

The Way of Truth

Vol. 76

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

No. 3

Your Soul Is Perishable!

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Report of Philippine Convention

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**March
2018**

EDITORIAL

THE FIELDS ARE WHITE

IN PALESTINE, the planting started after Passover, around March 14 our time, and was called “First-Fruits.” At the end of the barley and wheat harvest—Pentecost—some of the “First-Fruits” were to be waved in front of the Temple. They belonged to the Lord, and no one was to eat of the fruit until the portion was offered to the Lord. More was to be added to these two holy seasons. You may read about them in Deuteronomy 24 and Leviticus 23.

The Passover and Unleavened Bread, along with the First-Fruits and Pentecost, had symbolical and spiritual meanings. Passover was a clear symbol of Christ, the fact that no bone was to be broken in His body (John 19:36). The unleavened bread represented a pure heart and a holy life. The seven days, a perfect number, show this holy life is to be lived daily.

Feast of First-Fruits and Pentecost: “These two feasts with their wave-sheaf and wave-loaves typified ... the consecration or dedication by the believer of himself to God. The two feasts with the intervening seven weeks were necessary to include the entire harvest.”—R. R. Byrum.

Jesus was in Jerusalem, and He felt compelled to return to Galilee through Samaria, which He did not always do. On His journey, He came to Jacob’s well. While the disciples went to get some food, a woman came to draw water. Jesus spoke to the woman and began to tell her of the “living water” He had to give her. After the disciples returned, they questioned Him about what had happened while they were gone. Then in John 4:35, Jesus said, “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

Here, Jesus gave the disciples one of the greatest commissions ever given to the church of God, and that commission is still in effect today. We read in Matthew 9:37, 38, “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” This editorial is not to condemn any saint of God, but where is the vision today? Where is the soul burden? “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:8). No woman can give natural birth to a baby without travailing, and the church cannot bring forth spiritual birth without a soul burden.

In Isaiah 6:8, the prophet said, “I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” Where are the “send me’s” today? We live in a material world, as all have down through the ages, but where are those who will do what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that we should do? He first spoke of what the worldly were doing, then He said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:32, 33).

The Man of Galilee was walking along the seashore one day when He “saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him” (Matthew 4:18-22).

“As Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom [This was a place where people passed from one district to another and were required to pay taxes to pass.]: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him” (Matthew 9:9).

After Saul (Paul) was converted and became one of the most faithful and effective apostles, he expressed his great soul burden this way: “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself

were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:1-3).

Of course, there was no way Paul could save his loved ones by giving his literal life for them, but it does show the great burden for their souls. Of course, the greatest burden bearer was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Most, if not all, of the miracles and healings He did, were done with a real compassion for the sick and their loved ones. One passage of scripture tells of Him leaving the house and seeing a large group of people, and the Bible says, “He healed their sick.”

I suppose one of the greatest acts of compassion Jesus expressed was when He told them of the coming destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 68-70. In connection with this was when He was on the Mount of Olives and looked across the Kidron Valley on Jerusalem and wept, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate” (Matthew 23:37, 38).

In Matthew 24, Jesus goes on to tell them of the great tribulation coming upon them in 68-70 A.D. The temple would be destroyed. Not one stone of it would be left upon another. Much of the city was destroyed. Josephus claims 1.1 million people were killed during the siege, most of them Jews. Those under 17 were sold into servitude. There were hundreds who died on Masada in 72-73. It is said five hid, two women and three children. History reports that



ABOUT THE COVER

On our cover is a field of flowers, each one blooming only for a season, then it dries up and dies. They are perishable. So is the body of man. It will return to the earth from whence it came. The soul of man is also perishable. But the soul does not have to perish! Without Christ, it will perish. But Jesus gave His life that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Devoted to the gospel of our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave freely His life-blood, to save us from our many sins, to sanctify our fallen nature and to bring into one body all true believers, by whose stripes we are healed.

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—Alvin A. Craig, Editor

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not one Christian died in Jerusalem. Why? Because they did what Jesus instructed them to do. They fled to the mountains.

The fields are still white, the laborers are still few, but how many are going to be lost in eternity because people will not listen to the few who have been sent forth with God's message? This magazine is one small way to go forth in the harvest field. Don't say there are four months and then comes the harvest. Lift up your eyes, the fields are white already to harvest. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37, 38). †

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Sir,

I like to keep on receiving the magazine. I love reading it. I learn so much. ... I keep them to read over. I'm sending \$ — to help.

—A. J., North Carolina

Dear Christian Friends,

I always look forward to *The Way of Truth* magazine. I really enjoy the good messages in it. May the good God bless you all in Jesus' name.

—A. B., Ghana †

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

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- ___ CD #868 Our Affections—A. A. Craig
- ___ CD #869 What Is Man?—Doug Shenberger
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- ___ CD #880 What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?—Rupert Shippy
- ___ CD #881 Having a Form of Godliness—Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #882 Living in Peace—Brian Richards †

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YOUR SOUL IS PERISHABLE

2017 Cayman Convention Message by Bro. Greg Tyler



I AM HONORED and privileged to be back in Grand Cayman once again. If I went by my physical body, I have no business being here. I can barely get up and down, and sometimes I can barely walk. This Parkinson's is a daily trial to me, but my heart is here. For the years since I've been coming to Grand Cayman, your love and devotion to the Lord have had a great influence upon me. When it comes to November, my mind just goes to Grand Cayman to be with the saints. I've already been blessed since being here.

Bro. Alvin is not able to be here. As many of you know, he's nearly 90 years old, but he sends his love and greetings to all. He was very sober in telling me good-bye, and I knew his heart was here, too. His mind is here right now thinking about this convention, I'm sure.

God has been blessing us already in this convention. We want to preach a gospel message to the unsaved. During the course of this week, we are going to be sending out the Life-line. We're endeavoring to share the Word of God with unsaved individuals. God is still in the saving business, and every soul on the face of the earth still needs the Lord.

I am using for a text, possibly the most famous and powerful verse in the Bible, John 3:16. We all can repeat it pretty much by heart: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Out of that verse, I want to take one word and focus on it for our meeting tonight: perish. My title is: "Your Soul Is Perishable."

To *perish* means, "to die or be destroyed; to pass away or disappear; to suffer destruction or ruin; to suffer death." *Perishable* means, "subject to decay, ruin, or destruction."

There are perishable items in this world. Meat is perishable. If you eat meat that has been left out on the counter too long, it can make you sick. You'll get food poisoning. It's perishable. Poultry and fish. Have you ever smelled a pile of dead fish? They are perishable. Dairy products. When you buy ice cream at the store, you don't go home and put it in the closet, or leave it on the counter. You put it in the freezer because it is a perishable item. You need to take care of things that are perishable. If you don't take care of perishable things, they perish and become worthless.

NATIONS CAN PERISH

An entire nation can perish. Isaiah, chapter 60, verse 12, says: "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." America, take note! Cayman, take note! for the Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Jeremiah said in chapter 7, verse 28: "But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord

their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth."

Our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, realized that the nations of the world can perish. He said in his famous Gettysburg address, "It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

There are nations perishing now because they've turned away from God. Through the annals of time, the Roman Kingdom perished, the Babylonian Kingdom perished, and complete nations can still perish by not following the Lord God, and turning unto lasciviousness and all kinds of evil. The world is in a terrible shape. We're living in perilous times. We need to pray for our nation that God will have mercy upon us so that our nation will not perish.

CHURCHES CAN PERISH

Churches can perish. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Where there is no leadership, no demanding of truth, and no standards held or kept, the people will perish. Many a congregation have perished. They still exist, they still go through the form, but they're dead inside. Some of them have a name that they live, but they're dead. But there is one church that shall never die, one church that cannot perish, because Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

One song writer said—

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,

But the church of Jesus constant will remain;

Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;

We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail.

Thank God for the Church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. I love her, I defend her, and I trust in her!

YOUR LIFE IS PERISHABLE

Your life is perishable. We're only here for a short time. We're perishing as time goes on. James said, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." All of us are headed for the grave. There's no way around it. Our lives will perish. Our lives will come to an end. They will be cut off.

The disciples were afraid that they were going to perish when Jesus was on the boat with them during the storm on the Sea of Galilee. He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow. They awoke Him and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" They knew their lives were in danger.

Queen Esther understood that life was perishable, for when her people were going to be slain by the authorities, she called a fast of the Jews. She said, "Fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." She knew her life could come to an end.

When Peter took out his sword and cut off Malchus' ear, Jesus said to him, "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." So we know, and it's very common to understand that our life is perishable. We're only here for a time and we'll wane away.

YOUR BODY IS PERISHABLE

Your body is perishable. It wears out; it's not permanent. "But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (II Corinthians 4:16). Thank God! I can tell you something about the outward man perishing, but I can also tell you something about the inward man being renewed day by day. I still have that fire in my soul, that love for the gospel, that devotion to the cause of Christ. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Our body is perishable, so we need to take care of it. Try to make it last as long as it possibly can, but the body is going to perish.

YOUR SOUL IS PERISHABLE

Sad to say, but many people do not realize that their soul is perishable, too.

Jesus said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him *should not perish*." He was talking about the soul, not the body. He was talking about the soul of man. The soul is eternal, so how can it perish? It can perish by being forever separated from the Creator, almighty God. For your soul to perish means that you'll be destroyed in hell. You'll be in anguish in hell. You'll be tormented in hell throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

Jesus said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Your soul is perishable!

God made Adam. "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." From Adam's time to this, every person who has come into this world has come in body and soul. The body is perishable, and the soul is also perishable. It can be lost; it can be destroyed; it can be tormented. That's why it is up to the church to share the message of the gospel to all souls. This beautiful hymn that we sang is for the church—

*Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.*

*Tho' they are slighting Him, Still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly [That's what I'm doing tonight.],*

*Plead with them gently,
He will forgive if they only believe.*

*Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart [That's you and me, Saints.],
Wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.*

*Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.*

*Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.*

EXCEPT YOU REPENT, YOU WILL PERISH

Jesus will save every soul on the face of the earth who cries out unto Him in sincerity. Your soul is perishable; and except you repent, your soul will perish.

Let's turn to Luke, chapter 13, beginning with verse 1: "There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

I'm telling you tonight, quoting the words of Jesus, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." No man has a guarantee on length of life. We have to obey the gospel; we have to repent; we have to turn our hearts and lives over to God; we have to forsake our life of sin; we have to believe in the gospel of Christ. That's the only way to be saved; otherwise, your soul will perish. Your soul is perishable. Perish! perish! What an awful thought!

The Psalmist said, "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." God approves of the way of the righteous. He not only knows about it, He approves of it. He gives honor to those who live according to the Scriptures, "but the way of the ungodly shall perish." There's no exception. The president or the prime minister does not have an exception. Every human being is under the same judgment, the same gospel, the same Bible, the same rules and regulations. "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." So except you repent, your soul will perish. Your soul will perish! your soul! Don't worry about the person sitting

next to you, or the one behind you. *Your* soul will perish unless you repent.

Except you obey the voice of the Lord, your soul will perish. Deuteronomy, chapter 8, verses 19 and 20, “And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God.” Some people are not Christians because they don’t want to humble themselves and obey the teachings of the gospel. They want to be saved and forgiven, but they don’t want to have Christ as their Master. They only want Him as their Savior. If they won’t accept Him as their Master, He won’t be their Savior, either. He’s Savior *and* Master of the human race.

When the prodigal son came to the bottom, after he had wasted all of his substance in riotous living, he came to himself and said, “How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!” He not only was perishing with hunger, but his soul was perishing at the same time, and the voice of God was calling him home. How often, Sinner Friend, has the voice of God whispered in your ear, “Come home, come home, come home”? Except you obey the voice of God, your soul will perish. You’ll be lost. Don’t be among those who will perish.

THE EXPECTATION OF THE WICKED SHALL PERISH

Proverbs, chapter 11, verse 7, says: “When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.” In other words, we are being taught by the world that every one who dies, goes to heaven. It doesn’t matter how he lives. It seems like every one, no matter how he lived before he died, he gets a free ticket to heaven. But the expectation of the ungodly shall perish. If you expect to go to heaven, and you’re serving sin, you’re going to be disappointed in the end, because you’re going to perish. “When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.” People have a hope of going to heaven. Personally, I don’t know of one sinner who has ever told me he wants to go to hell. Every one wants to go to heaven, but the soul is perishable. *Your* soul is perishable. It’s in the process of perishing now if you’re serving sin.

Paul said, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” To so many people, the gospel of Christ is foolishness. They don’t accept it; they don’t receive it. They think they know better than the church; they know better than Bro. James; they know better than the Bible; they know better than God. Beloved, don’t be fooled. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

THERE IS POWER IN THE GOSPEL

There’s power to set every one free. No matter how deep in sin you’ve gone, no matter how low Satan has taken you in sin, God is able to deliver you. His hands can reach farther down than you can reach up. Thank

God for that! If you’re a drug addict, Christ can save you. He will save you if you’ll meet His conditions. If you’re a drunkard, Christ will save you. If you’re a whoremonger, Christ will save you. No matter how deep in sin you’ve gone, it doesn’t matter with God. They’re all taken away when you come to serve Christ. “They’re all taken away, away, They’re all taken away, away; They’re all taken away, away, My sins are all taken away.” If you hold on to your sinful life, if you continue in the way of sin and end up dying in a sinful state, you’ll have no excuse. Christ died for the ungodly. He died for you, whosoever you be.

WHAT IT MEANS TO PERISH FOREVER

If your soul perishes, it will be lost forever. We’re not talking about a banana turning brown, or a box of ice cream melting, we’re talking about the soul of man. Your soul is perishable! “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15). You’ll perish if you hold on to sin. If you continue to rebel against God’s message and His call, your soul will perish. Sobering, isn’t it?

The Revelator said in chapter 21: “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” That’s perishing. Those who are lost at the judgment bar of God will perish. You won’t just be alienated, you won’t just disappear, you’ll be tormented forever and ever, according to the Bible.

We have an example in a parable that Jesus gave us of a rich man who fared sumptuously every day. He had everything he wanted out of life, but he did not serve God. There was a beggar who sat at his gate—poor and helpless, but he loved the Lord. The Bible says that they both died. Lazarus went into the bosom of Abraham, which is symbolic of heaven. It was a beautiful scene as he was accepted into heaven.

*My Father is rich in houses and lands,
He holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands;
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, he has riches untold.*

*I’m a child of the King,
A child of the King;
With Jesus my Savior,
I’m a child of the King.*

Lazarus was a child of the King. It didn’t matter how much money he had in the bank. People are serving money today. They’re being deceived by monetary things. The important thing is your soul because your soul is perishable.

The rich man was not received into heaven, but he lifted up his eyes, being in torments. Think of it this evening: being in torments! “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” What a scene! A great gulf was fixed between the two. There is a great gulf between heaven and hell. There’s a great difference between your soul being saved and your soul perishing. If you allow your soul to perish through neglect, you’ll end up as the rich man did.

YOUR SOUL DOES NOT HAVE TO PERISH

Jesus said, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Thank God for the gospel! Thank God for eternal life and the promises of God. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." He's promised to give us power over all the power of the adversary. Don't sit back there and think, *Well, Bro. Tyler does not know what I'm going through. He does not know what I have to face.* I don't have to know, God knows. God is able to give you victory over every challenge, every trial, every test. He'll keep you true and faithful. If you'll take the first step to serve Him, He'll see you through. "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Thank God!

We are told in II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." You don't have to wonder or guess whether it's God's will for you to be saved or not. It is God's will for you to be saved. He's not willing that any should perish. God is not willing for one person in this building tonight to perish. He wants you to be saved. If you die lost, and your soul perishes, it's against God's will. It's your choice. Your soul does not have to perish. Thank God your soul does not have to perish. Your body has to perish, but your soul does not have to perish. Jesus died for you. He paid the price for your soul. Because of the blood He shed on Calvary, every person can be saved. Thank God for the blood of Christ. Your soul does not have to perish. "Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain: He washed it white as snow."

Do you know what it feels like to be washed white as snow by the blood of Christ? It's a wonderful experience. I know, because as an eighteen-year-old young person, I came to Christ. He washed my soul. He forgave me of my sins. I arose from the altar with my hands in the air, praising the Lord. Thank God for salvation! It's a wonderful experience. I've been thanking the Lord ever since. I've been serving the Lord since May 16, 1971, and He is just as precious to me tonight as He has ever been. It's sweeter as the years go by. I don't know why everyone in the world doesn't want to be a Christian. It's the only way to live. The alternative is that your soul will perish. Your soul is perishable.

THE GREATEST VERSE IN THE BIBLE

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This is perhaps the greatest verse in the Bible because—

"God" is the greatest giver,
"so loved" is the greatest motive,
"the world" is the greatest need,
"that he gave" is the greatest act,
"his only begotten Son" is the greatest gift,
"that whosoever" is the greatest invitation,
"believeth in him" is the greatest opportunity,
"should not perish" is the greatest deliverance of
all,

"but have everlasting life" is the greatest joy known to the family of man.

Your life will perish. You will come to the end and die. There's no way out of it. Your body will get weaker and weaker. You don't believe me? Just give it some time. Get a little age on you, and you'll find out what I'm saying is true. The body is perishable. It has to perish. You can't live here forever, but your soul does not have to perish. Your soul does not have to perish, hallelujah! You can have everlasting life instead, but there is something you must do.

God did the hard part by giving up His Son. Christ did the heavy part by giving up His life. What you need to do is to believe in Him and repent of your sins. Take care of your own perishable soul. Be saved tonight.

CONCLUSION

This is a short message, but I believe it is a message of truth. Your soul is perishable, but it does not have to perish. By coming to Christ and accepting His proffered grace, you can be forgiven of all your sins, washed white as snow, and go back to your seat a child of God, with your name written in the Lamb's book of life. †

2017 CAYMAN CONVENTION CD'S

We are making available CD's of these services. These may be purchased for \$2.50 each. The complete set of all fifteen services are only US\$30.00. (Good for U.S. and C.I. only.)

Please fill in the blanks for those you wish to order. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P.O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088.

- ___ CD #852 The Christian Path—A Shining Light ...—James Arch
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- ___ CD #854 Your Soul Is Perishable—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #855 Be Clothed With Humility—Donovan Darby
- ___ CD #856 Seven Times Jesus Said, "I Am"—Duane Jeffries
- ___ CD #857 Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?—Rupert Shippy
- ___ CD #858 The Benefits of Serving God—Ray Hydes
- ___ CD #859 The Christian Path—A Shining Light ...—Hezekiah Lamey
- ___ CD #860 Ordination Service
- ___ CD #861 But of God's Healing Power—David Shaw
- ___ CD #862 The Kingdom of God, not in Word, by Power—Mick Akers
- ___ CD #863 A Man Who Made God's Way His Way—James Arch
- ___ CD #864 Jesus Is Your Everything—Young People
- ___ CD #865 An Overview of the Christian Path—G. E. Tyler

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at

www.wayoftruth.org

where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live. There is a chatroom where you can interact with us and share your prayer requests. Tune in and worship with us!

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



THE SHINING LIGHT A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Are you finished the dishes?" my mother called from the next room where she was ironing clothes.

"Yes," I said. "I'm just about to let the water out."

"Did you remember to wipe the countertop and stove?" she asked.

"I think so," I called back.

"You THINK so?" she answered. "You'd better check to be sure!"

I picked up the dishcloth and walked over to check the countertop and stove. It was a good thing my mother had suggested that I look. The stove was covered with grease spatters, and there were breadcrumbs on the countertop.

"You forgot to wipe them, didn't you?" said my mother when she heard the dishcloth squeaking on the metal surface of the kitchen range.

I sighed again. "Yes," I said. "I forgot."

My mother appeared at the kitchen doorway. "Make sure you wipe the back of the stove, too," she said. "I'm sure some of the grease splattered clear up onto the stove light."

"Cooking makes a mess," I grumbled.

My mother pursed her lips. "Well, if you like to eat, then you're going to have to put up with the mess that goes with cooking," she said. She thought for a moment, and then she laughed. "At least these days you can see what you're doing when you clean a stovetop."

"What do you mean—'these days'?" I asked her.

"When I was a little girl," said my mother, "we had an old woodburning cookstove in our kitchen. It didn't have a light on the back of it like this stove does. In fact, we didn't even have electric lights anywhere in our house."

"How did you see at night?" I asked her.

"We had a couple of kerosene lanterns," my mother said. She thought for a moment before adding, "If you think cooking makes a mess, you should have had to clean the chimneys of those lamps. Now that was a real mess!"

"I remember the day we got electricity in our house," continued my mother. There was a faraway look in her eyes as she pictured herself as a child again in her mother's kitchen. "When the wiring was all finished, Mom said, 'Let's turn on the lights and see what it really looks like in here!'"

"My older sister, Marjorie, was standing by the cookstove when the electric lights came on. I'll never forget the first thing that came out of her mouth. 'Look how dirty this stove is!' she said. 'All along, when I thought I'd been keeping it clean, it was filthy!'"

"Electricity really made a difference in our house," my mother said with a smile as she finished her story. "Life was never quite the same again."

Children, it is just this way when the light of God shines into our hearts. Our lives cannot be the same as they were before.

In Proverbs 6:23 we read, *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.*

Just as the bright electric light showed my mother and her family the areas on their cookstove that needed to be cleaned, so God's laws and commandments show sinners the ugliness and filth of sin in their lives.

We cannot clean our hearts by ourselves. Our job is to let the light of God shine in and show us what needs to be done. Then we must ask the Lord to do the work. We must ask Him to give us a clean heart. We must ask Him to stay and live in our hearts so that we may remain pure, clean, and holy in His sight.

Activity

Here are some Bible verses about the light of God. See if you can match the beginning part of each verse with its ending:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. God, who commanded the light to shine | a. ... and to turn them from darkness to light. |
| 2. God is light | b. ... and the true light now shineth. |
| 3. To open their eyes | c. ... hath shined in our hearts. |
| 4. That was the true Light | d. ... and in him is no darkness at all. |
| 5. Because the darkness is past | e. ... which lighteth every man ... [in] the world. |

Answer to Last Month's Activity

Ephesians 5:1, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." †

REMINDER TO OUR READERS

We DO NOT publish, produce nor send out the following:

The Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments)

Bible concordances, dictionaries, atlases, commentaries, pictures, calendars, etc., nor offer correspondence courses

Hymnals nor other religious songs

Names of persons for pen pal correspondence

Cassettes or CD's unless paid for in advance in US currency

Videos, cassette tape and video recorders

Scholarships for the training of students in the United States or any other country

Financial support for individuals

Tracts to foreign countries due to high postage rates

We want to hear from you but keep this in mind.

SIN IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Radio Message by Bro. Hezekiah Lamey

(aired in Jamaica)

LET ME greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for being able to bring to you this radio message. It is my privilege to preach the Word of God to a dying world. My topic is: "Sin Is the Root of All Evil."



Romans 6:1 says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Verse 2: "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Do you see what sin is doing in our world today? As we look at our world today, we see how evil and wicked men are because of sin. The reason why men are doing all of the things they are doing is because they have chosen the way of sin. But we do not have to continue in sin. Sin is so wicked. Sin does many things in the earth today. It causes murder, hatred, variance, strife, and malice, but I believe we can get rid of sin. There is a remedy for sin, and the remedy is the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to put away sin from your heart.

We read in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." You can have life. Everyone of us can have peace with God today. Jesus died for the whole world. He didn't die for one person. He died for kings, queens, rulers, and others in authority. I believe you can accept Jesus Christ if you will turn away from your evil ways. We see what sin is doing today, even across our own island of Jamaica. I believe it is because of sin why we see so much hatred and murders in our land, but you can accept Jesus Christ in your heart today. Just believe His Word. Just trust His grace. God is able to deliver you. He can set you free. He set others free, and He can set you free. That is why Jesus Christ came. He didn't come for you to continue in sin. He didn't come for you to love sin but to hate it. Sin is the root of all evil. Sin has consequences. We have seen many who have suffered because of sin.

We read in Genesis where sin brought spiritual death. Sin brought separation from God. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. They had good fellowship with God, but because of sin, they didn't have fellowship any longer. We don't have to be like Adam and Eve. Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for us. He gave His life for us. Believe His Word. Trust His grace. Look to Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. God is able to deliver your soul if you will cry out for help. He is there to help you in your weakness and in your suffering. We see what sin has brought to man. It has brought suffering, pain, and heartaches. Consider our young people who are plunging in sin and darkness.

God can help them. If they will cry out for help, He will deliver them and set them free.

The writer says, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Oh, we can see sin has weight! It has a penalty. After leaving this world, we can see where sin will lead. It leads to eternal damnation. It is a separation from God eternally. I believe you do not want to be separated from God, so while there is life, there is hope for you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Come to Him. Accept Him. Jesus said that if you die in your sins, where He is, you cannot come. "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come" (John 8:21). Do you want to go to heaven? Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. You have to prepare yourself. You have to accept Jesus Christ into your heart for you to inherit eternal life.

We know that Judas betrayed the Master. Judas suffered because of sin. He hung himself because he turned away from the Lord. So many people have turned away from the Lord. Sin has brought corruption. It has brought false religion and haters of God. It is because of sin why people are doing all these things. If men will turn to righteousness, we would have a better world today. Just look where you are going and heading to. The end is near.

We see around us all types of abominations. Homosexuality and other things are in our world today because of sin. We see people having pleasure in these things. They feel that these things are right in the sight of God; but My Friends, these things are wrong in the sight of God. He hates sin. He is against sin. God doesn't hate you, but He hates sin. God loves you. He wants you to turn away from your wicked ways and accept Him before it is too late.

There are many who are preaching that no one can live free from sin, but you can live free from sin. We know that man can live free from sin. That is what Jesus came for. He came so that you can live free from sin. Turn away from your evil ways and turn to the Lord. Preachers are preaching false doctrines and making people feel comfortable in whatever they are doing. Oh, the homosexuality, the fornication, the adultery! All these things people are accepting in their lives. These things are not right, My Friends. God is against such, and so are we since our eyes have been opened.

We all were born in sin, but thanks be to the Lord, He has redeemed us from a life of destruction. Why? Because we have accepted Him. We believed His Word and trusted His grace. We are happy for the day we went to the altar and bowed our knees and asked God to forgive us. We serve God by faith. We trust Him by faith, and we believe He will take us home by faith, because we believe His Word is true.

There are many people who do not believe God's Word. Some have even said that there is no God, but the Bible says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Their hearts have been corrupted. If your heart is corrupt, the Lord can make you free. He can give you a right heart. He can create in you a new heart and a right spirit. Just accept the Lord. Believe that He is true. He is the God of Abraham.

Abraham trusted in God. All the others in the Bible trusted in God. They were all born in sin, but they knew that sin would take them farther than they would want to go. Thanks to the Lord for those who have set an example for us to follow. Jesus Himself came and set an example. The apostles have set an example. They were all born in sin, but the Lord redeemed them and set them free. We must build on their foundation. We have accepted the Lord and you can, too. You can believe and trust in Him also. You can serve the Lord. You don't have to serve sin. Sin is the root of all evil. Don't continue in sin. I repeat, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Paul said in the book of Galatians, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." We can all see what is happening in our world. We see the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. I John 2:16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." These are the things some people love. They hug these things. I believe one day they will pay the penalty. One day they will see for themselves that what we were telling them was the truth. We're not here to preach a false message. We are here to preach a true message from God. Why? Because we have a soul. We have a conscience within us. If we tell you something that is wrong, then we will pay the penalty. We are going to reap whatever we sow. My Friends, wherever you are, God is calling you. He is looking for you.

We can see the destruction of sin in our world. Because of sin, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. God destroyed the Antediluvian world because of unbelief and sin. Their wickedness came up before God, and He was against it. For that cause, God sent a flood and destroyed the world. If you don't believe it, I'll still believe it is the truth. You can believe it because it is the truth. Some people may think that this is just a story, but it is a true story. We heard for many years what God did to them in those days. Do you remember? We think of Achan. He suffered because of sin. He disobeyed God. God told him to do something and he did what was wrong in the sight of God. His whole family suffered because of sin. If Achan had obeyed God, he wouldn't have had to suffer and die the way he did. I believe it was because of his transgression.

So many of you are listening to Satan. You are believing what he is telling you. Believe in God and trust His Word. Even Satan believed that there was a God and trembled. You can believe in God. Satan is telling you that there is no heaven, no God, and no hell, but I believe there is a hell. God is coming back. Soon and very soon we shall see our Savior.

Our Savior is coming as a judge. Some people say that He is coming as King to set up a kingdom. We don't preach that He is going to set up His kingdom. He has already set up His kingdom. We are in the kingdom of God. We thank God that we are in the kingdom, and we are here to embrace it. We are here to preach the kingdom of God to you. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and Friend. We love Him with all our heart and soul. I believe you can love Him the same as we love Him.

So many people say that they love Jesus, but He said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." How many people are keeping God's commandments? How many people are obeying God?

Jesus said, "Whosoever will may come." Jesus wills that you come and accept Him before it is too late. Time is short, My Friends. Time is running out. As we see all the destruction that sin is causing, we can see that the end of time is very near. Turn to the Lord now. Accept Him. Get rid of your sins now, because if you die in your sins, you cannot go to heaven. This is for sure. You might not believe it now, but hereafter you will believe what the Word of God says. God is real. The devil is real. You are real people. You are a loving people, but you do not have to die and go to hell. Jesus has prepared a way for you. You can run for your life. It is time to do so before it is too late. Come to Jesus now.

This is a message of joy and happiness and deliverance. Your soul can be delivered and set free. Don't be a mocker. The Bible says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If you sow good seed, you will reap good seed; if you sow bad seed, you will reap bad seed. This is truth. This is not something false.

Come to Jesus. Who will accept Him? Will you ask the Lord to touch you? Ask the Lord to save you. Wherever you are, reach out and accept Him as He passes by. He is near you. He isn't far from you. You can touch Him as He passes by. Accept Him now with a willing heart. "A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17). God will not reject you nor turn you away. Come to Him now.

These are my few thoughts to you, but I believe a word can reach your heart. Wherever you are—in Jamaica, in America—or in other parts of the world, God needs you. He wants to deliver and help you. This is my message to you in Jesus' name. †

POSTAGE RATES INCREASE AGAIN

ON JANUARY 21, 2018, THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE IMPLEMENTED A NEW WAVE OF INCREASES WHICH HIT OUR FOREIGN MAILING PARTICULARLY HARD. WE DON'T WANT TO CUT BACK OUR MAILINGS, RATHER WE HAVE A DESIRE TO SEND THE GOSPEL TO THE UTMOST PARTS OF THE WORLD. WE APPRECIATE THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND CONGREGATIONS WHO WILLING ASSIST US IN THIS ENDEAVOR. MAY GOD BLESS EACH ONE. PLEASE HELP US PRAY THAT THIS MESSENGER WILL CONTINUE TO BE SENT OUT UNTIL JESUS COMES. YOUR GIFT TO THIS MINISTRY IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

THE POETRY PAGE

EVEN THOUGH

Mary Larkin Cook

Even though our hearts be broken
And our bodies wrecked with pain
May we not yet grasp a token
Of life's wondrous glad refrain?
Is there not some token, brother,
To dispel the gloom of night
That would ever round you hover
And shut out the dawn of light?

Tragedies of life and living
Make or break each dawning day,
But the simple art of giving
Often melts them all away.
"Giving what?" I hear you saying,
"I've no riches in my purse!"
Giving joy and cheer and kindness
To someone whose lot is worse!

I HAVE FOUND HIM

Mrs. Lloyd Doutrich

I have found Him, I have found Him,
This my song shall always be.
I have found Him, I have found Him,
He is all in all to me.
Once my soul was bound in sin
And I did not live for Him.
Once the way was strangely dark
Till He kindled up a spark,
Whispered softly in my ear,
"Follow Me; thou shalt not fear."

MY FATHER KNOWS

S. S. Plank

O wondrous thought, my Father knows,
And He doth care for all my woes,
For ev'ry pain His Word declares,
My Father knows—with love He cares.
My Father loves—oh, blessed thought
Within my soul His love hath wrought
The wonders of His saving grace!
And now I'm resting in my place.

'Twill not be long—His face I'll see,
And hear His voice, "Come unto me";

The earthly ties will all have passed
As I go through the gates at last.
My Father knows and cannot fail
When darkest pow'rs of sin assail;
I'll be forever in His care
When in that heavenly home so fair.

LOST IN HIS LOVE

Lionel Lansing

It was in great affliction
When Jesus came to me,
He saw my weak condition,
From sin He set me free.

His truth divine upon my soul,
Came streaming from above,
Like ocean waves of glory roll
He lost me in His love.

From sinking sand to lofty heights
By faith I'll ever climb,
And then in heaven view the sights
Upon those shores sublime.

O help me, Lord, to keep the course,
And walk the narrow way
That leads to that eternal source
Where Thy great love holds sway.

MY TRUE COMPANION

William F. Deibert

I love to talk with Jesus
My counselor and friend,
He is my true companion
Through to journey's end.

I place upon His shoulders
My problems large and small,
He will solve them for me
And free me from them all.

We have a friend in Jesus,
With friendship staunch and true.
And all He asks is faith in Him
And love from me and you.

Then on the day of reckoning
We shall meet Him face to face,
And all who followed in His steps
Shall share in His embrace. †

"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."—Matthew 6:8.

The Reality of the Judgment

Message delivered by Bro. Doug Shenberger 11/12/17



I APPRECIATE the opportunity to be here this evening. It's a great responsibility to endeavor to speak for the Lord, for we want to do our best to say what the Lord would have us to say. It's our prayer and trust and belief that God will take these words and use them to accomplish His will and His work to the extent that we, as a people, will listen and allow Him to have His way.

I'd like to draw your attention to the book of Revelation, chapter 20, verse 12: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." I've entitled our thoughts, "The Reality of the Judgment."

This verse I read clearly teaches us that there's going to be a time of judgment. "And I saw the dead, small and great..." Everyone—the least to the greatest—the simplest person, the greatest kings, the wisest people will stand before God. That's a sobering thought! We are all going to stand before God. The verse says, "The books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged [This is where we have the judgment.] out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." People are responsible for the life that they live, and they're going to be judged out of the books, the law of God that He's given us to live by. The reality is, I believe, there's going to be a lot of surprises at the judgment. There's going to be a lot of surprised people.

THE SURPRISE OF THE JUDGMENT

The first thing that's really going to surprise the bulk of people is that there is a day of judgment. This is not a popular message. We don't hear a lot about the judgment today. There's not a lot of discussion and preaching, or a lot of teaching about a day of judgment. There's a lot of talk about going to heaven. There's not much talk about another destination. It's just, we die, and somehow every one goes to heaven, but that's not what the Bible teaches. So there's going to be a lot of surprised people, when suddenly they find themselves standing before God, and the books will be opened. They're going to be judged, not by what they think should happen, but by what's written in the books. That's not going to be a day of mercy and opportunity. So there's going to be a lot of surprises at the judgment.

Another the thing that's going to surprise people is the timing of the judgment. In II Peter, chapter 3, verse 10, we read: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt

with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." People aren't going to expect the coming of Christ. Regardless of how many people predict the coming of Christ, they're all going to be wrong. The Bible tells us, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night"; when He's not expected; when no preparation has been made.

People are going to be surprised at the time of Christ's coming. It won't be announced that you have one more day to prepare because the Lord's coming tomorrow. They'll be no warning. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). If people fail to take advantage of that, there will be no last minute warning from the Lord, "I'm coming tomorrow. Now you need to get ready." He will come as a thief in the night. People will not be expecting the coming of Christ. They'll be expecting to get up the next day, or to go to bed that night, or whatever time it is. They'll be expecting for the next day to follow on like the day that they're living. Suddenly, there will be a shock; a surprise, especially if they're not prepared.

THE MANNER OF CHRIST'S COMING

Another thing that will surprise people is the manner of Christ's coming. The Bible tells us that all eyes shall behold Him. We don't know how that will happen. We don't understand the details, but I believe it is true that, at the literal moment of His coming, all eyes will behold Him. There will be fear and shock of realization on people's faces because of not being prepared. Not a lot of people will be happy at that moment. People will be surprised at the manner of His coming.

Some people think that He's coming to set up a kingdom here on this earth, that there will be more opportunities, and time will continue on, but the manner of His coming will be that it is the end of time. It will be finished. There will be no more opportunity. When all eyes behold Him, and the earth melts with fervent heat, all the works that man has accomplished, the mighty things that have been built, imagined and discovered, will just disappear. They'll seem so insignificant and fleeting. People will behold Christ. It will be so much greater than what they had imagined.

In Matthew, chapter 25, verses 31 and 32, we read: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory [It's beyond our understanding. When Moses wanted to see God, it wasn't even possible for him to fully behold God. God covered Moses, and let him see just a little bit of the back of Him, and he was changed. Even his countenance had a glow to it. People couldn't even look on his face, just because he had been that near to God.], and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered

all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." There will be a separation, and that will be a surprise to people. People will be separated from each other. Maybe children will be separated from their parents, husband from wife, brother from sister. There will be a separation made, and that's going to be a surprise to people. It's going to be a shock. People aren't going to want to accept the reality of what they're experiencing, but the reality of the judgment will be a surprise.

THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT

Another thing that people are going to be surprised in the judgment is the standard by which man shall be judged. What does the Bible say? "The word [the Bible; the words that we have recorded of Jesus, of the prophets, of the disciples, and those who followed after, who were inspired to write the Holy Scriptures given by God.] that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Some people are going to be surprised about the standard.

There are some people who are going to be depending on *The Book of Mormon* as their standard. There are some people who are going to be depending on *The Quran*, the teachings of Muhammad. There are going to be people who are depending on the popular preachers of today. Recommendations; that's a lot of what it is. Recommendations that these preachers give people about how they might want to live, but God's Word will be the standard of judgment. Ignorance of God's Word will not excuse us. Our own theories, our own ideas, our own interpretations will not be the standard. We are going to be judged by the Word of God.

It behooves us to know for ourselves what the Word of God teaches. Study it. You know, the Bible encourages personal study. There have been times in history, particularly in the Catholic religion, where they have discouraged people from knowing the Scriptures, but that's not what the Bible teaches. Jesus wants people to know the Scriptures. He wants people to know the teachings, to understand for themselves what the Bible teaches, and what's expected by God. It's not about what man's interpretation is. It's about what God wants from us in this day and age that we live in, with the temptations we face, and with the life we have to live. God's Word will reveal to us what He expects of us if we search the Scriptures with an honest and open heart. I believe God will help us to see how to please Him.

There are some distinct groups of people who are going to be very surprised at the judgment. One of those groups is the self-righteous—people who thought they were all right—people who had done good. They were nice people. They endeavored to live a good life. They endeavored to make their own way to heaven. They endeavored to please others, to have a happy life, and they thought that their righteousness was going to get them to heaven. The self-righteous—those who have grabbed hold of some religious profession. Matthew 6:1, 2: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you,

They have their reward." Those are they who are looking for praise. They're doing these good works to be seen of others, to be praised, to have influence. The Bible tells us that they have their reward. That's all the reward they're ever going to get. Those are they who thought that somehow they were going to make their own way to heaven.

There are people who read the Bible. They know something about God, and they want to make it to heaven. They don't want to go to hell. Maybe they feel the conviction of God at some point in their lives, and they want to be right, but people sometimes get deluded because they really don't want to do what the Bible teaches. The Bible says that there are people who try to climb up some other way. They try to make their own way to heaven. Unfortunately, when that happens, they're in a very dangerous position because they're self-righteous. They're not forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. They haven't humbly come and repented and forsaken sin and allowed God to save them. They've depended upon themselves. Unfortunately, according to the Scriptures, there are many religious people who are in that situation.

Matthew, chapter 7, verses 22 and 23: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Those words seem like the saddest scriptures in the Bible in some ways. There are people who are confused, and they think they're endeavoring to do God's work, and they're doing it in the form of religion. God doesn't know them, and He's not accepting what they're doing as righteousness.

Some people are hypocrites. Jesus talked about the Pharisees, the hypocrites, the proud who lifted up their voices to be seen of men. There are some people who are probably under the spirit of someone who has the wrong spirit, and it is a very serious thing. These verses should be sobering to us. They help us to see why we should study the Scriptures, why we should know for ourselves what the Bible teaches, why we need to be close to God, and why we need to humbly seek God. Much of the danger of hypocrites come from a foundation of pride. The proud are the ones who have the hardest time coming to God.

In II Timothy, chapter 3, verse 5, we read: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." They have a form of godliness, the appearance of godliness, an outward profession, but they *deny the power thereof*. What does that mean? It means that they don't really have the power of God living within them to give them the power to serve Christ, to overcome self, to live a holy Christian life, and to be a holy people. We need the power of God. Any religion and any profession that do not accompany itself with the power to really live the Christian life is not sufficient. If we endeavor to live a religious life without the power of God, we're going to be very shocked at the judgment day. It will not be sufficient to get us into heaven. We must have that personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

THE REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS

There's another group of people who are going to be surprised at the judgment. Matthew, chapter 25, verses 34-40: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall *the righteous* answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

I believe that the righteous are going to be surprised at the extent of their reward. The righteous are going to be surprised at what heaven is really like. We don't have the ability in our human mind to comprehend it. We see through a glass darkly. We don't really understand what heaven's going to be like. We don't understand the glory that shall be revealed. We don't understand how God will reward that faithful soul who has fought a good fight, kept his faith, finished his course, and made it through to heaven.

There is a reward that is beyond our expectation. There is something awaiting more than we realize. I believe that the humble Christian will be surprised at the judgment when he sees that which God has prepared for those who love Him. I think we'll be surprised just to be in the presence of God and know how it feels. We know a little bit, we see a little bit. We feel the presence of God as we worship and praise Him, but there are times when God seems more real, and we experience a special joy in the presence of God. But I don't think we "scratch the surface" as the saying is, of what is going to be revealed, or what we're going to experience.

The judgment is going to be a surprise. We don't know what all is going to be there, and what all is going to happen, but we know we want it to be a pleasant surprise. The reality of the judgment is either going to be something that frightens us, that condemns us, or something that thrills us. There are a lot of things that are going to look very different in the light of the judgment.

We sing a song about "life's trials will seem so small." I think that is very true. In the reality of the judgment, as we stand there, the trials of this life are going to seem insignificant. Those trials are going to seem like, how could they have bothered us? Why would we let them possibly keep us out of heaven?

Think now of the regrets some will have as they stand before God. You know, pride will be gone then. The Bible tells us that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess. There will be no atheists at the judgment; there will be no agnostics. Every tongue shall confess. They will know, and to think of the regrets in the judgment for the missed opportunities, the wasted years, and the sinful lives. There is nothing at that

point that they will be able to look back upon and think they were justified in holding on to it. All those excuses that people used, the ideas, the thoughts, the things that they held on to will seem as nothing in the light of the judgment. There will be weeping and wailing. People will be broken-hearted and filled with regrets.

The judgment is a reality. It's clearly taught in the Scriptures. I believe that even in nature itself, God has designed to help us to see that there is a coming judgment, that there is right and wrong, and that God does exist. Again, our text of scripture says, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Many religious people have effectively determined that they will have the ability to tell God how to judge them. Modern religion has decided that they can decide for God how they will be judged, but that's not what the Bible tells us. It's a very different message. As a result, the judgment is going to come as a shock to the bulk of humanity.

PREPARE FOR THE JUDGMENT

We have a responsibility, and right now we have an opportunity to prepare for the judgment. We want to be pleasantly surprised at the judgment. At the coming of Christ, when all eyes shall behold Him, we don't want to be trying to run and hide. They'll be no place found to hide from the judgment. To be pleasantly surprised at the judgment, we must live our lives by the Word of God and by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ. He came as an example. Our belief and our understanding of the Scriptures need to realize that Jesus expects us to follow His example. In our Sunday school lesson this morning, our verse said, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." That's a commandment of Jesus Christ. It's a high standard; it's a holy way. It's not something we as human beings can live in our own strength, just because we've decided to be a good people. We have to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. We have to be forgiven; and to be forgiven, we have to seek forgiveness. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

The Word of God teaches us that we can know we are saved and have the confidence to believe for salvation. When we come to Jesus and repent of our sins and trust His Word and promises, and we believe to the saving of our souls, then we know that we are saved. We're new creatures in Christ. We love the brethren. We must have the confidence that as long as we do God's will and obey His Word, there is none who can pluck us out of His hand. We can't lose our salvation as long as we do what's right, as long as we obey and follow God.

Whether we like it or not, whether we want to face it or not, this is a reality for all humanity to face. There is going to be a judgment. Just because many people expected the judgment to happen before now, have prophesied that it was going to happen, and it has not happened yet, makes no difference. The judgment, the end of time is going to happen when God decides. No man knows the day or the hour. Whether the coming of Christ is in our lifetime, or whether we pass on and

go to be with the Lord, the reality is: there is going to be a day of judgment, and we need to be prepared.

CONCLUSION

If there's anyone here tonight, under the sound of our voice that God is talking to, and convicting you of a need in your life, I would encourage you to seek God now while there's time. He's our Savior. He came and bled on that cruel cross for you that you might be saved, that you might not live in terror of the judgment, but that you might be prepared for it, and look forward to going to be with our Lord and Savior for eternity. It's a wonderful opportunity God has given you. He's made all the provision, all the opportunity. He's seeking you. He wants you to be His child.

The Bible tells us that God's Spirit deals with man. He deals with our hearts. He draws us to Him. We just have to be willing to listen to that still small voice, and let Him work in our hearts and lives. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

SIN, MAN'S GREATEST ENEMY THE SIN OF UNBELIEF

Scriptures: Numbers 13:30-33; 14:22-24; Matthew 13:58; Romans 3:3; Hebrews 4:6-8, 10, 11.

Numbers 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Numbers 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Memory Verse: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

—Mark 16:16.

Aim: To show that unbelief is sin.

INTRODUCTION

TO GRASP the awfulness of unbelief it is necessary to get an insight into the greatness of the power of God and a vision of the purity of the nature of God. Of course, to disbelieve God is to make Him out a liar and to give comfort and pleasure to the devil, who viciously declares that God is not true. Since most men explore only the physical world, because it can be touched and felt by the natural man, they give little credit to the spirit world, which escapes the natural eye and touch. But the spirit world is eternal, and the natural world is temporal; therefore, we must put forth great effort to bring men to a realization of the awfulness of unbelief. Jesus said that he who believeth on Him, the works that He did shall he do also. Of course, it follows that unbelief will prohibit men from doing the things that Jesus did, thus accounting for the fact that we see few miracles today.

Please understand that we are not saying a Christian is guilty of the sin of unbelief if he is unable to work miracles. God has given gifts in the body, the church, and among these gifts is the gift of miracles, the gifts of healing, and the gift of faith. Not every one in the body is going to have these gifts. Those who do have them, doubtless, will be able to manifest more faith than those who do not have them.

In this lesson we are speaking of that spirit of unbelief that denies the miracle-working power of God, not some Christian that is doing all he knows to do to believe and obey God.

MEDITATIONS

FAITH EVIDENT—Numbers 13:30—We are well able—Close walking to God imparts strength. When men drift from God, they can see only their own strength, so they are certain to draw back from any situation that seems to exceed their own strength. To evidence little faith in God is to tell the world we are not close to God.

GLARING UNBELIEF—Numbers 13:31—We be not able—It seems impossible that they who had seen such a marvelous deliverance from Egypt's army should express now their inability to enter Canaan. Our contact with God must be kept constant, for each day will bring new trials.

ENEMIES GREAT IN CANAAN—Numbers 13:32—Of a great stature—It would seem from this that the enemies hindering entrance into Canaan were greater than those who hindered departure from Egypt, but there is no enemy greater than the power of God, and He will never fail the man who puts his faith in Him.

PENALTY FOR UNBELIEF—Numbers 14:22—Have seen—There was no excuse for this display of unbelief. They had seen enough to convince them of the love and power of God. They had given themselves over to an evil heart of unbelief. **Verse 23—Shall not see**—There is no other God than the great “I Am.” It is from Him that all life issues. If men provoke Him, to whom can they turn? If God says men shall not see His glory, who can intercede for them? There is none to help, and men will abide by the consequence of their decisions. Therefore, let us be quick to believe and act upon every Word that comes from God.

FAITH REWARDED—Numbers 14:24—Followed me fully—Caleb saw the giants as well as the others, but the sight of them could not cause him to lose sight of God. If we maintain a close walk with God, unbelief cannot possess us.

UNBELIEF STOPS HEALING—Matthew 13:58—Not many mighty—It is a great honor and blessing to have the mighty hand of God working in our midst. But often religious bigotry completely eliminates the Spirit of God! Formality and unbelief have driven God far from the modern churches.

THE WORD STILL THE SAME—Romans 3:3—Some did not believe—Even though the Israelites who came out of Egypt and the Jews of Christ’s time were filled with unbelief, this did not change the Word of God. Neither do the unbelieving church members today make divine healing and divers miracles things of the past. God will reward the believer as quickly today as He ever would.

SHUT OUT—Hebrews 4:6—Entered not in—How sad for anyone to rebel against God or disbelieve any of His Word, which is forever settled in heaven! The only result possible of such a stand is failure. Our decisions are very far-reaching and affect not only this short life, but also the whole of eternity. **Verse 7—Harden not**—To disregard the Word of God brings darkness and hardness of heart. So soon the lost soul is so blinded that the Word of God becomes unreal and vague.

BELIEF GIVES REST—Hebrews 4:8—Given them rest—There are two kinds of rest—soul rest and rest from all labor. He who has accepted Christ has rest of soul, regardless of the religious turmoil and spiritual warfare that confront him. From the toils of earth he shall not rest until he leaves this world. **Verse 10—He that is entered**—That is, he who has run a successful Christian race and gone beyond the reach of temptation by the way of death, is at rest.

RUN WITH PATIENCE—Hebrews 4:11—Labor ... to enter in—We are to run with patience the race that is set before us, disregarding the heat and cold, weariness and fatigue. He that endureth unto the end shall be saved.

CONCLUSION

These scriptures set before us very plainly the awful penalty of unbelief. Therefore, we feel the urgency of striving to believe all the Word of God and assisting as many as possible to believe. The world is sorely afflicted

with unbelief today, and to make the situation worse, men at the same time are professing Christianity. They have sought to take this kind of Christianity to all the world, and the result has been disastrous. Being so surrounded by false prophets and false teachings, it is the more necessary that we who worship God in Spirit and in truth be very vigilant and careful in our Christian lives. More often must we call upon God to keep us in the strait and narrow way.

It is not our purpose to bring any sincere saint under condemnation. If you are striving the best you know how to believe God, to believe His precious promises, and your faith is weak, keep pressing the battle on, asking God to help you. There is a vast difference in a saint of God who believes God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6), and those who have a rebellious spirit as was manifest by the ten spies, who so influenced the rest of the people so that they were ready to stone those who believed God. Their rebellion was so great “the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they” (Numbers 14:11, 12).

Moses pled with the Lord to spare them, which He did, but the Lord let Moses know none of them would enter the promised land.

The Hebrew writer exhorts us: “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12).

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Define unbelief.
2. Why is unbelief so dangerous?
3. How can we keep away from unbelief?
4. What was Caleb’s reward for faithfulness?
5. Why was Jesus unable to do many mighty works at one place?
6. Does the unbelief of men affect the power of the Word?
7. How do men harden their hearts?
8. What are the labors that a Christian must perform to enter into eternal rest? †

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. We also print leaflets for Primary and Nursery-Beginner children.

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Greetings dear Young People!

This month I encourage us all to do as Paul exhorted Timothy: "Exercise thyself to godliness." To be successful in this endeavor, we must first seek the Lord for His guidance and grace, for we don't seek after self-righteousness, but true godliness. This desire will

always be in the will of God, so we can rest assured He will help us. We must not let the enemy discourage us.

Those who desire to get physically fit are encouraged to do some sort of activity daily, even if it is something considered to be small. And I would encourage us to do the same. Maybe we could spend more time in prayer or Bible study. We could find opportunities to show longsuffering and patience. We can go out of our way to show kindness to those around us. Do whatever the Lord leads you to do. Let us determine in our minds and hearts to find something each day, whether we consider it to be big or small, to draw closer to the Lord and please Him.

Following, you will find a piece written by Bro. Mike Molder discussing God's will concerning husbands and fathers. He and his family have been a true blessing to our congregation, and I trust the Lord will bless him for his efforts.

May the Lord protect you, strengthen you, and prosper you in His work!

In Christian Love,
Sis. Crystal Gossard

The Role of a Man as Husband and Father

By Bro. Mike Molder

THERE wasn't much of a change from being a teenager to becoming a young man. I was still going to school, graduating from high school to college. I had to get a job to be able to pay bills and for the things I needed or wanted. I moved out of my parents' house and got a place with some roommates. All of this was nothing compared to the change that happened when I got married and subsequently had children. I did have to get a job and pay bills when I was a single young man, but I was only concerned with the things that directly affected me. Barring financial restrictions, I could take care of myself when I needed or wanted to. I didn't have to ask anyone's opinion about the things I did. If I was hungry, I could get the food I wanted to eat. If I wanted to do something, like stay up late, I could do it. Except for paying bills and having more freedoms, being a single adult isn't very different from being a teenager in high school.

When you get married, things should change. I say "should" because some will get married but still act selfish, like when they were single, which can cause many problems. Being a husband brings several new responsibilities. Loving my wife meant that I needed to take care of her. This is called having the role of the



provider. This doesn't mean that I was the only one that could have a job, but it does mean I have to make occasional sacrifices so that she could get what she needs. In Ephesians 5, Paul compares the union of husband and wife to that of Jesus Christ and the church. As written in Genesis 2:24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Paul exhorts in Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." You may never need to take on the role of protector and sacrifice your life to protect her, but you will need to remember her needs and not just your own. Your marriage brings a companion that is worth the small sacrifices you must make.

Our lives changed just as much when our children came into our lives. Finances got tighter and we both sacrifice things because now we need to take care of others that can't work but still need healthcare, food, and clothes. We can't go out to eat as often as we did before we had children. Spending time with friends who didn't have children got more difficult because our attention was constantly called away to the needs of our children. However, children have been a great addition to our lives. Psalm 127:3 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." I enjoy seeing them grow and spending time with them. I get to play and do other fun things with them that would be bizarre for a man without children to do.

This new stage in our lives brought many wonderful new responsibilities. I had to protect them from getting hurt, especially when they were young. They don't know that small things like toys, rocks, and pennies shouldn't be eaten, or that they could fall if they climb up onto something. You must be ever vigilant to possible dangers that you never considered dangerous before. As a father, I also get to spend time with them, teaching them things that I have learned, from how to ride a bicycle and throwing a ball, to lessons from the Bible and how to behave as a Christian. On the other hand, I also need to sometimes correct them. As a father, you are a teacher and an example that your children learn from every day, whereas they only go to church at most a few times a week. A father's role as teacher is mentioned in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

When you are a single young adult, you can focus on your own needs and wants without affecting many others. After marriage, you can no longer be selfish, but instead need to be concerned about the needs of your wife. You become more of a provider, protector, along with being a teacher when your children are born. As a husband and father, your responsibilities will change from those you had when you were single. The rewards of being a father and husband make the necessary changes worth it. †

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."—Proverbs 22:6.

GOD'S PEOPLE IN TODAY'S WORLD

RADIO MESSAGE BY BRO. JAMES ARCH

FOR THE devotional part of our service today, I will be reading from a very familiar passage of scripture taken from the 8th chapter of the book of Romans.

I will begin reading from verse 35: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." What I would like to emphasize mostly from this text is a short section found in verse 38, where the writer says "things present." I will be speaking on, "God's People in Today's World."

The thoughts expressed in this passage of scripture are quite clear. They are words of one who was well-settled and established in his commitment to God. He was well-aware of the fact that there would be obstacles and discouraging problems to encounter along the way, as we all know well today. He was nevertheless convinced that none of those things would deter his forward movement for the Lord. The main thought here is: The writer spoke, as I mentioned a few seconds ago, of "things present." He also said, "We are more than conquerors." Of course, the apostle Paul who wrote this beautiful scripture, lived in a different time than we're living in today. Things are a lot different than they were then; however, that does not go to say that we cannot live for the Lord today.

First of all, Jesus said to His church when He left that great commission, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." That should be encouraging to all of God's people. Jesus Himself said, "I will build my church." Thank God for the beautiful bride of Christ, the church that Jesus is building. Each one of us who claim to be a Christian is a part of that great church, a building block in that structure.

The Bible also tells us that God is our refuge. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." They are strong words; they are very encouraging and uplifting words; they are words that keep the Christian going. Thank God for the beautiful way that He has provided for His people. In spite of all the things that are present, in spite of all the problems that exist among humanity in the world today, I believe God is still on His throne. He's promised never to forsake His own.

Paul said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" He went through a lot of problems and suffering in his walk with the Lord, but he never looked back. He said at the close of his career with the Lord, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the

faith." In fact, he said, "I am now ready to be offered." He was ready. Thank God for the privilege of being ready to leave this world and to meet God.

It is no secret that the world today is different than Paul's time. It is quite different. There are more demands and deadlines to meet these days. I am sure those of you out in the working world know what I'm talking about. The mode of travel is very modern today. I suppose Paul traveled by foot and by sea, and probably by horseback. He didn't have the modern system of travel that we have in the world today, although he traveled around a lot. Look at the communication system that we have today. It has made life so simple and so easy, compared to those days. The technology for the way of life we now have is a subject in itself, but technology has advanced, and is mind-boggling to us sometimes when we see what's available today.

Of course, the way of life has changed. Not so long ago, family worship was common. Mothers and fathers and children got together for family worship in the mornings before they left for school, or work, or wherever they were going. I wonder how much of that is still existing in today's world. The cost of living is different now than it once was. Yes, it's a different world altogether. It is not like it once was. But, of course, the apostle Paul spoke of things present.

Many things are still the same as they were in Paul's day. We still have a lot of sin prevailing in our world. Sin is very real. I suppose the larger the population of the world, the more sin there is, but it is still sin. Sin is still sin. There's a lot of trouble. There are different views on morality and even on Christianity. There are strong influences around us that exclude God out of almost anything that can be excluded. There's a lot of worldliness and secularism dominating the minds of so many. Thank God for the beautiful, old gospel way, the way of the cross which leads home, and the Bible that teaches us how to walk and how to live this life to the best of our ability.

The church today has a promise: "I will never thee." We find in the 13th chapter of Hebrews, "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." God is still God in the good times and in the rough times. Thank God, you can trust in Him. Nothing is impossible with God. Going back to the 46th Psalm that I quoted from awhile ago, it goes on to say, "Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." What a comfort today to know that we have a Pilot, One who can take us through these troubled times! The grace of God is flowing free. Every morning when we awake, we can ask God to give us courage and grace and strength.

I am sure that those listening to me are very aware that we are living in a very different world. The Bible is being fulfilled all the time. I believe, personally, that we are in the sunset years of the last dispensation of Christ. However, God has promised to be with His people. He has promised never to leave nor forsake those who believe and trust in Him.

SOME ESSENTIALS TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

By the late M. H. Craig

Paul said in our text of scripture, "We are more than conquerors through him." Christians cannot wade through this world alone. We cannot fight these battles and struggles alone. We always need the help of this great God. No one can run this race alone. We must have the help of God. We can't even free ourselves from a life of sin. It takes the power of God to do that. Thank God for the beautiful message of redemption. The old blind hymn writer said: "Tell me the story of Jesus, Write on my heart every word; Tell me the story most precious, Sweetest that ever was heard." What a beautiful story!

Paul referred to obstacles to overcome. He referred to tribulation. Tribulation is common to all. Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." The word *tribulation* means, "an experience that tests one's endurance, patience, or faith." Sometimes our faith is put to the test. Sometimes we wonder whether we can wade through it; but let me tell you something, Friends, with Christ in the vessel, we can smile at the storm. Hold on to this God. He will never let go of you. God is always there. We slip away from Him, but He's always there. He's always where He has been. He's never moved.

Paul was fully persuaded that God would see him through, and He did! Paul said, "For I am persuaded [He used those words.], that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The church today is to march on. She's sailing through rough and stormy seas. The songwriter said, "Some through the waters, some through the flood, Some through the fire, but all through the blood." The Old Ship of Zion, the Church of God, is still marching on through rough and smooth times, but God has been with her. He will continue to be with His church until He comes back to claim His people, and to take them back to glory. "Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river ..." She's proclaiming the good news to mankind. In spite of all the negative news and reports that we hear in the world today, she's still proclaiming the good news that Jesus came and gave His life for us as a substitute so we could have a better life.

*There was One who was willing to die in my stead,
That a soul so unworthy might live,
And the path to the Cross He was willing to tread,
All the sins of my life to forgive.*

The old church is holding forth the glorious truth of this great gospel. Thank God, she is still standing on the promises. The Psalmist said, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." That's the God we serve and believe in. God still has a people in the world today. Thank God! Hold on to God; hold on to the truth; hold on to the Word of God, and He'll take you safely through to the glory land. †

March 2018

THE FOUNDATION is the first essential to the church. Paul said, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 3:11). Also, Ephesians 2:20, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." For a congregation to be a part of the Bible church, the Church of God, it must be built upon Christ.

The builder is essential to the Church of God. When men go to prove the identity of things, they go back into the pages of history and search, then they compare their description with the article to see if it corresponds. For a church to be the Church of God, it must correspond with the Bible description. For the church to identify itself as the Church of God, it must bear the marks of the divine architect. Christ said, "I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

To build in the sense that Christ spoke in this text, means: to set in order and to add those that were being saved. The church is God's working crew, and God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him. This is what the Lord did on the day of Pentecost, and the many who were saved after the lame man was healed at the gate Beautiful. Christ is the builder and organizer. This is essential to the Church of God.

The door into the church is one of the main essentials. The door of entrance to any building is essential, and so it is with the church. There is only one door into the Church of God, and Christ said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, [into the pasture and be fed]" (John 10:9).

The head of the church is another very essential part of the Church of God. Paul said of Christ, "He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18). We read in Ephesians 1:20-23, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." These scriptures place Christ as head of His church. The Church of God does not have earthly headquarters.

The mode of entrance is an essential to any organization, so the mode of entrance into the Church of God is highly important. The Church of God is of divine origin, being built by a divine architect, Christ the head and the door, so the way of entrance is also by divine process. Christ said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). In verse five, Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water [the Word] and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." In Psalm 87:5 and 6 is plainly

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stated that souls are born into the Church of God: "And of Zion [the church] it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there."

The name is an essential part of the Church of God. The title *Church of God* is not applied to the church because it is an organization and must have a name, but it is essential because it is the Church of God. The word CHURCH comes from the Greek, meaning: a sought out, or a separate people; the word OF denotes belonging to; and GOD means, this separate people belong to God—thus Church of God. It would be improper to apply any other name. The church belongs to God because each member has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God. Paul said to the elders of the church in Ephesus, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

The church is the Church of God because every essential that goes into it is of God. Those who compose it are purchased by the blood of Christ. Christ is its founder and is building it and the foundation upon which it stands. Christ is the head, and the government is on His shoulders. He is the door by which souls get into it. God sets the members every one of them in the church as it pleases Him. The whole plan of redemption is provided by God through His Son. So the church is of divine origin and operated by the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit qualifies the members by giving them spiritual gifts.

We find that every essential that goes into the making of the church is supplied by the Lord Himself and that is what makes the church the Church of God. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Ephesians 3:14, 15). †

THE QUESTION BOX

Answered by the Editor

QUESTION: I am a little confused on the issue of the transferring of pastors in the Church of God, considering the poor performance in one local church. Can you give me an understanding on this?

—O. O., Nigeria

ANSWER: I understand that in some sect churches the overseers may move pastors every five years, but I do not know of such a practice in the Church of God.

If a man is a poor leader and not really fit to be a pastor, how will it really help him or anyone else to change him to another congregation? And who has the authority to move him? Paul said in I Corinthians 12:18, "God hath set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." That it not to say a man can never move from one congregation to another if the Lord leads and the congregations agree.

QUESTION: When someone renders help to you, such as money, do you pay tithe from money given?

—P. P., Nigeria

ANSWER: It is my understanding that we are to tithe on ALL our increase.

QUESTION: Please explain Matthew 22:29.

—P. P., Nigeria

ANSWER: If you will read from verse 23, you will see what Jesus was talking about. A woman had seven husbands and each died without children. The Old Covenant taught that the next brother was to marry her and have children, who were to be counted seed of the deceased. The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection, so they were asking whose wife she would be in the supposed resurrection that Jesus taught. His answer to the question was: "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." There will be no marriages in heaven.

QUESTION: People quote Isaiah 45:7, which says: "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things." Should it be preached from this verse that God created the devil?—P. P., Nigeria

ANSWER: This verse has no reference to the devil! The verse speaks of literal things, such as the ten plagues in Egypt, floods, famines, earthquakes, etc.

QUESTION: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6). Are they God's ministers in the earth, or are they angels of heaven?

—P. P., Nigeria

ANSWER: Jude does not say just what angels he was speaking of. As you know, the word *angels* mean "messengers." Here Jude speaks of those who "left their first estate." We understand him to mean that they did things that were wrong.

QUESTION: Jesus told Peter that He had prayed for him, so in our prayers today is it wrong for us to pray for one another?—P. P., Nigeria

ANSWER: The Bible teaches us that we are to pray one for another. We do not ask Jesus to pray for us, but we are to pray to the Father IN Jesus' name.

QUESTION: We hear people, before starting their prayer, including the blood of Jesus Christ. Is that proper?—P. P., Nigeria

ANSWER: Again, Jesus said we are to pray in His name. He did not add anything to that.

QUESTION: What is "mixed bathing" as you have pointed out in the message you gave in July 1992 at the Church of God convention?—K. J., e-mail

ANSWER: It is men and women bathing in the same swimming pool at the same time. Such is not modest! How preachers could preach or teach modesty and put their approval on mixed bathing is beyond me! †

PHILIPPINE

CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION REPORT

DECEMBER 26-30, 2017

Theme: “As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord.”—Joshua 24:15.

THANK GOD for giving me the privilege to attend another convention in the Philippines. It was truly an honor to be there with those precious saints. As they always do, they extended to Bro. Terry Deville, Bro. Ralph Craig, Sis. Vera Craig, and myself (Bro. Harley McClung) from the U.S. a very warm welcome. Their hospitality, as usual, was wonderful. God blessed us with safety as we traveled from Louisiana, West Virginia, and Maryland, to Manila and on to Paniqui, Tarlac, and on our return home. He also blessed us with a glorious Spirit-filled convention from the first 6:00 A.M. Service, to the very last service on Saturday night. There was an extension of the convention Sunday morning as the people stayed, and God’s Holy Spirit favored us in the Sunday school and morning service in a marked way. God gave liberty, souls were saved, and the church was moved to march onward and forward. It was clear that much prayer and fasting were done in preparation for these services, for God answered the prayers of His people and gave victory. Harmony and unity prevailed throughout the convention, and many souls (44) were saved from the power of sin and Satan’s darkness. Great liberty was given by God to His ministers to preach with power and authority. God favored us with His Holy Spirit’s presence throughout, as prayers were offered to Him for help.

The singing was indeed special, as it was done to the glory of God. In most every service, the people responded to the messages God sent, coming to the altar for a closer walk with God, sanctification, salvation, healing, or whatever their needs were. And I truly believe God was pleased to help each one, and the needs of those that came forward were met. The testimonies offered for what God had done to and for those saved were indeed rich, rich blessings. The convention was very well attended, from the beginning to the end. It took lots of work to house and feed the many in attendance. It was, as usual, wonderful to see the harmony and the beautiful attitude of working together these precious people displayed. Praise God for His leadership! Again, I have a heart full of gratitude to God and the precious Filipino saints for all that was accomplished. So much planning, preparation, and devoted work went into this great effort, and all to and for the glory of God.

The following is a service by service report offered by Sis. Gladys Eve D. Bagayan:

I thank the Lord firstly for the privilege to serve Him in my youth. Many saints had prayed and fasted for this convention. For Christians, it is the most awaited event of the year when we get to see each and every one face to face and feed our one and only soul. There might be discomfort in our physical bodies, but thank God, in Him we find rest. Four brethren from

America, namely, Bro. Harley McClung, Bro. Terry Deville, Bro. Ralph Craig, and Sis. Vera Craig endured the ultra, long-haul flight to the Philippines. We all praise the Lord for their time and effort to be with us. Language is never a barrier in worshiping with them because we serve one God in one Spirit, and we speak of His love.

Here are the highlights

Day One—Tuesday—Brethren from different congregations arrived at the chapel early. Bro. Reynaldo Fabian from the Paniqui congregation brought us the first morning’s devotional at six o’clock. Topic: “Decisions That Make Our Family Serve.” Text: Joshua 24:14, 15.

There was a Christian Festival at 9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.—Bro. Ralph Craig from Hagerstown, Maryland, presented firstly a beautiful song entitled: “The Greatest of All Miracles.” Topic: “List of Ten Things Jesus Didn’t Say.” Afterwards, he sang the song, “Do You Have Room?” The Spirit of God was working as we listened to his words. Seven souls made room for Jesus in their hearts at the altar of prayer.

In the afternoon service, Bro. Ed Coraraton from Maramag, Bukidnon, brought the message entitled, “Be Ye Watchful.” Text: Mark 13:35-37. The Christian Festival continued from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Terry Deville from Deville, Louisiana, preached a powerful message on “Jesus Saves.” Text: John 5:25-29, 34. How wonderful it is to know that there is a Savior who died in our stead to save us all! Praise the Lord for the eleven souls who went to the altar. Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on us!

Day Two—Wednesday—Bro. Frank Palencia from the Signal congregation brought us the message, “Prepare to Meet Thy God.” Text: Amos 4:12. Nine souls went to the altar. The Christian Festival continued at 9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Vera Craig rendered a song “Hallelujah” in English and in Russian. We have so much to thank the Lord for His precious gift to us! Bro. Jet Batalla from the Lubas congregation was the speaker. His topic was, “The Church, the Family of God.” Text: Ephesians 3:15. Everyone knelt down in prayer. The Holy Spirit worked miraculously.

Bro. Greg Escullar from the Crossing Banahaw congregation brought us the message in the afternoon service. His topic: “Serving God in Our Own Way versus God’s Way.” Text: Joshua 24:15. At 3:30 P.M., there was another Christian Festival.

7:00 P.M.—Divine Healing Service. Many people went to the altar to be prayed for by the ministers of Christ. Bro. Ralph Craig sang, “The Wonder of It All.” Indeed, just to think that God loves us is a wonder. Afterwards, Bro. Harley McClung from Craigsville, West Virginia, brought the message entitled, “The Thought of Change.” Text: Joshua 24:15. People find it difficult to change, but the Lord can change hearts. What a merciful God we serve! Seven souls gave their hearts to Him at the altar.

Day Three—Thursday—Bro. Manny Yangco from the Paniqui congregation brought the morning devo-

tional, "Do You Have Room for Jesus?" Text: Luke 2:7. Thirteen souls went to the altar.

10:00 A.M.—Bro. Ralph Craig sang a heartfelt song, "The Peace That My Savior Has Given," with the recording of his late and dearest mom, Sis. Stutzie. Bro. Antonio Dumrique brought the message. Title: "Family." Texts: Joshua 24:15; I Timothy 3:15. There is no satisfaction without salvation! The laborers are also few. Thank God for the nineteen souls who went to the altar.

In the afternoon service, Bro. Bernard Neri from Kalilangan, Bukidnon, brought us the message, "From the Children and to Their Children After Them." Text: Deuteronomy 4:9. He emphasized that we must show love for our family by bringing them to God before we do it to others. Twenty-four souls went to the altar of prayer. At 4:00 P.M., the young people had their essay, oration, and declamation.

7:00 P.M.—The Paniqui congregation presented a drama, "Burning Hell." It was a serious reminder of the Lord's second coming. Bro. Ralph Craig sang, "I'll Trust My Lord" and "I'd Do It All Over Again," with the recording of his late and precious dad, Bro. Ollen. We dearly miss Auntie Stutzie and Uncle Ollen. We called them that way in the Philippines. Afterwards, Bro. Terry Deville brought us the message entitled, "Before and After." Text: Titus 3:3-5. He gave three examples of three different kinds of people and the kind of life they lived. Most importantly, we cannot tell the devil what to do. Eight souls went to the altar.

Day Four—Friday—Bro. Rogelio Eupenia of the Dagupan congregation brought us the morning devotional on "The Testimony of Being a Child of God." Text: Romans 8:16. Eleven souls went to the altar of prayer. At 9:00 A.M., there were literary presentations of young people. Sis. Rose Marzan brought a message on "Making the Right Choices." Text: Joshua 24:15. Many came to the altar. From 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., there was a Water Baptism. At 3:30 P.M., Bro. Ralph sang again, "The Greatest of All Miracles."

Sis. Meldy Santiago brought us the afternoon message entitled, "Consecrate." Text: I Chronicles 29:5. Fourteen souls went to the altar.

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Ralph Craig sang a beautiful rendition of "People Need the Lord." Bro. Harley McClung brought us the evening message on "The Greatest Questions." Text: Matthew 22:35-40. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away our sins! One remarkable question was, "What would you give in exchange for your soul?" Thirteen came to the altar.

Day Five—Saturday—Bro. Luis Gamboa brought us the morning devotional, "As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord." Text: Genesis 18:19. Many came to the altar of prayer.

We started the awarding of prizes for the Christian Festival at 8:30 A.M. There was a Divine Healing before the service. Bro. Rudy Delos Reyes from the Nipaco congregation brought us the message on "The Beauty of the Family of God." Text: Luke 19:9. Five souls went to the altar.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Arnold Ordonio brought us the message on "Reasons Why We Need to Serve God." Many went to the altar.

In the evening service, Bro. Ralph sang, "Your Grace Still Amazes Me." The young people of the Philippines, from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao sang a beautiful rendition. Bro. Terry Deville brought us the message entitled, "Rejecting the Lord." Text: Luke 19:11-14. Many went to the altar of prayer. Praise the Lord for His wonderful grace!

The five-day convention ended, but there was an extension on the following day, Sunday, December 31. Bro. Arnold Chichio led the Sunday school at 8:30 A.M. The topic was "God, the Father." Brethren from different congregations gave their special songs. "How Great Thou Art" was rendered in three languages (English, Tagalog, and Russian), which was sung by Bro. Harley McClung, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Vera Craig, Bro. Terry Deville, Bro. Jet and Sis. Judith Batalla. The time was not enough for everyone to sing. Bro. Harley McClung brought us the message on "The House of God." Text: Hebrews 10:16-22. Many went to the altar, with five claiming salvation. God has done so much for us. We praise the Lord for the 44 souls who sought salvation and for the 15 who were baptized. Keep us all in your prayers as we do the same.

I would like to add to Sis. Gladys Eve D. Bagayan's report that I am very grateful to Bro. Reynaldo Fabian, Host Pastor, and all the saints for extending an invitation to Bro. Terry, Bro. Ralph, Sis. Vera, and me, to be there in that great and glorious event. We thank God for saving souls and sanctifying His church to serve Him. I'm praying that He will keep each and everyone in His love and grace. It would be a great joy for us, God willing, if, and when we return, we will find all of them running the race set before them and fighting this good fight of faith.

In His service,
Bro. Harley McClung †

A PHILIPPINE YOUNG PERSON EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

Dear Uncle Greg,

Thank you for inspiring me, a young person, through *The Way of Truth* magazine. Thank you for writing the Young People's page. It brings blessings, hope, and joy, for it is words of our living God. May God continue to bless His work abundantly there in the United States. May you continue to spread the gospel of our Lord and Savior to all mankind, especially to the young people, for they need to be saved from sin and lifted up.

There is joy in serving the Lord. I have proven that to be so. I am now glad and contented because God is now living in my heart, and that's the greatest gift I have ever received in my whole life. It has been two years since I knelt at the altar and asked for forgiveness from all of my sins. That's the most unforgettable memory of mine. Praise His holy name I am a part of His own and wonderful family, and I am proud of it!

In the service of the King,
Sis. Andria Daileg, Philippines

Philippine Convention Memories



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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

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(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

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Virginia, Blacksburg, WKEX 1430 AM, 8:00 A.M.

Virginia, Christiansburg, WKEX-FM 105.9, 8:00 A.M.

Virginia, Lynchburg, WKPA 1390, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

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Virginia, Smithfield, WKGM 940, 6:30 A.M.

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COMING MEETINGS

2018 HONDURAS CONVENTION

Coxen Hole, Roatan

April 3-8, 2018, Lord willing

Sis. Ethlyn Soto, Host Pastor



2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

July 3-8, 2018, Lord willing

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Host Pastor



REVIVAL SERVICES

Hagerstown, Maryland

April 3-8, 2018, Lord Willing

Bro. Terry Deville, Evangelist

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Pastor



Essex, Maryland

April 17-22, 2018, Lord Willing

Bro. Raymond Martin, Evangelist

Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor

THE CHURCH OF GOD

STANDS FOR

An eternal God	Psalms 90:2
A divine Christ	John 1:1, 14
An infallibly inspired Bible	II Timothy 3:16
Salvation from sin	Matthew 1:21
The new birth	John 3:1-7
Entire Sanctification	Ephesians 5:25, 26
A holy life	Titus 2:11, 12
	Hebrews 12:10-14
Unity of God's people	John 17:21
	I Corinthians 12:13
Divine Healing	James 5:14, 15
The ordinances	Matthew 28:19, 20
Eternal life	Matthew 25:46
	John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28
Eternal punishment	Mark 9:43-46
	Revelation 20:15

YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus bought it with His own blood	Acts 20:28
It has a good foundation	Ephesians 2:20
	I Corinthians 3:11
Christ is the Head	Ephesians 1:22; 5:23
	Isaiah 9:6
Christ is the Door	John 10:9
	John 10:1
	Acts 2:47
Only the saved are members	John 15:2-6
	I John 3:8, 9
Membership is offered to all	II Peter 3:9
	Revelation 22:17
Membership is rewarded	John 14:2, 3