned, no doubt, what he saw influenced his writings in 1, 2,

and 3 John. John saw something different from when he had left Ephesus. The apostasy had gained in strength, and what John witnessed was advanced.

From the time when John was exiled to the isle of Patmos to the time of his return to Ephesus, he saw great advancement of the apostasy. John dealt with at least three topics, and possibly more, throughout 1 John. He mentioned fellowship, and he told what sin is, who is in sin, who one is following if he commits sin, and how to be free from sin. Also,

he mentioned having love for your brother. In 2 John we read about the antichrist and about who and what antichrist is. In 3 John the Apostle John dealt with Diotrephes, who withstood him and others and wanted the preeminence.

I want to emphasize that John was writing these letters in a time when apostasy had gained strength. There are other thoughts that John mentioned, but these are the main thrust of those three letters. I want to address some of these issues.

First, I want to speak about fellowship. I want to talk to you about who is in fellowship and who is not. I am not talking about friendship or companionship. A lot of activities are going on today under the guise of fellowship when it is merely friendship. You cannot walk against the light of the Gospel and have fellowship.

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 1:5-7: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." John was saying that if your walk is not in accordance with how Jesus walked, you are in darkness. If you are in darkness, then you are lying by saying that you are in fellowship.

Darkness is a description of sin. There is no darkness in Christ, and there is no darkness in the church. If you are living in sin, you are not in fellowship with Christ or anyone else who is walking in the light of the Gospel. A deception is working today. Some are locking arms and supposedly representing fellowship.

### **Your Christian Walk**

Next, your walk must be as Christ walked. Again, John said in 1 John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Your Christian walk has to be as Jesus walked, not as another brother, sister, mother, or father walk. How did Jesus walk? Hebrews 4:15 tells us, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feel-

ing of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Jesus was tempted just as you are tempted. He battled thoughts, desires, and passions, and He could have sinned, but He did not. He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Someone may say that He could not have committed sin. Then why does the Bible say that the devil tempted Him? How did Jesus have victory over temptation? He committed Himself to the Father.

While nominal religion is making more room for sin, the blood of Jesus Christ is still the cleanser from all sin. Sin cannot be in the life of a Christian. Our holiness must be a copy of the holiness of Christ. We read in 1 Peter 1:15-16: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." All sin must be removed from a person's life in order for one to become a Christian. John wrote in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

In the Old Testament, the Prophet Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 18:2-4: "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

We do not inherit the sin of our fathers. However, we can inherit the consequences of their sin. Sin is in the soul. The flesh, or the body, is an instrument to commit sin. Man does not pass the soul on. He passes the flesh on. Your soul did not come from

procreation; it came from God. Ecclesiastes 12:7 lets you know that the soul returns to God who gave it. Saying that you inherited sin would be saying that you got the sin from God, because sin is in the soul. God gave the soul, and He never gives anyone a sinning soul. Again, sin is in the soul, not just in the body.

Sin comes out of the heart, or the soul of man. At death, the soul of man goes back to God who gave it. God does not put within a body a soul with sin in it. When a baby is born into this world, it comes into the world in the same state that Adam was in, only as a baby and not as an adult. Adam and Eve came into the world as adults to pass on their posterity. A person commits sin the same way Adam committed sin. Did Adam inherit anything sinful from God? Absolutely not! He came into this world as an innocent soul, the same as a little baby comes into this world.

In apostasy a person believes that sin is no longer sin but a mistake, an error, or a blunder. John had to revisit the definition of sin. Dear one, did you know that if you commit sin, you are serving the devil? John said in 1 John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." He said in the previous verse, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." What was John dealing with? He was dealing with the signs of apostasy.

### **A Lack of Love**

What is working in an apostasy? People have a lack of love. You can see it and feel it in those who have let down. They love themselves more than they love the body of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 24:11-12: "And many false prophets shall rise,

and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax [or grow] cold."

The Apostle John said in 1 John 2:9-11: "He that saith he is in the light [or in fellowship], and hateth his brother, is in darkness [or sin] even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

John stated in 1 John 3:10, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." Some walk around with feelings of bitterness, hatred, and malice. They labor in the work of God and cover those feelings to people.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:43-44: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." There is only one way that you can fulfill these Scriptures, and that is, you must be full of the Holy Spirit. There is no way that you can humanly do that. The flesh is against that. It is too much for the human flesh to overcome without the Spirit of God. A bitter person does not keep that bitterness to himself. He willingly shares his story with other people, and those people then share it with others.

Hebrews 12:12-15 reads: "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed [walk

in holiness to help the weak get healed of that weakness]. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: [He was not talking about the final Judgment. He was talking about seeing God right here. That is how you see God.] Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many [he went from you to many] be defiled."

The writer of Hebrews was saying that you can become weary, but you are to strengthen the weak. Almost every congregation has those who struggle and who are spiritually weak. Therefore, you must be careful of your walk. Do not get away from holiness because it will affect those who are weak and those who become discouraged easily. You never want to lose the grace of God in your Christian walk. If you lose the grace of God, you can become bitter and defile many.

A bitter person is not an example to his family when it comes to victory and overcoming. How can you tell your family not to become bitter when they know that you are bitter? Proverbs 4:23 reads, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Another translation says to guard your heart more than anything else because the source of your life flows from it. According to some doctors, bitterness can cause illnesses. Some studies on this found that some people had nothing wrong with them physically. They questioned those people and found that they were full of bitterness.

### **Abandoning the Old Paths**

When the Apostle John came back from the isle of Patmos, he noticed things were beginning to change in the church. To some

extent, the thrill of the first days of the church had passed. Back in the days when Paul persecuted the church and the church was scattered, they had all things common, and they went from house to house and shared their material blessings with others. It seemed like that thrill of being saved diminished. Once this happened, religion became a duty instead of a blessing to many people.

What else works feverishly in an apostasy? John saw something else working in the morning church. The old paths were being abandoned and the divine was being crowded out. All you have to do is let down on one thing, and the next thing you know, you will start picking up something else. That is how the devil works.

The Apostle Paul said in Acts 20:29-30: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves [those were the wolves he was talking about] shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Paul was saying, "Some men will come forward and say things that distort the Truth to lure disciples into following them." In other words, he was saying they would take a saying that someone said and distort that saying by adding to it, by taking away from it, or by persecuting the one who said it.

John wrote in 1 John 2:18-19: "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

How many times did John

use the word *us*? He used the word several times. Let us look at the antichrists. Who are they and where did they come from? Jesus called them false prophets, but John used the word antichrist and antichrists, which mean against Christ. How is division against Christ? It shows a divided Christ. Who are they? To find out who they are, you must look at where they came from. John pastored in Ephesus. Some must have been in the Church of God congregation at Ephesus, because John said, "They went out from us, but they were not of us."

Division is a sign of apostasy. This is a warning to the church. Division is more serious than you might think. It was so serious that Paul mentioned it in three chapters in 1 Corinthians. Now, not all division is wrong. If confusion, sin, chaos, or false doctrine is working in a congregation, then people need to flee. The other thought is, not all who get caught up in division are as guilty as the ones who lead the division. Every division has to have a leader, someone in whom people have confidence.

### **Distorting the Truth**

What else is a sign of apostasy working? Again, we want to look at Acts 20:30, which reads, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." What are perverse things? This Scripture from another translation says they will say things that distort the Truth. Speaking perverse things is distorting the Truth. They do that to lure disciples into following them.

In an apostasy there is always a leader, sometimes more than one. John stated in 3 John 1:4-10: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Beloved, thou doest faith-

fully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence [or first place] among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us [that included John] with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."

Diotrephes loved to have the preeminence. In other words, he wanted to be noticed. Also, he refused to welcome the brethren into the church, and he maliciously spread gossip about men of God. He withheld hospitality from other believers and excommunicated anyone who crossed him. In every apostasy there are leaders who lead the charge, and Diotrephes had the nerve to defy the teachings of the Apostle John. Diotrephes stood against John and manifested a love for himself. John said he would deal with him when he came.

In order for apostasy to be effective, the devil uses men of renown, men in leadership, or those who have a good name. Let us look in the Old Testament at Korah. He was a first cousin to Moses. Numbers 16:1-3 reads: "Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous

in the congregation [they had good names], men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"

Why was Moses putting himself in that position? Other people in the congregation said they were just as holy as Moses was and just as qualified. Apostasy can get mean and nasty. Sometimes spirits are manifested that have lain dormant that no one knew even existed, and hurtful and degrading things are said.

We are in an evening time apostasy, and it is time to get close to God and stay close to Him. If you do that, you will avoid it. Apostasy is a destructive work. I want you to see the seriousness of apostasy. John spoke very strongly against apostasy in 1, 2, and 3 John. He saw the change in the people when he came off the isle of Patmos. Maybe it started when he was banished to Patmos, but the apostasy had picked up speed, and John saw that it was engulfing the church. In an apostasy people get very bold and say hurtful, mean, and degrading things. The only way to avoid it is to get as close to God as you possibly can.

*(Compact Disc TR-2299)*

A stranger is one  
away from home, but  
a pilgrim is one who  
is on his way home.

*Leviticus 4:22* When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty;

23 Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the

goats, a male without blemish:

24 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD: it is a sin offering.

25 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of

the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out his blood at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering.

26 And he shall burn all his fat upon the altar, as the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and the priest shall make an atonement for him as concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him.

# SACRIFICE



*Brother Matthew Bragg*

## **The Supreme Sacrifice**

In Leviticus 4:3 we find that if a priest who was anointed committed sin, he was to get a young bullock without blemish and sacrifice it to the Lord for a sin offering. Verse 13 lets us know that if the whole congregation of Israel sinned through ignorance, they were told exactly what they were to do and what kind of animal to sacrifice. The sacrifice varied depending on a person's sin. Verse 27 talks about what to do if one of the common people

sinned. The fourth chapter deals with the blood atonement for the sins of the people.

While I am talking about sin, I want to clarify that, according to the Bible, no man on this earth has the power to forgive sin. No priest or pope can do that. Many people go to a priest and say, "Father, forgive me, for I have sinned." The Bible says in Matthew 23:9, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

I thank God that we have a Heavenly Father who cares about

us. He can take care of all our problems, and He knows what we need before we even ask Him. I have had a lot of problems, but I am glad that I can go to the One who knows all about me. He knows every detail about you.

When Jesus came, He was the supreme sacrifice, and He did away with all the animal sacrifices. There is no need for that anymore. There was not enough power in animal sacrifices, because they kept having to do it over and over again. However,

the precious Son of God died once and for all, for all eternity. There is enough power in one drop of His blood to save this world from all sin, from the beginning of time to the end.

Many people in the world want to talk about God's saving grace, but they do not want to talk about His keeping grace because it requires close living. They say, "I am a sinner saved by grace." How about saying, "I was a sinner saved by grace, but now I am a saint of God kept by grace." They do not want to talk about that because they have not been delivered from sin.

### **God's Plan for My Life**

I want to tell you a little about myself as my testimony. Years ago, I married my high school sweetheart, and we were married two or three years and started having children. God got hold of us. We both were raised in the Church of God and taught right, but we went our own way and went into deep sin. I was bound by alcohol back then. I ran around and carried on all hours of the night and worried my parents. One week a brother came and held a revival where we lived, and my wife went. I will never forget that Sunday morning. I had been out nearly all night, so I slept late and got up about noon.

As I was going to the refrigerator, I saw a shadow go past the window, and I thought: "It must be time for church to let out. That's probably my wife." About that time she walked in, and when I looked at her, I could see that her countenance was glowing. I said, "You got saved, didn't you?"

She said, "Yes, I did."

I could see that she was different. Of course, she started encouraging me to go to church, but I was not ready. Conviction came on me, and at the end of the

week, I ended up going to church. I made my way to the church while the service was going on. I came through the doors and ran to an altar of prayer, and God saved me. I never dreamed of salvation being like that. I tasted of something that I could never get away from.

Around the year 2000, I started having some health problems. In 2001 I was diagnosed with cancer. I had experienced symptoms of it since high school, but I let it go, and it really dealt me a severe blow. I ended up in the hospital for most of the year of 2001. While I was there, the doctor put me on the maximum dose of morphine around the clock. To make a long story short, hospice was called in, and they were just making me comfortable to pass. I knew what they were doing, but God had a different plan.

One evening I thought my time was short. I had a talk with my wife and said, "I will probably be dead by tomorrow." I could barely talk. I was skin and bones, and I was weak. I said, "I need to talk to my pastor." Brother Richard Talbot came, and he knelt beside the bed. I kept it dark in there, and I asked everybody else to leave the room. I said, "Brother, I just want to make sure that my soul is clear and clean before God, that there's nothing between my soul and the Savior."

He said, "Brother, there's nothing wrong with that." Then he started to pray.

While he was praying, I closed my eyes and started praying: "God, I need You. If You don't touch me, I'm going to die." About that time, with my eyes closed tight, it was as though somebody shined a big spotlight in my eyes and the room lit up. God came down into the room and hovered over my bed. It was so strong and so real that I was afraid to open my eyes, because

the Bible says that no man can look upon God and live. I thought that was going to kill me. I was praying, and as Brother Talbot finished his prayer, I slowly opened my eyes, one eye at a time, thinking that would save me from dying right then. I lived!

Brother Talbot asked me a question while he was on his knees. He said, "Brother, how do you feel now?"

I said, "Brother Talbot, God was just in this room, and He touched me!"

He said, "I know; I felt Him too." My answer confirmed what he felt. God touched me right then and there, and in three days I was discharged from the hospital. Three weeks later, I went to a Sunday school picnic and played softball with the men. I appreciate God! He had a plan and a job for me to do.

Now I am about to tell you the bad part, which is what you should not do. I got discouraged and backslid. The doctors had me on morphine, and it caused me to be addicted to pain medication. I had so much trouble with that. I did not realize that the pain medicine caused my body to become dependent on it. I struggled with it for the next fifteen years.

On July 7, 2017, I went to an altar of prayer. God is a chain breaker. I will tell you, God can break the power of addiction and take that away. I cannot tell you how God can take a man who is bound by alcohol or drugs and break that chain of bondage, but I can tell you that He can. All I know is that once I was bound, and He delivered me. Praise God!

### **God's Keeping Power**

God has been good to me and my family. I am thankful that He gave me another chance to serve Him. When I came back to Him,

I said, "God, I am not going to be happy unless I get back what I had before." I worried about that, but God saved me and gave me back what I had before and even more.

Soon I began to preach the Truth from God's Word. It did not take long for me to find out that many people say they want to be Christians, but they do not want anything to do with holy living. The Bible covers every bit of our walk with God. It tells us how to walk, how to talk, how to dress, how to act, and how to look. I have stuck with those things, and God has helped me.

One drop of the blood of Jesus has the power to keep us. I do not know how, but I am thankful that He has keeping power. Where would we be if God saved us and then turned us loose? God saves us, and He has the power to keep us. The song entitled "I Know a Man Who Can" reads:

*I can't take a heart that's broken,  
make it over again,  
But I know a Man who can  
I can't take a soul that's sin sick  
and wash it white as snow  
But I know a Man who can.*

*I can't walk upon the water or  
calm a raging sea,  
But I know a Man who can  
I can't cause blind eyes to open or  
make the lame to walk again  
But I know a Man who can.*

*Some call Him Savior, the redeemer  
of all men.  
I call Him Jesus, for He's my  
dearest friend.  
If you think that no one loves you,  
and your life is out of hand  
I know a Man who can.*

I personally know this Man who is able to save the soul and keep you. We need kept in this world. The world in which we live is so wicked, and it is waxing worse and worse every day.

Now people are trying to force churches to accept the gays and the lesbians as Christians. We cannot stand for that. That lifestyle is not pleasing to God. If people involved in that want to be saved, God will save them and deliver them from that sinful lifestyle.

God made it clear in His Word how He feels about homosexuality. Romans 1:24-27 states: "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." The Scripture says they burn in their lust one toward another, men with men and women with women. If you want to be a Christian, you have to walk the strait and narrow way and do what is pleasing to God.

### **Living a Sin Free Life**

The nominal religious world teaches that they are just sinners saved by grace. Some even teach that once you are saved, you are always saved. There is no Bible for that. The Bible makes it clear about backsliding. Hosea 14:4 says, "I will heal their backsliding." Hebrews 6:6 reads, "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." If you have

fallen away, God can renew you again. How? He does it through repentance, the same way you found salvation the first time.

God commands the Christian to live free from sin. Many people do not want to believe that. They say that no one is perfect and that Jesus was the only One who was perfect and that no one has the power to keep from sinning. I once told someone: "If Jesus lived perfect and sinless and lives in my soul, then I can live sin free. He gives me the power to do that." If you say that you are saved and yet you still sin, what did Jesus save you from? According to the Bible, if you sin, you are a sinner. If you drink strong drink, you are a drunkard. If you misuse drugs, you are a drug addict.

Some people want to ride the fence, so to speak. They want to call themselves Christians and yet sin. That will not work. You are either in or out. You are either righteous or unrighteous. You are either holy or unholy. You are either godly or ungodly. The world does not want to talk about living a holy, godly, righteous life.

Romans 12:1-2 reads: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Most men try to please themselves. A person may call himself a child of God, but a true child of God does not live to please himself. We are in this to please God. What does God require from us? He requires that we live our lives holy and acceptable to Him.

I do not want to disappoint God. How could I disappoint Him after what He has done for

me, after the way He saved and rescued me? I was down in the deep, miry clay, and He picked me up, set my feet on the Solid Rock, and enabled me to be a true child of God. Since God did that for me, how could I ever turn my back on Him or give Him halfhearted service?

We each must give God wholehearted service. He deserves our very best. After all, He gave us Heaven's best, did He not? He gave His only begotten Son to die in our stead so that we can have salvation. It is so precious that we can be saved and live clean lives, free from the world.

We read in Proverbs 21:2, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts." Is your life acceptable to God? Is God pleased with your life? Does He put His approval on you? As a true Christian, you must live holy, righteously, and godly, without spot and wrinkle. A life of holiness, godliness, and righteousness does not mix with worldliness. They are totally opposite of each other.

### **Being a Living Sacrifice**

Today so many religious people are worldly. Often you cannot tell the difference between the way some women dress on Sunday morning and those who went to a nightclub the night before. I know of a guy who claimed to be a minister, and his wife went to church wearing miniskirts. Her attire looked like that of a woman who had come out of a bar the night before. Such immodesty is ungodly and unholy, and it is unacceptable to God. Many people in the religious world dress, talk, and act the same way worldly people do. God makes it plain in His Word over and over that we are to stay separate from the world.

When I graduated from high school, Brother Talbot wrote in my Bible, "Brother Matthew, always keep yourself far from the shallowness and the vanity of the world." Worldliness is vain and shallow, and it will take you down.

God expects you to live this life according to His Word when He saves you. When you are truly saved, God wants you to live holy, godly, and righteously. The Word of God tells women to adorn themselves in modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9). Men ought to dress modestly as well. Christian men do not have any business running around with their shirts off. In the Old Testament, you can read that God made it clear that both men and women are to cover their nakedness, which includes the thighs, the buttocks, and the loins. The thigh is the part of the lower limb between the hip and the knee. If anything above that is showing, God considers it nakedness.

There is something about true salvation that makes a person hungry for the things for God. You want all you can get of God's Word. The more you get, the more thrilled you are about salvation. That is the way it should be. If your salvation has dried up and become stale or stagnant, you need to earnestly seek the Lord. God has real salvation that will make you happy. He can restore your thrill and your excitement. God wants you to be happy. There is joy in serving God.

Before I got saved again in July 2017, I remember that God dealt with me for months, and I would not yield. I wanted to know that I could get back what I had before. I would go to my mom and dad and weep and tell them things. I poured out my heart to them. I told them about God dealing with me and how I could not get away from that. I told my dad: "I want you to

know that I am Church of God through and through. When I get saved, I know how I have to live, and I know what I have to do."

Again, it says in Romans 12:1 to present your body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable before God. As a Christian, you have to do what pleases God. Also, verse 2 says not to be conformed to this world. First John 2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Many people hang on to the world and yet claim to be saved. They simply do not want to let go of the world. Friend, that will not work. The point is, you cannot be worldly and be entangled in the things of the world and yet be holy, godly, and righteous at the same time.

I have a lifelong friend that I grew up with. Where you saw one of us, you would see the other one. We would go hunting and fishing, and we were always together. We traveled to places out West and hunted in Colorado. Also, we went to the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. One time we drove up there and stayed for ten days. We hunted grouse and such things. No one could separate us, but when I got saved, he went his own way. I could hardly believe that. He said, "I don't need any friend that makes me feel condemned about how I live my life." I was not intentionally trying to cause him to feel condemned. It was the godly living and the righteousness that caused him to feel condemned.

What did Jesus say? He stated in John 3:17, "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world [the world was condemned already]; but that the world through him might be saved." Jesus came to offer salvation so that through Him people might be saved. We do not need to condemn the

world; the world is already condemned. Our job is to live holy, godly, and righteously. Jesus is offering something better than the world has.

### Possessing the Spirit of God

Romans 8:1-17 reads: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the

Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Those verses of Scripture sum up the fact that when you have the Spirit of God, you know it. It is amazing to me how, when we get saved, God's Spirit moves into the soul, and when He does, what a change He makes! When we meet other saints of God that we really do not know, there is a connection because they have the same Spirit of God in them. Even if we do not know someone's name, the Spirit will bear witness, "That is my brother" or "That is my sister." There is something special about that, but I cannot explain it.

There are a lot of things that I cannot explain, but I know they are real. How do I know? I have experienced it. If someone does not have the Spirit of God, we can feel that too. When another spirit is working and it is not the Spirit of God, God will let you know. I have experienced that too.

If you have God's Spirit dwelling in you, it is something that is real. You cannot fake the Spirit of God. If you have the Spirit of God, people will notice. You cannot hide it when the Spirit of God is bubbling over in you. If God lays a testimony or a song on your heart, you had better mind God. You need to be obedient and hear that still, small voice that directs, leads, and guides you.

Those who possess the Spirit of God can have fellowship. I did not say whoever says he is a Christian can have fellowship,

because many people say they are Christians when they are not truly saved. Those who *truly* possess the Spirit of God can have fellowship. It is the Spirit of God in them that makes them your brother and sister.

### Living Pleasing to God

If God's people are in a religious sect that is not teaching God's Word, He will call them out of that if they are honest hearted. It says in Revelation 18:4, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." What does God want His people to come out of? He wants them to come out of false religion. God wants His people to come to where the Truth is preached. I appreciate the Truth of God! It is valuable to me. You need to live a life that is pleasing to God, a life that He is happy with.

James 1:26 reads, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." What about your tongue? Is it holy, godly, and righteous? The tongue can be deadly and spread gossip and things that hurt. The tongue can sow discord. Do you know how God feels about discord? Proverbs 6:16 tells us, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him." Verse 19 says, "A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Sowing discord is so damaging.

What about your behavior? Are you always acting and conducting yourself as a child of God should or do you go along with whatever crowd you are with? You must be a child of God at all times, even in the privacy of your own home. How is your home life? I know of a man who claimed to be a preacher. He and

his wife often argued and fussed at home. One day as I was in the garden, I had no idea they were outside, but suddenly I heard an awful commotion. It was the most awful arguing that I had ever heard from two people who claimed to be Christians. If you are a child of God, you cannot do that. Your children need to see holiness, godliness, and righteousness.

What is acceptable to God? You should not act one way in your home and then go to church and act another way. You are only as good at church as you are in the home and on your job. Do you have ungodly and unrighteous things in your home that you keep hidden?

You need to live so that you please God. I thank God for the Church of God and the Truth that

she stands for, the Truth that I have heard down through the years. I appreciate what God has done for me. Have you let down on Truth? Have you compromised a little? Once you compromise, it is so hard to come back. You need to stand solidly for the Truth of God's Word and everything that is in it.

(Compact Disc TR-2312)

## The Keeper of the Light

The lighthouse keeper is always on call. He must be there to guide ships through the storms and keep them safe from the rocks that threaten to tear the vessels apart. He can lead them to safety or allow them to flounder on their own and possibly crash against the rocky shore. You must be a constant light for those sinking in a sea of trouble. If your light flickers in the wind, it will be hard to follow. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). You need to shine His light brightly, now and always.

[Fall Camp Mtg. Report—contin. from p. 2]  
The words of this song melted many hearts and caused them to move to the altar and seek salvation and help from the Lord. Friday evening a trio sang the song, "I Am With Thee." Again, the Holy Spirit began working with hearts and more souls surrendered to the call of God's Spirit. Then Sunday evening young Brother James Presley was used of the Lord to sing the sobering song, "Don't Let Me Cross Over God's Mercy Line." As he sang with tears in his eyes, souls were convicted and came to Christ seeking deliverance. Oh, the love and compassion that God has for lost souls and for those who need strength and grace. It was certainly a beautiful sight to behold as souls wept their way to Christ.  
Monday morning Brother

Earl R. Borders preached a message entitled "Sick of Love." Tuesday morning Brother Calvin Foster preached, "Let There Be No Strife." Wednesday morning Brother Foster brought a message entitled "The Jordan Cut Off." Thursday Brother Allen Borders dealt with the thought, "Sometimes the Answer Is No." Friday morning Brother Allen Polston delivered a sermon entitled "Why We Pray in the Name of Jesus." Saturday morning Brother Larry Dishman covered the topic of the influence that divorce has on children and family. Sunday morning Brother Dishman dealt with the word, "TEKEL," which means, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

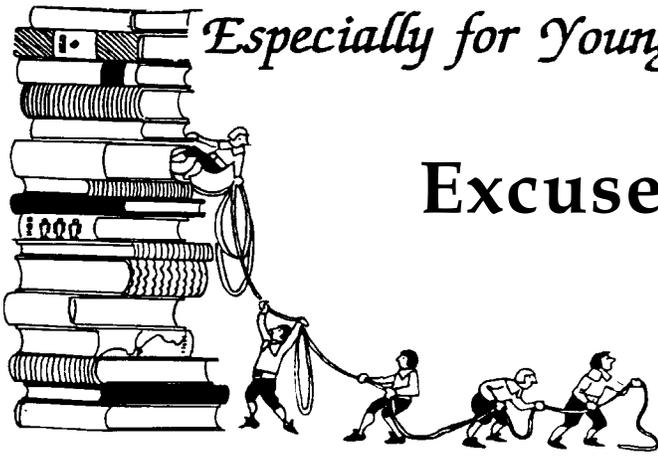
Every afternoon, Monday through Friday at three o'clock, a teaching session was held on

vital Bible issues by Brother Roger Decker and Brother Reggie Stegmeier. Saturday afternoon a baptismal service was held. Nine people were baptized during that time. Amid the inconveniences, the camp meeting ended with a beautiful sight as many souls bowed at the altars of prayer.

Were you unable to attend the Fall Camp Meeting at God's Acres? If you would like to place an order for CDs or DVDs of the messages and songs, please write to: *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 North Cedar Street, Newark, Ohio or call 740-345-1312 and we will mail your request to you. A list of camp meeting songs and messages is on page 25 of this issue for your convenience.

*Especially for Young People*

## Excuses



Luke 14:16-21 reads: "Then said he [Jesus] unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind."

This parable was spoken by Jesus. A man was throwing a big supper with lots of food. It does not make sense that all those people would make excuses. The sad part is, many people are doing the same thing today. God is offering salvation, the great benefits of being a Christian, and a trip to Heaven; yet many people are making excuses and turning Him down. Sometimes even Christians make excuses when God asks them to do something. I want to examine some excuses that some

people give.

I am going to start with some excuses that some Christians give. The first one I thought of was the excuse for not witnessing to others. Exodus 4:10-14 tells us: "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart."

When God first told Moses that He had chosen him to lead the people of Israel, the first thing he did was make an excuse. In essence, Moses said, "I don't have an eloquent tongue, so I don't think I am the man for the job." However, God chose him for that job. God chooses every Christian for a specific job, and He expects each one to do that job.

Verse 14 lets you know that

God's anger was kindled against Moses because of his excuse. You should not make excuses for not doing the work of God. As a Christian, you should be eager to witness for God every opportunity you are given. God promises in His Word to give everyone at least one chance to serve Him. Witnessing to someone could be the one chance that person has to turn to Christ. If you decide that you are not going to speak to that person, you could be hindering that person's one opportunity to serve God.

James 4:17 reads, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." This is speaking of the sin of omission. If you know that God wants you to do something or that He has called you to do something, you should not make any excuses.

The next excuse that people sometimes give is saying they do not have any gifts or anything to offer God. Jeremiah 1:4-7 tells us: "Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."

Here we read that when Jeremiah was called to be a prophet of God, he made the excuse that he could not speak because he was a child. He probably thought that he did not have anything to offer God. Why would God choose him to be a prophet when others might be better qualified?

You may think, "I don't have the gifts to serve God." God did not make you to be like anyone else. He made you to be you, and He has a specific path for you. The path that God has for you will not be the same as someone else's path. If you try to copy someone else's life, you could be hindering the path that God has set forth for you. We each have gifts. You may not know what your gift is yet, but God will reveal this to you in time.

Genesis 3:12 reads, "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." This is a picture of when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit that God had commanded them not to eat of. When God asked Adam what he had done, the first thing he did was make an excuse and blamed it on Eve.

Some young people go out into the world and get into ungodly relationships. That is probably the most common thing that is leading young people away from God. I remember a particular young man that I really looked up to when I first came into the young people's group. Sometimes I hung out with him, and I thought he was one of the most spiritual young men in the group, but he was led away from God by an ungodly young woman and has not been back. It is sad when something like that happens and leads a person away from God and destroys his relationship with God.

The Bible lets us know that David was a man after God's own heart, but one thing that caused him to sin was an ungodly rela-

tionship. You should not say that it cannot happen to you or that you are not going to let it happen to you. It happened to David, so it can happen to anyone. You need to be on your guard constantly.

The last excuse that I want to cover that some Christians give is this: "Someone may be in a heavy trial and think, 'I'm so busy with this trial that God cannot use me right now to help others.'" A good example of this is the trial that Gideon went through. Judges 6:12-14 states: "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"

Gideon and his whole nation were going through a heavy trial. They had just been delivered into the hands of the Midianites. Possibly he had family members who had been captured and imprisoned or killed. In the midst of this trial, God was saying, "I am going to lead you to free your people." What would you think if God told you that He was going to choose you in the middle of a trial like that? You would probably think, "You are crazy!" Even in the middle of trials, God has a reason for your trial.

One reason could be that someone in your future may go through the same trial you are going through, and you might be able to help that one by telling that person how God brought you through it. If you let down and fail to live as you should, others around you will see the let down.

They will notice that you are not living as you should be. When you are up on a mountain and high on life, you are excited to live for God and excited to be a witness. As soon as a valley hits, are you down, not wanting to talk about God? It is important to continue to work for God even in the midst of your trials.

Now I want to cover some excuses that sinners make for not living for God, especially young people. The first one is using others as an excuse for your own shortcomings. First Samuel 15:2-3 tells us: "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." That was a specific instruction that God gave to King Saul.

First Samuel 15:20-21 reads: "And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal."

King Saul disobeyed what God clearly told him to do. The first thing Saul did was blame his own actions on others. In other words, he said, "The people wanted me to do this." Sometimes when young people get caught up with ungodly friends and do not keep company with the right crowd, they make excuses. They may say, "I want to live right, but my friends are causing me to falter and not to live for God as I should."

Instead of utterly destroying the Amalekites, King Saul took

King Agag alive and saved the best of the animals. When Samuel confronted Saul about this later, Saul blamed it on the people. King Saul's disobedience caused God to give up on Saul as king. The Lord even told the Prophet Samuel to quit praying for King Saul, which is a scary thought.

In Matthew 5:29 Jesus taught, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out." This quote does not literally mean to pluck out your eye. It means if you have a relationship that is coming between you and God, you need to cut it off, because that relationship or friendship that is causing you not to be what you should be is not worth being lost eternally.

Another excuse that sinners use is, "I'm not strong enough in the midst of temptation." Your defense against temptation is kind of like a wall, and every day the devil is coming against that wall, trying to tear it down. If I wanted to pound through a brick wall, I would focus on one spot. The devil is going to find your weakest point and focus on that.

In my own experience, the devil focuses on one thing and tempts me with that. He probably is not going to get me with cigarettes because I have gone to church my whole life, and I hate the smell of them. He is going to choose something smaller that he thinks he can get me with and pick at that constantly, day in and day out.

One thing I have started doing to combat this is to make sure that I read my Bible and pray in the mornings as soon as I get up, because that is going to fortify my wall. If you go through the whole day and do not stop to read your Bible and pray until late in the evening, you may not get as much out of it because you will soon be asleep. When you wake up the next morning, you may not remember what you read. It is important to read the Bible in the morning so you can think on

those things throughout the day. Then you can have those Scriptures in your mind to fight the devil when he comes against you.

You should not put yourself in bad situations. You can pray and ask God to help you, but it is going to take effort on your part. I could pray and say, "God, I really want a nice car," and then sit on the couch all day and not get a job. It does not work that way. You must put forth effort. If you are fighting a temptation, such as alcohol, then you should stay away from places where it is served. If your friends invite you to such places, you could say: "That is a temptation for me. Can we go somewhere else?"

Second Peter 2:9 reads, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations. You do not know how to deliver yourself out of temptations. You need to pray and ask God: "What do I need to do? I am being tempted with this." You need to seek God's face, because He has a way for you to escape all temptations.

The most common and dangerous excuse among young people is the thought, "I want to go and have fun right now, so I'm going to wait until I'm older to get saved." Acts 26:27-28 tells us: "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." From what I could learn by studying, King Agrippa was a fairly young man when Paul spoke to him. I cannot help but think there was a reason that he was not persuaded to give his life to God. What was holding him back? I believe he wanted to have fun, so he turned down the offer of becoming a Christian.

Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." He knew there were things wrong

in his life. If you research it, you will find that Agrippa had a lot of sin in his life. Agrippa failed to give in to God when Paul witnessed to him. I believe that all young people who leave the church have the intention of being saved one day; however, the Bible says that today is the day of salvation.

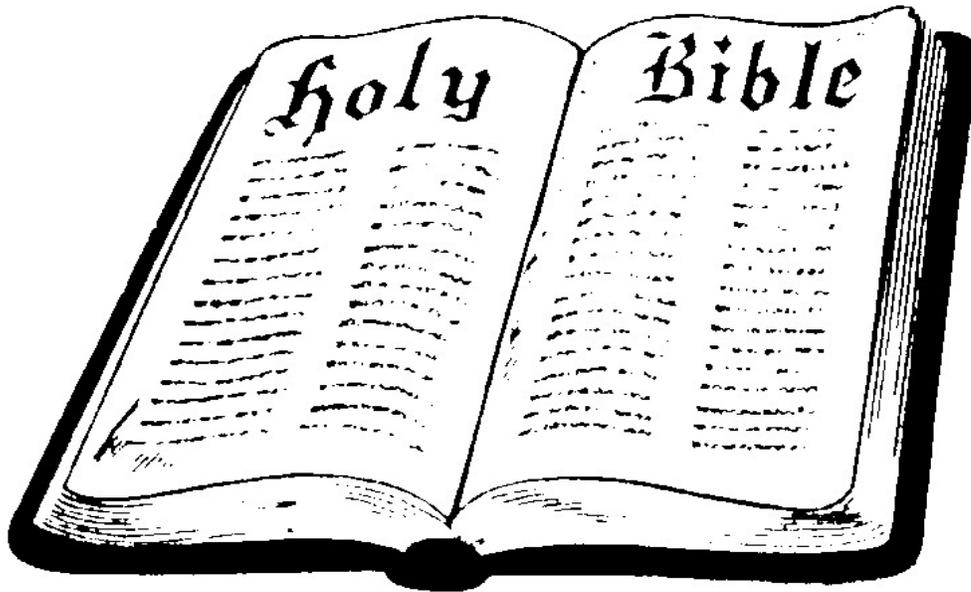
As I was studying, I tried to come up with three reasons why the "I'll get saved when I'm older" theory does not work out. The number one reason is that you do not know when your time to die is coming. Young people often think, "I have a long life ahead of me, and I can get saved whenever I want to." Again, you do not know when it will be your time to die. God could take you out at any time.

Another excuse that I thought of is that once you have gone out into sin, Satan will try to bring on addictions. He wants you to be bound by the things of sin, and that will make it so much harder to get back to God. Also, it will be harder to live for God if you do get back to Him because you will have scars, and you may be tempted with more things.

My last point is, God may never give you another chance. Paul, one of the greatest apostles ever, witnessed to Agrippa, but we do not read that he ever gave his heart to God. That might have been King Agrippa's only chance to get saved. He lived until he was around seventy years of age. What if that witnessing from Paul was the only chance he got, and he turned it down. I feel like a lot of young people are doing that today. They hear message after message, but they keep thinking: "I want to go out and have fun for a while. I'll get saved one day." Well, that one day may never come. This could be your last chance.

Brother Cody Green

# Bible Descriptions of a Christian



*Brother E. David Stegmeier*

## **Led By the Spirit of God**

In the Word of God, men of God have illustrated what a true Christian should be by using various descriptions. I selected five that tell us what a real Christian ought to be. A description is a spoken or written representation or an account of a person, object, or event (in this case, a person). We can find many examples in the Word of God that show various facets of a Christian.

First of all, Christians are sons and daughters of God. When we are saved, we become a part of the family of God. It is the best family on earth. We have an awesome Heavenly Father,

and the church is the mother. Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul, writing to the church in Galatia, said in Galatians 3:26, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

True children of God are brothers and sisters in Christ no matter what their race is or where they are from. If you know God and you are truly born again, then you are a part of the family of God. Romans 8:14 reads, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." We should be very sensitive to the Spirit of God, and we need to train our children to be sensitive to Him as well. Also, we need to be keen to hear the

Word of God.

When I was a child, I was touched by the Spirit of God many times. One time I went to church and stood in the foyer and told my mother: "I don't feel well. I want to go home." The pastor came by and said: "He's not sick, but no doubt God is talking to him," so he led me to the altar for prayer. Sometimes children want to go to the nursery or do something else. Perhaps the Spirit of God is working with them, so we need to be sensitive to the moving of the Spirit of God.

We need to be quiet, alert, attentive, and serious in the services of God, especially during an altar call, because the pastor, through the Word and the Spirit,

is operating on the souls of men. It is far more important than a doctor in an operating room. A minister has a greater responsibility than a pilot or a doctor. He is working with God on eternity bound souls. Doctors work on the body and pastors work on the souls, which are eternal.

When a person is saved, he becomes a part of the family of God, and we accept that person as such. A person becomes a member of the family of God at conversion. One receives all the privileges of any other member of the family of God at conversion.

Romans 8:15 reads, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; [Christians are free, not to put the flesh on exhibition, but to do what God wants us to do, whether we sing, testify, or pray. There is freedom in the house of God. However, we need to be careful of using this freedom in the wrong way. Sometimes people get caught up in cults, and that can be very insidious. There is bondage in fear. God's people do not live in bondage and fear, but we do respect God. I believe there is a godly fear in that we highly respect God. However, we do not have to fear that He is going to hurt us or destroy us in some way.] But ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father [which means 'Father, Father']."

Verse 16 states, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, [We sing a song that says, 'Into my heart, into my heart, Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.' When does that happen? It happens when you get saved.] that we are the children of God."

### **An Heir of God**

First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body . . . and have been all made to drink into one

Spirit." Paul said in Romans 8:9b, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." We must have a good attitude. God can never lead anyone into Truth with a stubborn, rebellious attitude.

Romans 8:17 reads, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." We inherit salvation. Where do we get it? It comes from God. At conversion, we become citizens of the Kingdom of God. The Bible tells us in Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." These are things that we inherit as Christians. Salvation delivers you from sin.

First John 2:1 states, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not [that is the rule]. And if [that is the exception] any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." God is not finished with you. You need to ask God to forgive you and go on. A child may stumble and fall, but you would not spank him for falling and tell him not to try again. If you fall, you need to ask God to help you and move on, but you need to learn from that. You must stay out of any situation that will tempt you beyond your ability to cope with it. He will give you grace, but do not play around with sin. God will supply all your needs sufficiently. Eventually we will receive all that Heaven has to offer.

First Peter 1:3-5 reads: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead [As children of God, we have a hope], To an inheritance incorruptible [it will never change, be destroyed, or become outdated], and undefiled [never tainted by sin], and that fadeth not away,

reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

As Christians, we are rich. I have no desire to go out into the world, none whatsoever. Serving God is the best life to live. I was saved as a little boy, and I have never left the church because I am convinced that it is the best way to live. The people of God age more slowly than people in the world. People in the world have many heavy burdens and sins that they carry around with them constantly, but as saints of God, we have a Burden Bearer, One to whom we can go.

As Christians, a great inheritance awaits us. It is free from corruption, and it will not fade away. A literal inheritance might be taken away from you. You might find out that someone changed his will. You do not know for sure whether you have anything coming for you or not. As Christians, we are rich, and we have a great heavenly inheritance that awaits us. It is free from corruption and will not fade away. Earthly inheritances are uncertain. Psalm 16:5 is a powerful Scripture. It states, "The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot."

### **Adopted as a Son**

We have a Heavenly Father who cares about us. Paul wrote in Galatians 4:4-6: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. [Everyone in sin is a slave. Does a slave have any rights? No. I thank God that we receive the adoption of sons.] And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying

Abba, Father."

I am sure that every Christian will agree that the most precious time in life is when God says, "You are My child; stay right in there." No slave could address the head of a family in this manner. He could not say: "Father, father." This citation shows love and confidence.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:18, "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." God will give us fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. Saints, we are responsible to disciple new converts, shake their hands, call them, perhaps take them out for lunch, work with them, and help them to get established. Christians need to leave an apostate religious institution. Sometimes people may say: "I have brothers and sisters and children here. If I leave, what is the chance for them?" You should leave and pray for God to bring them out. God will take care of the rest.

John said in 1 John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." If the world knows a lot about you, perhaps you are not where you ought to be with God. If a saint of God is where he should be, the world will say: "I do not understand him. He is different."

What wonderful love was extended to us at the Cross of Jesus Christ! Sometimes people struggle with the Bible standard of modesty and the hair standard. Philippians 2:8 says that Jesus was "obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," which was the most despicable way to die. If you have a problem with something that God requires of you, you ought to put it alongside the obedience of Christ. John 1:10 reads, "He was

in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." A Christian is a son or a daughter of God.

Blessings and privileges are for the sons of God. We have been called the sons of God. We should walk around with our heads up, not arrogantly but confidently. We have a Heavenly Father who cares about each of us. We have been called the sons of God, and we have been pardoned from our sins. What a privilege! We have free entrance into the Father's house. We have been called to eat at the Father's table. We become heirs with Christ. These are privileges and blessings of God's children.

### A Good Steward

The second Bible description of a Christian is that a Christian is a steward. A steward is one who is called to exercise responsible care of possessions entrusted to him. Each of us has been given something from God. Every Christian has at least one talent. God has given His people talents, time, and finances. Since you are a steward of God, what are you doing with these? Is your heart really in the work of the church? How about the widow and her mite? Did she not give all? She gave everything. That is faith. Who took care of her? God did. I love the work of God. It is a wonderful work. According to the Word of God, if you use your talents for God, they will increase. That is one of the principal rules.

Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." We all have gifts. For example, you can give a smile or a warm handshake. Does a smile not help you sometimes?

God has given His people the responsibility to be good stew-

ards. Is it not a joy to give to God your time, your talents, and your possessions? God has given men the responsibility to be good stewards of everything He has created and put at our disposal; therefore, we must manage them wisely. If we do not, the Bible lets us know they will fly away (Proverbs 23:5). We cannot depend on them. Man must manage his material possessions, his innate abilities, his knowledge, and his talents wisely.

We each have different talents. I could not fix your car or overhaul your engine, but I can do other things. Each one of us has a talent that must be managed wisely, whether it is material possessions or innate abilities that God has given, such as knowledge, understanding, or the spiritual blessings of salvation, the grace of God, and Truth.

We are stewards of the Truth, and we are blessed and so responsible. When you have an opportunity, you should step through that door and give someone a tract or pass out *The Gospel Trumpeter*. Our gifts are to be used for the glory of God and for the good of others, not for selfish gain. This is so important. Proverbs 20:6 states, "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:2, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." A pastor enjoys people upon whom he can count.

In Matthew, Chapter 25, you can read about three men to whom a man gave talents. To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, according to each one's ability. The one who received five talents went and traded and got five more talents. Likewise, the one who received two talents traded and gained two more. However, he who had one talent went and hid it in the earth because he was afraid. God wants

you to use what you have to gain more. The wicked and lazy servant should have put his talents to work and God would have blessed him. Jesus said in verse 26, "His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed."

### A Soldier of Jesus Christ

The third comprehensive picture of a Christian is that he is a soldier on the battlefield for the Lord, and it is a very difficult battle. The Christian is a child of God, a son or a daughter of God. Every Christian is a steward over what God has given him or her. The Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:3-4: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ [sometimes working for God can be difficult, and you might have to suffer]. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier [or a servant]."

The Christian must separate himself from the world. We are in the world but not of the world. We have jobs, but when it is time for the church services, we need to lay aside our tools and get to the house of worship. "No man that warreth" should become too involved with this world.

One thing that is really a struggle for many people today is sports. It is not that anyone is against sports or against having a good time, but sporting events should not be held during service times. When I was a boy, and even when I started teaching, Wednesday evening was looked upon as a church night by communities. No sports or other activities were scheduled then. Sunday was considered to be the Lord's day, but now people hold

ball games then too. It should make every godly pastor very unhappy when someone is missing due to a sporting event.

Jesus stated in John 8:29, "The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." I often stress that Scripture. Some people say, "I do not look good that way." Well, how does God want you to look? You ought to please Him, not self. I want to please God and progress spiritually. When you are not progressing as an individual or winning souls, could it be that you lack obedience in some area of your life?

### Qualifications of a Soldier

What are the qualifications of a soldier? Ephesians, Chapter 6, reveals what an army consists of. First, a soldier must be fully equipped with the weapons that God has provided. The Word and the Spirit are weapons that God provides, which work faith. You need everything that God has for you. You need to die out to self and leave the world behind. You must get rid of every trace of sin and be fully equipped with the armor of God and the weapons of our warfare so that you might stand against the wiles of the devil.

The second qualification of a soldier is that he must rely upon the strength of the Lord, not his own strength, because the flesh will fail. The battle is a war, so you have to pray: "God, help me please. I want to be successful. I want to see Your salvation extended and Your kingdom advanced as far as possible. I want to see souls saved."

When I went into the military, they required me to send home my civilian clothes. I had to separate from my past life. I had to leave this world and its interests behind, because I belonged to Uncle Sam.

The third requirement of a soldier is discipline. This is a very heated battle. As I was growing up, I was taught the old-time Truths of the Church of God. We must dress modestly and godly. I want to live so that my congregation is flourishing and healthy. We must leave the world and its interests behind and accept the rigorous training. I am talking about being a true Christian soldier.

You must have discipline. Many people will not accept discipline today. It is very hard to discipline someone. The military is very strict about discipline. Often they make a person feel like dirt, but you have to take it unless you want to work in the kitchen washing dishes for a month or two. You must accept the rigorous training to which you are subjected and be on constant alert for the enemy.

An old song entitled "In the Army of the Lord," written by Barney E. Warren reads:

*In the holy army we've enlisted,  
Now the banner of the cross we  
bear;  
All the forces of the wrong resisted  
Causes right to triumph  
everywhere.  
We will follow where our Captain  
leadeth,  
We will fight against the sullen foe,  
We will stand together, then we'll  
conquer;  
Certain victory is ours, we know.  
  
We will push the fight o'er land  
and ocean,  
And across the desert plains of sin;  
We will give the cause our true  
devotion,  
Till for truth and righteousness we  
win.  
We're arrayed in all the gospel  
armor,  
Bravely onward we will ever go,  
Till we put to flight the host of evil,  
Through our Leader we'll subdue  
the foe.*

*Hear the trampling of the countless  
millions,  
Hear the battle's mighty thunders  
roar;  
Hear the great Commander of the  
army  
Sound the orders loud from shore  
to shore:  
"Go ye into all the world, I'm with  
you,  
Take the fortresses of sin today,  
Charge the enemy, compel  
surrender,  
Wear the victor's crown through  
endless day."*

*We are marching on to certain  
victory,  
In the hottest fight is where we love  
to be;  
Let the battle rage o'er every land  
and sea –  
'Tis the army of the Lord.*

### **Be Faithful and Patient**

The next description of a Christian is that he endures common hardships. You might have to forsake the luxuries of home, which may include a comfortable dwelling, mother's food, and father's provisions. A soldier is exposed to cold, heat, storms, and fatiguing marches. He is vulnerable to being caught by the enemy, and perhaps death.

As a Christian soldier, you are on active duty. Therefore, the activities of your life should not occupy all your time, money, and interest. The soldier of a country suffers for the sake of his country and for his personal honor. A soldier of the Cross endures hardships for the glory of God and for the good of humanity. In the church sometimes we suffer because we want the church to be what it ought to be and to have a good influence in the community. The church should be well respected in the local community, and it starts with individual members. Many people in our country carry on, take drugs, desecrate public buildings, burn

the flag, and do all kinds of unlawful things; yet some are losing sons and daughters on a battlefield. To me that is very, very sad. No soldier necessarily wants to die. Each one wants to make it home, but some are taken into eternity.

The fourth requirement to be a Christian is that he must be a servant. Our children sing a song that says, "If you want to be great in the Kingdom of God, be a servant." A Christian is a servant. Jesus said in Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." It is a joy to be His servant. Throughout Jesus' life, He ministered to the needs of others. He fed the five thousand from a mere little. He was always serving.

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 2:5-7: "Let this mind [a selfless mind, a sacrificial mind, and a serving mind] be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, [A lot of false prophets are in the world today seeking people to follow after them. We point people to Christ.] and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." When you die, is God going to say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

The fifth requirement of a Christian is that he must be a fisher of men. Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Each of us should want to be a soul winner. When I was a boy, I was thrilled if I found someone who wanted to talk about Jesus or about the Bible. It was exciting!

A fisher of men has to be faithful and patient. When I was a boy, I knew where every deep fishing hole in the streams was around our town. As a Christian,

your job is to win souls for Christ. You need to fish for the Lord. God's people are fishers of men, and the souls of men are the catch. The sea of life is rough, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the net into which you place your catch and bring them into the church. A fisher of men must use the proper bait.

When I was in the military, a sergeant often requested that I come on weekends to the company headquarters. He would tell others: "Send Stegmeier over here." I would go there and stay on the weekends. He would ask me lots of questions about the Bible. After basic training, I went back to see him, and he said, "Stegmeier, guess what happened!"

I said, "What?"

He said, "I got saved!"

A fisherman must use the proper bait, be patient, and stay out of sight. You cannot stand out there and say: "Here I am fish!" No, you have to stand back. The children sing one little song entitled "Fishers of Men." It reads:

*I will make you fishers of men,  
Fishers of men, fishers of men.  
I will make you fishers of men,  
If you follow Me.*

*If you follow Me,  
If you follow Me,  
I will make you fishers of men,  
If you follow Me.*

*Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me  
Come unto Me, come unto Me."  
Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me  
I will give you rest."*

*"I will give you rest,  
I will give you rest."  
Hear Christ calling "Come unto  
Me,  
I will give you rest."*

(Compact Disc TR-2319)

# Attributes of Godly Compassion



*Brother Steve Strelecky*

## **Forgiveness**

We are living in a time when we are going to be tested and tried. As I have gone through trials, I have learned not to get too attached to material things. This life is not about material things, but about our heavenly treasures. What are you putting into your heavenly account? Material things will be gone one of these days.

Many people feel that compassion is for someone that you are feeling sorry for, but compassion is much more than that. Real compassion is grounded in humility and in having a true concern for others. The Bible tells us in Psalm 86:15, "But thou, O

Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." Psalm 111:4 reads, "He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion."

I want to focus on four attributes of godly compassion. The first attribute is forgiveness. Showing compassion is to be forgiving. Psalm 78:38 states, "But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath." This chapter speaks of all the mighty works that God performed for the children of Israel, yet the children of Israel went

their own way and sinned against God. God, being full of compassion, forgave their wickedness and did not destroy them. Many a time, God turned away His anger.

I am thankful that when I was going my own way, God did not destroy me. When I repented, He forgave me. I am thankful for the forgiveness of God. He forgave me and set my path aright.

Psalm 7:11 tells us that God is angry with the wicked every day. You may ask how a compassionate God can be angry with the wicked. As Creator, He has the right to destroy the wicked. He destroyed all the wickedness in the days of Noah. He had every right to destroy me in my

wickedness, but instead He offered His mercy to me.

Are you as forgiving as God is? I repeat, being compassionate is being forgiving. If someone offends you, how forgiving are you? The Amplified version of 2 Corinthians 2:5-8 reads: "But if someone has caused [all this] sorrow, he has caused it not to me, but in some degree—not to put it too severely—[he has distressed and grieved] all of you. For such a one this punishment by the majority is sufficient, so instead [of further rebuke, now] you should rather [graciously] forgive and comfort and encourage him, to keep him from being overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reinstate him in your affections and reaffirm your love for him."

If a brother or a sister has done something hurtful to you, this principle would apply. Maybe someone spoke harsh words or said something hurtful that caused you grief and pain. Rather than continually bringing up the matter and rehashing it, you need to forgive the one who has caused the offense. I realize that is easier said than done.

What does the flesh want to do? The flesh wants to rehash these offenses repeatedly. Paul said to comfort a person. Sometimes when you are upset with somebody, that might be the last thing on your mind to do to somebody who has offended you, especially if that person has hurt you deeply. He also said to encourage the one who has caused the offense. Remember, each person you deal with has a soul.

You may never know how badly the offender feels for the offense. If you do not work to restore, encourage, and comfort the offender, the devil may knock that person out of the race completely. The devil might have that one in a spot where he might totally drop out of the race.

Maybe if you would work to restore that one, reaching out your hand in fellowship, that might keep that person from falling out of the race.

One of the most difficult things to do is to lay aside your hurt. It is difficult to help someone who has offended you. The best example you could ever have is Jesus. Think about all the hurt and the pain that He suffered. He was rejected and eventually hung on the Cross, but what did He do? He is there to forgive. He was hung on the Cross because of our sin and wickedness, but He willingly died for our sinful condition so that we could be free.

### **Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Christ**

The second attribute of godly compassion is seeing others through the eyes of Christ. Matthew 9:36 reads, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted [another translation says they were dispirited and distressed], and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." Each and every day, we come in contact with those who are broken, fainting, and dispirited. Some have gone through really tough times in life.

Some young people are in tough situations that they should not have to be in. Some are distressed and dispirited. Does it move you to compassion as it did Christ?

It is easy to look at others and stereotype them. When you see somebody on the street who looks a little disheveled or dirty, do you stereotype that person instead of looking at him through the eyes of Christ and reaching out to that person? If Jesus were here and saw the homeless people on the streets, how would He see them?

How do you see people who are different from you? Do you see them through the eyes of Christ? How easy it would be to say there is no help for certain people! What if God had done the same with you? What if God would have said, "Why should I even bother?" He did not do that. When Christ saw the multitude, He saw people who needed Him. As Christians, when we look at people in this world, we should see people who are in need of Jesus.

First John 3:17 states, "But whoso hath this world's good [or adequate resources], and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" When this Scripture talks about this world's good, your mind may go to money, but God has blessed us with much more than money. He has blessed us with many adequate resources. For example, God blessed me with a job in which I have the summer off. The question I have to ask myself is this: Am I using my time effectively to help others? Maybe a brother or a sister is in need of help. I am doing my best to help that brother or sister, because that is what God would want me to do. The enemy will say, "You have other things to do, so let somebody else take care of that need." If I neglect somebody in need, God will hold me accountable for that.

What resources has God blessed you with? Are you using them as you ought to for God? Maybe a brother or a sister has been wounded in the battle and needs help. Are you moved with compassion enough to help that person? If you are not careful, you will be like the priest and the Levite who passed by the man who fell among thieves on the road to Jericho (see Luke 10:30-37). You could be just as they were. They saw a man in need,

but what did they do? They turned a blind eye to a man who was lying along the road dying. They went out of their way to go around him. When you see a need, are you moved with compassion enough to help the person in need?

A Samaritan came by, bound up the man's wounds, put him on his own beast, took him to an inn, and made sure that he was taken care of. Then what did he tell the innkeeper? In essence, he said, "When I come back through, if I owe more, I will take care of it." That Samaritan went out of his way to help this brother. That is what we ought to be doing.

Many times helping someone may inconvenience you, but what does it mean in the light of eternity? God is going to hold each of us accountable for what we have done and for what we could have done when we had the opportunity. What are you doing with the opportunities that you have?

### **Encouraging Others**

The third attribute of godly compassion is to encourage others. Remember that we each are on a personal journey with God. Even though we are very diverse, we have a common salvation. We all face troubles, and sometimes we can get weary in the battle. Without encouragement the battle may become meaningless and your desire to go on might wane.

Think about the victory that Elijah won on Mount Carmel. That was a great victory, but not long after that, he faced another big battle. What happened? Jezebel threatened to kill him. She was hot on his trail, and he fled to the wilderness. Elijah started feeling sorry for himself, thinking he was the only one left that had not bowed to the god of Baal. God had to get his attention, and He encouraged him.

God told him that he was not the only one left. God said He had seven thousand who had not yet bowed their knees to the god of Baal.

Sometimes our hardest battles come after a great victory. It is our job to encourage one another. I thought about the little song that the children sing that says: "*Encourage one another and build each other up, Build each other up, build each other up. Encourage one another and build each other up Up, up, up, up, up, up, up, up!*"

We are supposed to build up one another, not tear one another down. Encouragement makes it easier to love as Jesus loved. Encouragement gives hope and helps us through times of discipline and testing. It nurtures patience and kindness. Encouragement makes it easier to sacrifice your own desires for the advancement of God's kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." Another translation says, "Therefore encourage and comfort one another and build up one another, just as you are doing."

Barnabas was an encourager. He encouraged the saints at Jerusalem to accept Paul. Before Paul was converted, he persecuted the church, and many were afraid of him. Barnabas encouraged the people at Jerusalem to give Paul a chance. One time Barnabas encouraged Paul to give John Mark a second chance after John Mark's failure. Barnabas played an instrumental role in building up the Kingdom of God. Think about all the blessings and the things that might have been missed had Barnabas not stood and paved the way for Paul and John Mark.

If you are a child of God, you have a very important job to do as an encourager. You could be instrumental in paving the way

for another brother or sister. Maybe he or she did have a problem or a failure, but you could be instrumental in restoring that brother or sister. How can you encourage your brother or sister? You could be at your post of duty every time the church doors are open.

A kind word, spoken or written, can be very encouraging. For example, you could walk up to somebody and say: "Brother, you look really down today. Are you okay? I'm praying for you." That is the way to encourage somebody. Letting someone know that you are thinking about him or her can be an encouragement. Perhaps you notice that someone is having a bad day. You could send that person a card to encourage him or her. Cards are full of encouraging words, and they can make someone's day a whole lot better. It makes my day much better to know that somebody is thinking about me and my family.

Another way that you can encourage someone is by showing some gesture of kindness. The lack of encouragement can open the door for things that will tear down a congregation. It can open the door to fighting and devouring.

### **Being a Servant in God's Work**

The fourth attribute of godly compassion is to be willing to serve others and to put the needs of others first. We read in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Unfortunately, too many who are saved and living for God are often more concerned about themselves rather than others. Their own thoughts and prayers often revolve around their own needs and not the needs of others. As a child of God, you should be concerned about

others. We live in a self-centered society. Many people are always talking about themselves and taking care of their own needs, but that is not what God has called the Christian to do. He has called the Christian to put others ahead of self and to minister to others.

Although many people thought Jesus came to set up an earthly kingdom and to rule here on earth, the Lord came, first and foremost, to offer Himself as a servant. Biblical servitude can often be defined as loving acts performed in the power of the Holy Spirit to meet the temporal and spiritual needs of others and to leave the results with God. It is the Christian's duty to do whatever he can with the help of the Holy Spirit to help others with their needs, whether they are spiritual or physical. God is the one who gives the increase.

Being a servant in God's work is the duty of every one of God's children. This is how God carries out His work. It is essential for spiritual growth and the purpose for spiritual gifts. An earmark of being a servant of God is that His servants think more about others than themselves. God is more interested in your motive for doing things than what you are actually doing. In other words, if you help a brother or a sister, what is your motive for doing that? Is it to get attention or is it for God? Are you doing it for personal gain or for the glory of God? When you do the work of God, you need to do it for the glory of God and not for personal gain. You should not do it to call attention to yourself.

You need to have an awareness of what is going on around you and be less aware of your own needs. Sometimes you can get distracted thinking about things. Maybe you are going through a trial and you walk by someone who is in need. Perhaps someone needs your help, but

you are so caught up in your own personal situation that you just pass by someone who needs your help. You need to have an awareness of what is going on around you and be less focused on your own needs.

### Stewardship

A servant of God should base his identity in Christ. Many times someone can be hindered in his service to God because he allows insecurities to stand in the way. Sometimes because of insecurities, you can build walls, or barriers, that hinder you from serving God as you ought to. Your insecurities can get in the way. You need to remember that your identity is in Christ. Many times people base their service on the expectations of others and not on what God expects. God's expectations are what you should be concerned about.

A servant should think more like a steward and not like an owner. God owns it all. You have to keep that in perspective. It is not what you have done or what you have gained; it is because of God. He gives you the strength to do what you do. He made the means for you to labor, and it all belongs to Him.

As it has been said many times before, you cannot take anything with you when you die. Everything that you have is because of God. You have been put here on the earth to manage what God has given you. That is what a steward does. He is a manager, not an owner. Being a servant and stewardship go hand in hand. God expects you to be trustworthy in both.

All your time belongs to God. How well do you manage your time? Sometimes God has to work on me. Sometimes I do not manage my time well. At times I get focused on one thing, and the next thing I know, the day is over. Many get sidetracked by

materialism. The Bible uses many examples of money being a test of faithfulness as a servant.

A servant should think about his work, not what others are doing. As a servant of God, there should be no time to compare, criticize, or compete with others. As a servant, you are not in competition, whether you sing, preach, teach Sunday school, or whatever God has called you to do. You are to build up the Kingdom of God. We all should be working together, not against one another.

A servant thinks of service as an opportunity, not an obligation. The Bible tells us to serve the Lord with gladness, not as an act of drudgery. Albert Schweitzer said that the only really happy people are those who have learned to serve. This is a learning process. We are not born with that. We are born with selfish tendencies. Serving others is really a foreign concept to the flesh.

Are you truly as compassionate as you ought to be? All four of these godly attributes must work together in order for us to have the compassion that Jesus had. Are you as forgiving as you ought to be? Do you see others through the eyes of Christ? Are you the encourager that God wants you to be? Are you willing to serve and to put the needs of others ahead of your own needs?

Your prayer should be, "God, help me to be more compassionate toward people." Through godly compassion, you can win others to Christ. If you have a need, God wants to help you. My goal is to become a better person for God. As I am getting older, I tend to think about eternity a whole lot more. God wants to help each of us to become better people for Him.

*(Compact Disc TR-1781)*

# Fall 2020 Camp Meeting Recordings

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-2497 TR-2498	8-02-2020	Leaving an Inheritance Entanglements	Bro. E. David Stegmeier Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2499 TR-2500 TR-2501	8-03-2020	Sick of Love Did Jesus Go to Hell? Are We Behaving Ourselves? (Part 1)	Bro. Earl R. Borders Bro. Roger L. Decker Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2502 TR-2503 TR-2504	8-04-2020	Let There Be No Strife The Devil Are We Behaving Ourselves? (Part 2)	Bro. Calvin Foster Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2505 TR-2506	8-05-2020	The Jordan Cut Off What Is Sin?	Bro. Calvin Foster Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2507 TR-2508 TR-2509	8-06-2020	Sometimes the Answer Is No Mental Health Have You Gotten Rid of Everything That God Has Told You? (Part 1)	Bro. Allen Borders Bro. Reggie Stegmeier Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2510 TR-2511	8-07-2020	Why We Pray in the Name of Jesus What Is Accountability?	Bro. Allen Polston Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2512 TR-2513	8-08-2020	The Influence of Divorce on Children and Family Have You Gotten Rid of Everything That God Has Told You? (Part 2)	Bro. Larry Dishman Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2514	8-09-2020	TEKEL: Thou Art Weighed in the Balances, and Art Found Wanting	Bro. Larry Dishman
TM-437 TM-438 TM-439 TM-440 TM-441	2020	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #5	
	2020	Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 1 Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 2	
	2020	Morning Messages in MP3 Format Afternoon Teaching Services & Evening Messages in MP3 Format	
	2020	All Songs in MP3 Format	

Messages and music recordings are available on CD or MP3 format. The suggested donation for regular CDs is \$3.00 each and for DVDs is \$5.00 each. (DVDs are not available for the afternoon teaching services.) The suggested donation for MP3s is \$10.00 each. The postage is \$3.00 for one CD or MP3 and \$0.35 for each additional one. Recordings may be ordered by writing *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 North Cedar Street, Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling 740-345-1312, the Print Shop. Please make check or money order in U.S. funds, payable to *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

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*attend these . . .*

# *Upcoming Meetings*

**Lansing, NC**  
October 4-7

**Revival:** Peace Haven Community Church, 373 Piney Creek Rd., Lansing, NC  
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi  
The meeting begins Sunday night.  
For more information contact: Brother Mitchell Mash  
Telephone: 336-846-7000 or 336-977-2674

**Mt. Pleasant, PA**  
October 12-18

**Revival:** Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi  
Service times: Mon.-Sat. 7:00 p.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
For more information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey, 109 Salvation Lane,  
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
Telephone: 724-547-2151

**Minerva, OH**  
October 19-25

**Revival:** Church of God, 13353 Lincoln Street SE, Minerva, OH 44657  
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi  
For more information contact: Pastor Leamon Whitehead  
Telephone: 330-868-1016

**Summersville, WV**  
October 26-Nov. 1

**Revival:** Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV  
Evangelist: Brother Richard E. Talbot, Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania  
Service times: Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 6 p.m., and Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
For more information contact Pastor Earl R. Borders  
Telephone: 304-872-4047  
Visit our website: [www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com](http://www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com)

**Newark, OH**  
December 27-30

**Camp Meeting:** Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055  
Three services daily: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
The first service begins Sunday morning. Meals reasonably priced.  
The afternoon services will be teaching services.  
For your lodging reservation, call Brother or Sister Bush at 740-345-1213  
For more information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker.  
Telephone: 740-344-2543

# 2021 Camp Meeting Dates at God's Acres

*June 20-27*

*August 1-8*

*December 27-30*

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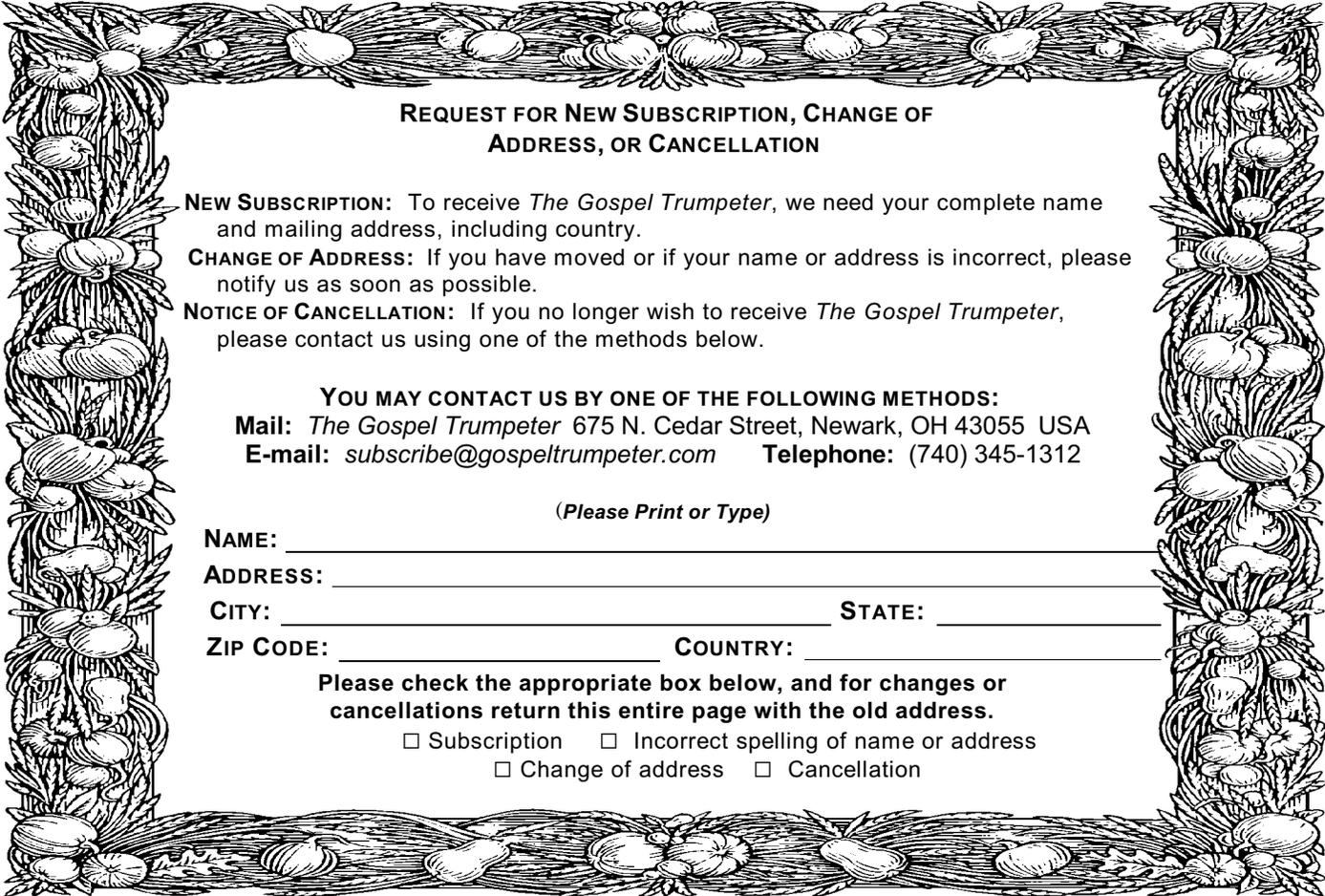


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