

# The Way of Truth

Vol. 82

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

No. 4

April 2024

**THE GREATER  
THE OBSTACLE,  
THE MORE GLORY  
IN OVERCOMING IT**

Trying to Cope with the  
Burdens of Life

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## CHRISTIAN ROMANCE

“And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.”—Genesis 29:16-20.

**R**OMANCE, or rather the lack thereof, is responsible for breakdowns of the marital relationship in many a home. The world has stolen the idea of affection and transformed it into something filled with lust and forbidden desire. But almighty God ordained romance in His beautiful plan of the home. Church of God marriages should exemplify romance as God ordained it. The Bible likens the husband-wife relationship to the connection of the church to Christ. Marriages can be sabotaged by neglect of either party, even in the Church of God.

The basis for marriage is love. *Romance* is, “a feeling of excitement and mystery associated with love as projected in actions and communication.” Why is it that so many relationships begin with romance, only to lose it with the passage of time? The answer—through neglect and taking one another for granted!

In Matthew 19:5 we read, “For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.” The idea presented here is that husband is to physically and emotionally draw close to his wife. In other words, not only is he to romance her to win her affection in the beginning of the relationship, but to cleave to her and keep the love alive through the years of marriage by keeping the fire burning (so to speak).

In our text above of Genesis 29, we see that Jacob served Laban for seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. Jacob loved and romanced Rachel until the day she died in childbirth.

Song of Solomon is a poetic book of the Bible describing the beauty of the man/woman relationship intended for the pure minds of mature Christians who are able to discern, not only the romantic power of human affection, but the depths of man’s devotion to God.

God saw that it was not good for man to be alone. So after He created Adam, God created Eve. With the rib, which God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. Matthew Henry writes: “The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.”

God gave Eve to Adam—one woman for one man. The Lord never ordained marriage for two men or two women! So, when we speak of romance, we speak concerning male and female, the winning of one another’s

love and the sustaining of it. Christian romance produces marriage, not on a trial basis, but for life.

What should one look for in a companion? Compatibility—for just because two people are Christians, that doesn’t mean they are compatible. There should be no emphasis on physical beauty alone, rather one should be attracted by the inner beauty of a potential companion.

Christian romance has some guidelines for conduct. For instance, I Corinthians 6:18 says, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” Before marriage, sexual activity is forbidden. “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

*Dr. Nancy Moore Clatworthy, sociologist, has been doing research on “living together” for 10 years. When she began her research, the idea of living together before committing yourself to marriage made good sense to her. Now, after scientifically analyzing the results of hundreds of surveys filled out by couples who had lived together, she opposes living together in any form. Her answers make a powerfully Christian point: only a fully committed marriage relationship is really suited to working out the best possible relationship.*

Here are some principles for successful marriages. **Respect God’s will.**—Marry in His will and you are on your way to a happy life!

**Keep romance alive!**—Song of Solomon 1:1, 2, “The song of songs, which is Solomon’s. Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.” Verse 15, “Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves’ eyes.” When was the last time you told your wife she was “fair,” or beautiful?

*“We are souls living in bodies. Therefore when we really fall in love, it isn’t just physical attraction. If it is just that, it won’t last. Ideally, it’s also spiritual attraction. God has opened our eyes and let us see into someone’s soul. We have fallen in love with the inner person, the person who is going to live forever. That’s why God is the greatest asset to romance. He thought it up in the first place. Include Him in every part of your marriage, and He will lift it above the level of the mundane to something rare and beautiful and lasting.”*

—Peter Marshall.

**The place of charity in your marriage.**—Beyond the biblical responsibilities placed on the husband, as provider and head of this household, is a sacred trust you must not transgress. Beyond the biblical responsibilities placed on the wife, as a willing helpmeet and companion, is a sacred trust you dare not transgress. That trust is the foundation for every successful marriage. Yea, it is the foundation for every positive relationship involving the family of man. That trust—that foundation—is love.

If you want a happy marriage, you need to build

### ABOUT THE COVER

Life is full of obstacles. The Christian faces many difficulties, trials and tests, but he has God on his side, who has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. On page 2 you will find a radio message which we believe will inspire you!

# THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

**Vol. 82 April 2024 No. 4**

*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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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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of each other. There is a real devil who will try to get you two to imagine evil things of the other. Give him no place.

Husband, your wife is the one God has chosen for you. She is special. Build her up and make her an even better and more complete individual. You have the ability to do that. Never degrade her. Never belittle her. Defend her, stand by her, protect her, enrich her life by being the finest husband she could ever ask for. Continue to romance her as long as you both shall live.

Wife, your husband is the one man on Earth God has chosen for you. He is your man. Give yourself to him. Stand beside him, support him, obey him, cherish him, assume that all he does, he does out of love for you. Even when you might not understand, or even when you occasionally disagree with him, be that wonderful supportive wife God would have you to be. When the whole world may be against him, stand with him, for he is yours and you are his. Never allow the enemy to drive a wedge between you.

“Charity beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. There it is. Love—true love—is unconquerable. Your marriage is under attack, but true God-given love in operation will not—cannot—fail. This life you are living together will stand the tests of time because it will be lived daily exercising the principles of love.

Is your marriage a beautiful love story or just a union of convenience? You still have time to write your own love story. †

on mutual love and respect for each another. You cannot build on physical attraction alone. You need a special kind of love. There are different kinds of love, and one of the loves the Bible speaks about is from a Greek word, “agape.” I’m quoting, “Agape love is not sexual love. Agape love is selfless love. Agape is not born of a lover’s need nor does it have its source in the love object. Agape doesn’t exist in order to get what it wants, but empties itself to give what the other needs. Its motives rise wholly from within its own nature. Agape love lives in order to die to self, for the blessedness of just caring for one another, spending for one another and spending itself for the sake of the beloved. If you have agape love, you empty yourself out for the happiness of your companion.”

Charity seeketh not her own—is not selfish. If you husband, strive to give of yourself to make your wife happy, and you wife, strive to give of yourself to make your husband happy, you both will be recipients of God’s principle—“Give and it shall be given unto you.”

“Charity suffers long and is kind.” Don’t overlook the power of kindness. Some couples believe once they are married they have a carte blanche to treat each other in a manner unbecoming to charity. They become rude and uncaring of each other’s feelings. This is fatal to a marriage. Certainly, disagreements will arise, but if they are approached with mutual respect and kindness, solutions tend to rise to the surface rapidly.

“Charity thinketh no evil.” Always support one another and assume the best of one another. You are going to find out that your mate has shortcomings. So what? This human being God has given you to share your life with is less than absolutely perfect. Bear with the shortcomings and accentuate the positive attributes

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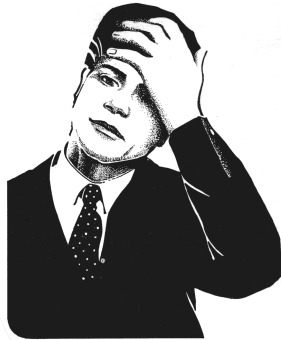
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*Highlights of February meeting*

# TRYING TO COPE WITH THE BURDENS OF LIFE

Radio Message by Bro. James Arch

**I** WILL BE speaking on “Trying to Cope with the Burdens of Life.” I’ll be reading from Psalm 42 and from I Peter, chapter 5. Psalm 42, beginning with verse 3: “My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.” And from I Peter 5, verses 6 and 7: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”



The word *disquieted* means, “a deprivation of peace or rest or trouble.” The word *care* means, in part, “a burdened state of mind as that arising from heavy responsibilities or from worry.”

The text in Psalm 42 is actually the basic source of the Psalmist’s problem: not absence from the temple, but his lonely sense of separation from God. There was a longing for the personal fellowship with the living God described by a panting deer overcome by thirst. You’ll find that in verse 2: “My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”

What Peter was saying was that God concerns Himself with the things that concern us. That’s the kind of God we serve. It’s a clear reference to Psalm 55:22, which says: “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.”

There’s an old song in the *Redemption Song Book* that we don’t sing too often, but we do sing it. It says—

*My Father has many dear children;  
Will He ever forget to keep me?  
He gave His own Son to redeem them,  
And He cannot forget to keep me.*

*Our Father remembers the sparrows,  
Their value and fall He doth see;  
But dearer to Him are His children,  
And He’ll never forget to keep me.*

*The words of the Lord are so priceless,  
How patient and watchful is He;  
Tho’ mother forget her own offspring,  
Yet He’ll never forget to keep me.*

It goes on to extend an invitation to experience this love of God and His care—

*O brother, why don’t you accept Him?  
He offers salvation so free;  
Repent and believe and obey Him,  
And He’ll never forget to keep thee.  
Thank God for that beautiful song.*

We live in a world today where there is a lot of fear and apprehension on every hand. We know that. Some people can take a lot more than others can take. Some people are strong emotionally. Some people are not so strong emotionally. Even spiritually, some have stronger faith than others. The Bible tells us that there are measures of faith, of course. I’ve seen people with faith so strong that it was hard to comprehend. There are people in the world today with very, very strong faith in God, and they see a lot accomplished as a result of that, too. But there are others who are not that strong in their faith. There are those who are very strong physically; they have a strong body. There are those who don’t have a strong body. They might be weakly or sickly, but down inside they can have that deep-settled peace and rest in their souls in spite of their physical or emotional problems.

Many still fear to travel in the world today. In fact, there are those who won’t travel on an airplane. There are those who fear the managers that they work under. Sometimes we hear about that. There are those who fear their husbands, and maybe those who fear their wives. I don’t know. Many children fear their fathers, too, in the world we’re living in today. There are those who fear water and even darkness. They won’t go from one room to the other. Many just worry about everything in life. Millions wonder, and rightly so, about their next meal to eat. It’s a very, very real world. I tell the church all the time in my ministry here in Cayman: we aren’t as thankful as we should be for the blessings of the Lord upon us here.

Peter and Paul both remind us that there is a Burden-bearer. Thank God when it seems you can’t go to anyone else, you can go to God. There are those who don’t have time for others these days, either. But Jesus understood that there would be worry among the human family, and He began and ended His ministry on that theme. He said in John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” The disciples at that time had a right to be perplexed. That’s why Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled.” Jesus’ closing address in the upper room was, “Let not your heart be troubled.”

Jesus opened His ministry the same way. If you’ll look in Matthew, chapter 6, there is a wonderful record, a wonderful set of scriptures there that reminds us that we shouldn’t worry too much, or fret about the things of life too much, but to cast our burdens on the Lord. They can overwhelm us, you know. Verse 25: “Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” In other words, Is not the life more than the material things and the natural things of life? There are some things beyond that, My Beloved Friends. Jesus expounded on that here.

The Bible asks a question: “What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” That’s a big question, too. It also says, “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” No man will ever gain the whole world. That’s not possible. What the writer is referring to there was this: whatever becomes our master and our lord in the material world that keeps us down and enslaves us, it’s our world. I won’t have time on this broadcast to identify some of the things that become our world, but that’s what Jesus said Himself. Those words found in Matthew 6 are the words of Jesus.

Jesus suggested six steps for overcoming anxious care. He said in Matthew 6:19-21: “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” That’s explanatory in itself. Verses 22-24: “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” In other words, we can’t have two masters. We’ll either work for one or the other.

Jesus said that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. He extended an invitation to people who were carrying heavy burdens and loads and worries. He said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” The Bible tells us that the way of the transgressor is hard. That is found in the Bible.

Jesus suggested that we rejoice in the miracle of each new day. We can always help ourselves, you know. We have an enemy called the devil. He’s called Satan or the devil. He’s very active in the world today, regardless of who might think so or not. Look around at what is taking place in our world today. Because of the fall in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve sinned and brought sin upon the whole world. We’re still suffering because of that today. Thank God for the bridge, thank God for the Mediator between God and man, which is Jesus Christ who came to give us the privilege to get out of sin and to live for Him in peace and tranquility. Jesus went on to say in Matthew 6:25 and 26: “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not [What a description!], neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

Jesus suggested that we admit the folly of worrying. It really doesn’t make any sense to worry. Someone said, and I quote: “Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.” Jesus goes on to say, “Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?” (verse 27 of Matthew 6).

Jesus suggested that we remember His loving care: “And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these” (Matthew 6:28, 29). If you can’t afford a new shirt, sew the button on to the old one and wear it. That’s how the old people had to live. Let me tell you, there’s a lot of waste in our world now, too.

Jesus suggested that we trust His faithfulness: “Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” (Matthew 6:30). He didn’t leave it open. He said He would do these things for us. God knows we need clothes and food and shelter. He knows that well. He wasn’t referring to that at all. He was referring to having a strong faith in Him. When you’re going through your burdens and your problems and your cares, trust in the Lord. The best way to do this is to live one day at a time. Matthew 6:31-34: “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Where-withal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

Cast your burdens upon the Lord, My Friends, and He will sustain thee. Trust in Him for what you need. †

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## STEPS HEAVENWARD

By the late R. L. Berry

### Chapter XI

#### Our Daily Bread

**B**VERY KIND of life must be sustained by food. Unless the animals find food they will starve and die, and the living plant will wither away if it is deprived of the substances that sustain it. Man is both physical and spiritual. His is the most wonderful organism in the world, being just a little lower than the angels, and high above the brute creation. On his physical side, man partakes of material things like any other animal, and works; and on the spiritual side he reaches up to angels and to God and communicates with them. This of itself is a most wonderful truth to contemplate.

Young converts are likened in the Bible to newborn babes. The prophet Isaiah thus beautifully portrays the young converts to the church: “For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children ... Rejoice ye with Jerusalem ... that ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory ... Then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees” (Isaiah 66:8-12).

This picture of the new convert is full of tender meaning and brings fond recollections of mother and home to our minds. There we see the infant nursing close up to its mother's breast the warm, soft milk that is both food and drink to its precious young life. Now it is satisfied with food and it is being dandled and amused on the mother's knees. Again, the father takes it in his strong arms and carries it about for its pleasure and profit. A young convert in the church is like a newborn infant.

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (I Corinthians 3:1, 2). Not so much is expected of young converts as of older Christians. Sometimes this point is overlooked by those who have been a long time on the way, and young converts are condemned for things that they should not be condemned for, because they are babes, and things do not look the same to babes as to old men. The young convert should not take refuge behind this fact and insist on remaining a babe, he should use every means to become strong in God. The Lord has told us how to do this.

"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and all hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:1, 2). The Word, God's Word, the Bible, is this sincere milk upon which the young convert must feed.

Young Christian, the new life that you have received from God can be sustained only by the Word of God.

"Your life, my young brother, will largely depend on whether you learn to deal wisely and well with God's Word, whether you learn to use the Word from the beginning as your milk.

"See what a charming parable the Lord has given us here in the mother's milk. Out of her own life does the mother yield food and life to her child. The feeding of the child is the work of the tenderest love, in which the child is pressed to the breast, and is held in the closest fellowship with the mother. And the milk is just what the weak child requires—food gentle and yet strong.

"Even so is there in the Word of God the very life and power of God. His tender love will, through the Word, receive us into the gentlest and most intimate fellowship with himself. His love will give us out of the Word what is, like warm, soft milk, just fitted for our weakness. Let no one suppose that the Word is too high or too hard for him. For the disciple who receives the Word, and trustfully relies on Jesus to teach him by the Spirit, the Word of the Lord shall practically prove to be gentle, sweet milk for newborn infants."

—Andrew Murray.

This writer has the right point of view. He sees the Word as the very food prepared by our loving heavenly Father to sustain His newborn children in spiritual life; not only sustain, but the food that will induce and produce growth, until by and by they can take, not milk alone, but the strong meat of the truth.

Come with me, young convert, and listen to some words from the lips of Jesus. He is probably standing

in the doorway of the house of Simon Peter, who runs a fishing business on the Sea of Galilee and who has placed his home at Jesus' disposal. Yesterday Jesus fed several thousand people over on the other side of the sea, and He returned by walking most of the way on the water, while the disciples returned in a boat, after a hard time in a storm. The miracle of yesterday, multiplying fish and bread, is still the uppermost thought in the minds of the crowd that fills the street in front of Peter's house, and Jesus is saying, "I am the bread of life." And these Jews think that Jesus probably means that He will give them His body to eat. Jesus sees the wrong idea and says further, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). Jesus' words are in the Bible, and reading and believing and receiving it is hearing and believing and receiving Jesus Himself. The Word of God is the chief sustenance of every Christian.

Christians throughout the ages have always gone to the Word of God for comfort and sustenance in time of need.

A poor soldier in the Crimean War fell to the ground to die. "One drop! one drop!" he cried. "Not a drop in my canteen," said his comrade; "what can I do for you?" "Bill, open my knapsack and get it—my Bible—and let me have a drop from it." Bill obeyed, and began to read. "That's it," said the soldier. "It's the blood that heals the smarts. The blood of Christ makes peace. I shall never get home to England again; but I shall get to a better country, through Christ, the living way. Ah, Bill, if the Bible was written for any man, it was written for me." He drew sustaining grace in a dread hour.

A remarkable instance of the power of the Word to sustain a Christian is concerning the reformer Luther. He was on his way to the German diet at Worms, where he was to appear to be judged for writing against the papacy. Luther well knew that if he were delivered up to his enemies, it would mean a burning stake for him; but he went, trusting God. A certain Count Eberhard determined to ambush Luther and make away with him. Luther came into the town and took a room. About five the next morning he arose, laid his Bible on a chair, and knelt down on his knees and read and prayed, "O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: lest he tear my soul like a lion ... while there is none to deliver" (Psalm 7:1, 2). The Psalm he read was his prayer. He read on and prayed.

In an adjoining house the man who was going to kidnap Luther rose early also, as he was agitated about his project. He looked out and down to a figure kneeling before an open book in a room across the narrow alley from where he was. The Count heard the prayer, and it made an indelible impression upon him. Yet he had no idea it was Luther. The Count asked the landlord who that praying person might be, and was told it was Luther. He was thunder-struck; but he went across, found Luther's room, fell on his knees, confessed his evil device, implored pardon, and told how Luther's words had overpowered him. "Not my word," said Luther, "but the Word of the Lord ... for the Word of the Lord endureth forever." God's Word was a sustaining power to Luther at the most trying hour of his life.

The Word is our bread. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). Faith is developed by reading or hearing the Word of God. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is impossible to read the Bible diligently without having one's faith increased.

### How to Read the Bible

Young converts, unless they are well-versed in the Scriptures, should first read the New Testament. Begin with Matthew and read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the four Gospels. Next read the Acts of the Apostles, which tells what some of the apostles did after Jesus ascended to heaven. Then the Epistles may be taken up and read in order. Revelation is written in highly figurative language and is hard for a young convert to understand; but it does not matter particularly about reading that for a while, as it is a prophecy of the church through the ages and can be studied later.

The Psalms is the best book of the Old Testament for young converts to read. The Psalms cover every phase of human existence and religious experience, and are full of prayers, praises, exhortations, just fitted for new beginners.

Read carefully, slowly, grasping the meaning. Read to get the food out of it. Some people read so carelessly or so rapidly that very little good comes of it. Do not be in a hurry; cultivate the art of meditation. It will become a wonderful blessing. Read in faith, believing with all the heart everything you find written. Read the Bible, especially the New Testament, as if God had written to you, personally, a letter. If you should receive a letter from a dear relative or friend, stating it was their last, and telling you many things you desire to know, would you not value it highly and preserve it carefully? The New Testament is God's last message to man, and though He wrote it by inspiring men, yet it should be received as the very Word of God to us.

You will find, young convert, commands, promises, exhortations, instructions, and doctrine in the Testament. When you are tempted, read Matthew 4:1-11; I Corinthians 10:9-13; James 4:7, 8. If you have hard trials, read I Peter 1:6, 7 and 4:12-19. If you are sick, read James 5:13-18. If you feel weak, read II Corinthians 12:9, 10 and Romans 8. If you feel discouraged, read John 14 and Joshua 1. If you feel that your faith is weak, read Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 9:14-27; Matthew 28:19, 20 and Mark 11:20-24. If you want to do just right when one does you an injustice or injury, read Matthew 18:15-17, and be sure to follow it. If you feel as though you would like to stay away from services, read Hebrews 10:25. If you want to grow in grace, read II Peter 1:5-9. If you desire to know how to use your tongue, read James 3; Colossians 3:8, 9 and Ephesians 4:29. If you feel angry, read Ephesians 4:26, 27. If you feel as though you would like to pout, read Romans 8:28, and if you believe it you will never pout again. If you are persecuted, read Romans 8:35-39.

If you want to know how to be blessed, read Matthew 5:2-12. If you want to know more about love, read I Corinthians 13; if about the resurrection, read I Corinthians 15.

By careful reading one may soon learn just where to look in the Bible to find something that will satisfy every need of the soul. There is no state, no discouragement, no trial, nothing, so dark or gloomy but that there is some Bible text to drive it away and give the soul peace and rest.

Use the Bible, that is, learn to use it to aid you. Some young converts, and old ones too, seem never to learn that the Bible is really God's Book, and that it means what it says and that it contains instructions on what to do and how to meet every situation in life. They read the Bible, but not closely enough to know where to go in any special time of need. How much better to know just where to find a promise that exactly fits our need!

Read the Bible daily. You eat three meals a day for your body's sake and think you can let the soul go day after day without food and yet grow in grace. It cannot be done. If the young convert is the head of the family, the Bible should be read as a part of family worship, both morning and night. If he is not head, then take some time to read the Bible. Workmen have been known to carry a pocket Testament and read it at noon or at other times during the day. Make the Bible your constant companion and guide through this life. By and by life will end, and if you have followed God's Chart, the Bible, you will be safe forever.†



These questions and answers are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book, 1946- 2001*.

**Q**UESTION: Are people born again when they are converted? Some say you are born again when converted and some say you are not born again until you are sanctified. Please give scriptures.

**A**NSWER: Can a person be converted and not have spiritual life? Can a person have spiritual life and not be born again? A person who has sinned and thus died **MUST BE BORN AGAIN** before he can have spiritual life. This happens when he is converted. "But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12, 13; John 3:1-9; James 1:18; I Peter 1:23; I John 5:1, 3, 4. You have to be **IN** the church before you can be sanctified (Ephesians 5:25-27; Hebrews 13:12) and the experience of the new birth is what makes you a member of God's church.

**Q**UESTION: Will you please tell me where the scripture is that tells where the devil came from?

ANSWER: There is no such scripture. We can only arrive at the truth through the study of the Bible. One thing is sure, Satan has NOT always existed; otherwise he would be another God. This being true, then he was created, but God did not create him evil. Jesus said he (the devil) was the father of the lie, then there was a period when he was not a liar. Jesus also said “everlasting fire” was “PREPARED for the devil and his angels.” So there was a period when this lake of eternal fire did not exist. So it would seem clear that somewhere along the way the spirit that is now the devil was a good spirit. I am not saying he was an angel, and I’m not saying he was cast out of heaven. The devil, as the devil, was never in heaven, but it seems clear he fell and thus God had to PREPARE a place for him, and all who serve this evil spirit will go where he is in eternity.

Let me point out, the scripture in Revelation 12 and those in Isaiah 14 have NO reference to the devil. Isaiah clearly states he is speaking of a MAN (verse 16) and the dragon in Revelation 12 is a symbol of Paganism. We need to be more concerned about how to defeat Satan than where he came from!

QUESTION: In I Thessalonians 4:17 it says that we shall be “caught up together ... to meet the Lord in the air” when the world shall have fled away. How do you account for Revelation 11:15, “And he shall reign for ever and ever”? Where shall He reign then?

ANSWER: Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is reigning now with the Father. When time is no more, when the earth is melted and gone, He will continue to reign with the Father and the saved of all ages shall reign with Him. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Revelation 3:21).

QUESTION: Could you explain Matthew 28:19 and Acts 10:48?

ANSWER: In Matthew 28:19 we have the words of the Master as He instructed His followers to go into all the world with the gospel message. He knew that some would believe and be saved. Those who did were to be baptized. In this verse Jesus tells them how to baptize and in what name. Jesus meant what He said, and I am sure His disciples DID what He told them. Now Acts 10:48 does not cross nor change Matthew 28:19. The statement in this verse simply means that the ones were baptized by and through the authority that the Lord gave—and this authority was given in Matthew 28:19.

The President of the United States appoints and sends out ambassadors after they are approved by the Senate, and they act in the name of the United States, in the name of the President, in other words by and through the authority the President and our government gives them. Peter and the others did the same, and there is no reason for us to believe they DISOBEYED the Master’s instructions. Paul spoke of being an ambassador for Christ. It is my understanding that all of God’s ministers are.

QUESTION: Please explain the following scripture: I Peter 1:2—“Elect according to the foreknowledge of

God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.” (a) Please explain “elect” as used in the scripture. (b) Is that “election” achieved through the sanctification by the Holy Spirit? (c) What is the relevance of the “sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” to this election?

ANSWER: The word *election*, as used in the Scriptures, has more than one meaning: (1) “The election of individuals to perform some particular service.” (2) “That of nations or groups of persons to exalted religious privileges.” (3) “That of individuals to divine sonship and future blessedness on the ground of divine foresight of their disposition freely to choose salvation.”

—Russell R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*.

This “election” is NOT to be understood as “predestination,” as taught by Calvin. A person is “chosen out” by faith and obedience. Jesus said if a person would not repent, then he/she would perish (Luke 13:2-5). These verses, along with many others, show we have a will in the matter and must use that will. If this is not true, then Peter’s words in II Peter 1:10 are meaningless; for there he says, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

Vine, in his comments on the word, refers the reader to the word *choose* in his book, and there he says “to pick out, select, means, in the Middle Voice, to choose for oneself, not necessarily implying the rejection of what is not chosen ...”

Now as to the “b” part of your question: The word *sanctification* has a number of meanings, and one is to be separated, or cleansed from sin. So it takes the Holy Spirit to convict and draw a sinner to Christ, and he must respond to be saved. He must be “born of the Spirit,” and then to be cleansed from the depraved nature he must be filled with the Spirit. So the Spirit plays a very important part in the “election” of every soul.

“C” part of your question: This draws from the Old Testament tabernacle service where blood was sprinkled on the brazen altar outside the tabernacle, and the golden altar inside the tabernacle, and conveys to us the fact that the only way any soul can be saved is through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. †

### **WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!**

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at [www.wayoftruth.org](http://www.wayoftruth.org) where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can watch our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M and 6:00 P.M. E.D.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.

Also, we now have a site streaming Church of God music and messages 24/7 recorded during our services. It can be found by going to [wayoftruth.org](http://wayoftruth.org) and clicking on:

[Way of Truth Internet Radio](http://Way of Truth Internet Radio)



# THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD PREACHED TO YOU

Message by Bro. Terry Deville, Deville, LA



**A**RE YOU HAPPY to be a child of God? Isn't it wonderful to be able to arise and look out at a beautiful Sunday morning and see the glory of God everywhere? I am so thankful to be a child of God.

I only want to preach what God wants me to preach. God forbid that I should preach anything else. I realize it is a great responsibility to preach the gospel. I know the devil fights the preaching of the Word harder than anything else because he hates God's Word. But I believe I'm speaking to a people who love the Word of God. So I ask for your prayers this morning.

Turn with me to I Peter chapter 1. I'll begin reading from verse 22: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." I'd like to entitle our message based on the 25<sup>th</sup> verse: "This is the Word of the Lord Which Is Preached Unto You."

As I was meditating on this thought, my mind went back to King Ahasuerus. King Ahasuerus was the ruling king over the provinces of the Medo-Persians. If you remember the story, there was a man by the name of Haman who was one of his servants. Because of a Jew named Mordecai not bowing down to Haman when he would pass by, Haman plotted with the king. He lied to the king and deceived him into believing that the Jews were his enemies, and therefore they needed to be destroyed. This great king of this great nation made a proclamation. He sent out letters to all the provinces of the Medo-Persians that every Jew was to be killed on a certain day of the month. When those letters went out, when those words were declared to the people in the provinces, those words struck fear and terror into the Jewish people. They were bewildered. They didn't know what to do, for here were the words of a ruling force of the whole world. Those words were backed up by the power and authority of that nation.

Dear Ones, in spite of those words spoken by that king, God was watching the whole matter, and He had it in His control. God had been preparing a certain woman by the name of Esther. This woman was a Jewish woman, a very beautiful woman. It wasn't long before she had found favor with this great king. He married Esther, and she became queen of that great nation. Although the decree had gone out to slaughter all of the Jewish people—even the children—the young-

est to the eldest, God had prepared this woman, and through the efforts of Mordecai, they were able to expose the devil's plan, and the words of the king were changed. Haman, the very one who plotted the death of Mordecai and all his people, was hanged on the very gallows that he built for Mordecai.

## GOD'S POWER SUPERSEDES ALL

Now, my point here is this: The words of the kings of this earth are with authority and with power, but we serve One whose power and words supersede all the kings of this world. "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" this morning.

I thought of the US Constitution and the many freedoms that are spelled out in our Constitution. We have many freedoms in this great land in which we live. We have a Bill of Rights. We have more freedoms and rights in this great country than all the other countries. Do you know that there have been thousands of good men who died on the battlefields to secure and to protect those freedoms and those rights? The Constitution holds some very powerful and mighty words. But, Dear Ones, Jesus Christ said, "I have come to set the captives free." There's a freedom greater than our Constitution, and we're enjoying that freedom this morning. Our minds go to those who were burned at the stake, to those who were crucified and sawn asunder for the freedom Jesus Christ had given them. "And they overcame him [the dragon] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11). I tell you, Brethren, we have something worth fighting for.

We think of prime ministers and kings of this world who speak with authority, but the Word of God is quick and powerful. What we are preaching unto you today is the almighty Word of God which shall endure forever. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Have you ever been in a worship service where a preacher began to preach the Word of God, and all of a sudden your character was brought to light? Or, your weaknesses and your faults were brought to light? It has happened to me. Has it ever happened to you? Of course, the devil is right there whispering, "He's just preaching at you. He's just picking and finding fault with you." But, Brethren, it is the Word of God that we are to preach as ministers of the gospel, even to the discerning of your very thoughts and intents of your heart. Many times the preacher doesn't know what's

really going on, but the Holy Ghost, who oversees the Church of God, sees what's going on in your life. We have been charged to preach the Word of God. So when a minister is preaching under the anointing of the Spirit, and he mentions some faults and weaknesses, don't rebel against the preacher. Just remember that it is the power of the Word of God which is sharper than any two-edged sword going forth. It goes deeper into your soul than any two-edged sword can go.

Solomon said this: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter [We're going to preach the Word to you.]: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Do you realize that is the Word of God being preached to you? We are to fear God. What does it mean "to fear God"? When a person fears God, he reverences God. He respects God. More than anything in this world, he doesn't want to displease God. He wants God's smile more than anything in this world.

Dear Ones, listen to me: I don't think that you want me to prophesy unto you smooth things. I don't believe that you want me to uphold you at any time in something that is not right. If you would want that, you wouldn't be true to yourself. We are charged to preach the Word. What does the Bible say? "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Whatsoever you do, do it to the glory of God. We need to look at ourselves and realize that we need to be at church on time and come with enthusiasm. What did I just bring to you from the Word of God? "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

#### **PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART IN GOD'S WORK**

As I was meditating on this message, I said, "Lord, are You sure You want me to say things like this?" I couldn't get away from it. We need to be on time for church, and we need to have enthusiasm about the things of God. This is no playhouse for children to run around the benches and be playing with games. Things need to be explained to them. Their little hearts are tender towards the Lord. This is the house of God. It is not a place where little children and people go up and down to the restroom all the time. This is a place where we come to worship God in Spirit and in truth. This is a place to give Him our best. If we want God to bless us, and continue to bless us, we must put our whole hearts into His service. We are to fear God and reverence Him. Let us do the things that are pleasing to God. I want God's favor more than anything in this world.

The Bible says this: "Receive with meekness the engrafted word." It also says: "Let thy words be few." It means a lot to obey the Word of God, doesn't it? There's a saying that I've heard Church of God preachers say, and it bothers me: "It seems like when we preach the Word, and it goes forth to the congregation, it's like water rolling off a duck's back." I've heard Bro. Alvin, Bro. Junior, and Bro. James make those types of statements. Dear Ones, that's not the way it should be. When we realize that the preaching, under the anointing of God, is the Word of God going forth, we better take heed unto what the Word has to say. Again, the Bible says, "Receive with meekness the engrafted word," and "Let thy words be few." Open up your hearts this morning

and receive what the engrafted Word has to say to you. Let your words be few.

There are some people who talk too much. They just want to dominate a conversation. It seems like you can't get a word in. They just want to talk and talk and talk. But, the Bible says, "Let thy words be few." Proverbs 10:19, "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin [Think of that!]: but he that refraineth his lips is wise." "Even a fool, when he spareth his words is counted as wise."

Listen to me. The Bible also says this: "Be not rash with thy mouth; be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry." It seems like many men are just given to impatience, but we can't be satisfied with that. We have to work on this weakness, or this weakness will overtake each and every one of us. We cannot be satisfied with our faults. We have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

#### **ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN YOURSELF**

There is a difference in talking about the facts and being critical and just judging. It's true we shall know them by their fruits, but I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about saying *what I will do, or what I would do in that situation*. Be careful, because Jesus said, "With what measure ye judge, ye shall be judged." Brethren, it is time to take care of our own selves. Pray for those whom you have a concern about. Do you know a person who talks, talks, and talks, sooner or later he gets into that kind of spirit? Sooner or later he starts to talk about the faults and weaknesses of other people. But, the Bible says, "Let us esteem each man better than ourselves."

This old feeling about *I'm more spiritual than the other brother, I have more knowledge than the other brother* might be true statements, but I tell you, Dear Ones, to get to comparing yourself with the weaknesses of your brethren, you're leading yourself to folly and to vanity. One good way to keep esteeming other people better than yourself is to compare your weaknesses with their strengths. Brethren, Peter said, "Love one another with a pure heart fervently."

Jesus said that the lusts of your father ye will do. I was reading my newspaper yesterday, and I saw a picture there that really hurt my heart. I saw a man with such a distressful look as the policeman was trying to hold him back, for you see, he had just found out that in his wife's trailer home, his four children had been brutally murdered. Someone had taken several butcher knives and stabbed and mutilated his four teenaged children—three girls and one young boy. I got to thinking about that. I read how he and his wife were divorced. Do you understand what I'm saying? The lusts of your father you will do. This just didn't happen overnight, but their mother and their father were divorced as a result of sin. Their mother was not even at the trailer home at that time. We now see the result of serving the devil. If their mother and father were serving God, there wouldn't have been a divorce. If they had been serving God, they would have been watching what their children were doing, where they were going, and with whom they were associating. Don't let your sons and daughters associate with everyone. They may

put up a fuss, but Dear Ones, you have the responsibility of guiding the home. They're looking to you for guidance. I read this in the early part of the week: In the town of Leesville, there were three suicides in one day. Then down close to Jonesville just the other day, a man put a shotgun to his head and blew his brains out. Dear Ones, where are your affections this morning? Let me tell you, it is a serious thing to be serving the devil, for the Word of God which cannot fail, says, "The lusts of your father ye will do."

I realize that sometimes the Word gets a little dim, gets a little hard. Sometimes we're pressed down. We are discouraged and perplexed. It seems like the whole world is coming against us, but God's way is best, and it far exceeds anything that the devil can offer. God's ways are much higher than the ways of this evil world. We must say as Paul, "None of these things are going to move me, Lord. Although the Holy Ghost has witnessed to me that in every city, bonds and afflictions await me, yet Dear Lord, none of these things are going to move me, for I am persuaded that You love me, and You will keep me until my dying day." We need to be persuaded, Saints, that none of these things are going to move us.

I tell you, Brethren, I have a longing to see the Church of God shining out in her glory as she did in the early morning times. But, Dear Ones, we can't get our eyes on the discouragements and the disappointments. We can't get our eyes upon the hardships and the troubles. Sometimes God has to clear our eyes because they get so fogged up with the things around us. Sometimes God has to bring us to a place of reality. Sometimes He has to take a little bit from us. Sometimes He has to allow disappointments to come to bring us to the reality of what is the most needful thing. Let us be like Mary instead of Martha. Let us sit at Jesus' feet and herald the wonderful words of life. No wonder Paul said to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

### **THE WORD OF GOD ENCOURAGES US**

I am thankful the Word not only corrects us, instructs us, and reproves us, but the Word of God also encourages us and strengthens us. Peter said, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." Dear Ones, we might as well get it settled in our hearts that God will never forget us, no matter what comes our way. No matter how it seems, God's Word will never fail us.

The Lord makes this comparison: "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee" (Isaiah 49:15). Think about it. The mother and a child. Shall a mother forget her suckling child, that she have no compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, sometimes a mother might do that, but He said, "Yet will I not forget thee." He will never, never forget you.

The Word of God tells us that no matter what we face, God's grace is sufficient for every need. Do you believe that this morning? Dear Friends, we're always crossing bridges before we even get to them, but His

grace is sufficient for every day. We cannot have tomorrow's grace. We need grace for today. Let us not live in tomorrow, but let us live today.

Why do you think God tells us "to fear not"? Why do you think He tells us "to be anxious for nothing"? Why do you think God tells us "to cast all our cares upon Me"? Because His Word is not going to fail us. He's going to make a way of escape, no matter the problems and troubles we're going through. I tell you, we need to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. God will deliver His people.

How many times have we been going through some troubles and trials and we would sit down with the blessed old Bible, and there we would read the precious promises of God? Do you do that, Saints? If not, you're living so below your privileges. It is in the time of trials and suffering that we need to take the Word of God, which shall never fail and endures forever, and sit down and let that Word become real to us. Oh, many a time during the trials and the troubles of the day, or when people misunderstand or persecute us, we are able to sit down with the Holy Word of God and read, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." I tell you, the Spirit makes it so real to me that I just want to rejoice and give God the praise and honor. Also, the Bible tells us, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Dear Ones, let us sit down with the Word of God. Let the Spirit of God make it real to us. The truth of God's Word will make you strong and valiant. It will make you a good soldier for God. The devil will not give in easily. There is a fight, a fight to the finish, but let us fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life.

### **TAKE THE WORD OF GOD SERIOUSLY**

The Word of God tells us that Jesus purchased the Church of God with His own blood. Isn't that what the Bible says? What are people going to do with that Word? Also, it says that the Church of God is the pillar and the ground of the truth. That's not Bro. Terry's words. That is the blessed old Bible. We have many denominations around calling themselves by all different kinds of names when the Bible says that Jesus purchased the Church of the living God with His blood. Dear Ones, we need to be careful where we go and where we worship. There is a spirit working out there to deceive the multitudes. Any religion that teaches you that you cannot help sinning is not the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have not been charged to preach any doctrine of man or any opinions; but Brethren, woe is me if I preach not the Word of God! I realize that you all know that there are some people out there who are saved, but I tell you one thing, if they're saved, they've been born again. Speaking in tongues hasn't done anything but deceive many. Joining church has done nothing but deceive many. Saying that water baptism has washed away their sins has done nothing but deceive them. We need to realize what these people teach before we associate ourselves with them. So the Word of God is powerful. It's quick. It's sharper than any two-edged sword. It is our responsibility to receive it, to love it, and to live it. What does the Bible say? "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

# THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



## TURNING BACK TIME

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

Loved Ones, we need to take the Word of God very, very seriously. We're in a warfare. We're surrounded by the spirit of the dragon, the false prophet, and the spirit of the beast. We are surrounded with these spirits. But, Church of God, listen to the promise. Listen to the Word of God that Jesus Christ Himself said, "Ask, and ye shall receive." Are we pleased with our loved ones in sin? Are we pleased with the way precious souls are being deceived? Of course not! We're not pleased. But we need to keep asking and asking until we see Babylon torn down by the Word of God. Is that our burden? Is it our vision that false religion would be exposed, and the Church of God have the power like she did in the early morning church? I ask you in all sincerity, Is that your prayer daily? Can that promise be broken? "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9). The condition is this: keep asking until we receive.

We have the parable of a man going to his friend's house at midnight, and he kept knocking and knocking. His friend told him to go away, but he kept knocking until the door was opened up unto him. Let us learn a lesson this morning. Let us ask and seek and knock until we see our community stirred, and the soul-saving station of the Church of God be increased and increased. Is that outside the realm of possibility? I say, no, a thousand times no!

Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Is that real to us? Do we believe it? Do you know how belief comes? Through hearing the Word of God. That's what you're hearing this morning. Another way to hear the Word of God is to get in your private home and there meditate upon these old blessed promises. Paul said, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen." Not one word of them will ever fail. Brethren, we don't have to take all the devil is bringing against the church. We have some authority and some power in the church. We just need to stand on the promises of God and not be moved. I tell you, it vexes me to see false prophets running here and there deceiving souls by the millions.

### CONCLUSION

Church, we have a promise in Revelation, chapter 8, that God would send down fire, but it's only when the saints are praying. So we have a responsibility to give Him no rest until Jerusalem, which is the church, is made a praise in the earth. But, Dear Ones, we have the blessed Word of God that tells us what to do. Let us take confidence in His Word. Let us obey every commandment of God. Let us give no place to the devil. Let us pray in the power and in the Spirit so we can see mighty giants raised up for God. The world needs to see spiritual giants in this sin-cursed age we're living in.

Are you ready for the call? Are you ready to fight the good fight of faith? Dear Ones, stand on the Word. Don't be moved from it for anything. Don't take your eyes off of God, and God will fulfill every promise.

May the Lord bless you is my prayer. †

"I wish we didn't have to do these dirty old dishes," my younger sister, Wilma, exclaimed. It was a beautiful spring evening, and the outdoors beckoned to us through the kitchen window. What my sisters and I wanted to do more than anything else that evening was to run through the pasture and the woods until dark. Instead, we were stuck behind the kitchen sink. There were piles of dirty dishes on the table and the counter, and getting them all washed and dried seemed like an insurmountable task.

"Shhh!" said Twila. "Don't let Mommy hear you! She'll make us say that poem a whole bunch of times." Twila pointed to the kitchen wall where our parents had hung one of their favorite poems. It had been written by someone named Mary Stuber, and it read like this:

*Thank God for dirty dishes;  
They have a tale to tell:  
While other folks go hungry,  
We're eating very well.  
With home, health, and happiness,  
We shouldn't want to fuss;  
For by this stack of evidence,  
God's been very good to us.*

Wilma, who was only seven, could recite every line of the poem, although she couldn't read all of the words yet. That was because we were asked by our parents to say the poem every time we complained about washing the dishes.

"I wish we had a dishwasher," said Twila. "Wouldn't it be nice to put all of the dishes in a machine, press the button, and then go out to play?"

"We'll never get a dishwasher," I told her. "Did you hear what Mommy told the company that was here for dinner last Sunday? One lady asked if she was going to get a dishwasher, and Mommy said she already had three of them."

"Three of them!" exclaimed Twila. "Where?" Twila was only nine, and so sometimes I had to explain things to her.

"She meant us!" I told her. "You, Wilma, and me. Three dishwashers!"

"Oh!" Twila exclaimed.

"Besides," I said, "only rich people can afford dishwashing machines."

"We'll never get these dishes done!" Twila groaned. "There are so many of them."

"Why don't we count them?" I said. "That way we can keep track of how many more we have to do each time we finish one."

“Will we have to count every single thing?” Wilma asked.

“Yes,” I said, “every single thing.”

“But that doesn’t make sense,” said Twila. “A fork or a spoon shouldn’t count as much as a pot or a skillet. They take a lot longer to wash, especially if you have to use the Tuffy scrubber on them.”

“Just think, though,” I said, “how nice it will be to check off the numbers really fast as we get each fork and spoon finished!”

“Are we going to write the numbers down on paper and then check them off?” Twila wanted to know.

“We can’t do that,” I said. “Our hands will be wet.”

“Then how will we keep track of how many dishes we have to do?” Twila asked.

I thought for a moment, and then an idea flashed into my mind. “We’ll sing the numbers to a tune we know,” I told her. “Every time we get another piece finished, we’ll change the number.”

We counted the dirty plates, saucers, drinking glasses, forks, knives, spoons, pots, and pans left to be washed, and then we began to sing: *Twenty-six, twenty-six, twenty-five, twenty-five, twenty-five, twenty-five ...*

I sang and washed dishes along with my sisters for a few moments, and then my singing came to a sudden stop. I pointed to the timer on the kitchen stove.

“Oh no!” I exclaimed. “The timer is going to ring in two minutes!” In all of our talking and planning, we had forgotten that our mother had set the timer and told us we must have the dishes finished by the time it went off.

“I’m tired of you taking so long to get the dishes done every day,” she had said. “I’m giving you thirty minutes to do the dishes this evening. If you don’t finish in time, no going outside to play afterwards.”

We had messed around and complained for more than fifteen minutes, and then we had spent another big chunk of our precious time counting the dishes that were left to wash. There was no way we could finish all of the dishes in two minutes.

My sisters and I stared at each other in horror. We could see our evening of outdoor play slipping away from us by the second.

Without stopping to think about the enormity of what I was about to do, I slipped over to the stove. I took hold of the timer dial, and I turned it back far enough to give us ten more minutes. “Let’s hurry!” I said to my sisters.

We no longer sang about the number of dishes we had left to do. Our fingers flew, scraping, washing, rinsing, and drying as fast as we could.

We were just finishing the last dish when our mother walked into the kitchen. She looked at the timer, and then she looked hard at me.

“What did you do—turn the timer back?” she asked me.

I hung my head in silence. How could I have thought that my mother wouldn’t know? She had more experience about the passing of time than I had realized.

“That was a deceitful and dishonest thing to do!” she exclaimed. “And what a bad example you set in front of your younger sisters!”

The full import of what I had done struck me, and I felt the sting of tears behind my eyes. I didn’t want to be a deceitful, dishonest person. I wanted to live a life that was good and true.

“Well, there will be no playing outside this evening,” our mother told us, “since you didn’t finish the dishes within the time I gave you.”

She paused and then pointed at me. “And there will be no playing outside for you tomorrow, either,” she said, “for trying to turn back time. It never pays to be deceitful.”

Although my heart was sad, I knew the consequence was fair. I had learned a lesson I would never forget.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 11:18 which says, *The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.* If we want to sow righteousness in our lives, we must ask the Lord to help us stay away from “deceitful work.” We must ask Him to help us be honest and true in everything we say and do.

### Activity

It never pays to be deceitful. Below are some Bible characters who learned that lesson the hard way. Choose one of the characters and ask an adult to help you read their story; then talk together about the lesson the character learned.

JACOB (Genesis 27)

GEHAZI (II Kings 5)

ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA (Acts 5:1-10)

### Answers to Last Month’s Activity

“And they brought young **children** to him, that he should **touch** them: and his disciples **rebuked** those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much **displeased**, and said unto them, **Suffer** the little children to come unto **me**, and **forbid** them not: for of such is the kingdom of **God**. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of **God** as a little **child**, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his **arms**, put his **hands** upon them, and **blessed** them.” †

#### POSTAGE RATES ON THE RISE!

Postage rates have been increasing at an alarming rate. We do not charge for the magazine. We depend on the generosity of our readers to help us in our endeavor to send this gospel messenger to all the world. Please remember this ministry in your giving.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

For many years, The Way of Truth publishing work has provided Church of God Sunday school literature for many congregations. If you would like a sample of Bible-based literature and a price list, please request it. We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. Write or call and order your sample today.

**THE  
POETRY  
PAGE**

**REMEMBER THY CREATOR**

**Flora Dawson**

“Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth,”  
Thus we read in the Gospel of Truth.  
Lest the evil days come, and the Spirit depart,  
In the days of thy youth, Son, give me thy heart.

Little David of old, in the days of his youth,  
Despised not the chastening, or words of reproof.  
With five chosen stones, and one single blow,  
In the name of the Lord, he slew Israel’s foe.

Later in years God sought for a man,  
A faithful leader to rule a great land.  
He chose David, and set him apart,  
God looks not at stature, but pureness of heart.

Don’t wait till your hair is silvering with gray,  
To give Him the heart He yearns for today.  
God needs in His service hearts young and strong,  
To fight the great battle of right against wrong.

**MELLOW ME, LORD**

**Rosa F. Anderson**

Oh, mellow me, Lord, with the years,  
Let Thy goodness envelop my life;  
Help me look for the good and do as I should,  
Avoiding all harshness and strife.

Oh, mellow me, Lord in my home  
With the dear ones that I love the best;  
Oh, may Thy great love atone for my faults,  
Love’s virtue enfolding the rest.

Oh, mellow me, Lord, with the years,  
Let Thy love find another through me;  
There’s no use to pray to reach others today  
If I am not gentle like Thee.

Oh, mellow me, Lord, so sweeten my life  
That my days may bring gladness, not tears;  
By nature I find I am not always kind—  
Please mellow me, Lord, through the years.

Oh, mellow me, Lord, for the twilight’s glow  
Of life that I know must come;  
When my sun sinks low and I’m called to go,  
In patience and love bear me home.

**THE JUDGMENT**

**L. Myrtle Shell**

The elements will melt with heat,  
The earth will pass away,  
And he who has not turned to God  
Will have no time to pray.  
God’s mercy will have reached an end,  
His wrath will then have sway,  
Then sinful man will hide his face,  
Too late, too late to pray.  
Will you, my friend, go on in sin  
Not heed this awful warning:  
He that is lost will still be lost  
On that great judgment morning.  
That which is pleasing still will please  
When time’s day has passed away,  
But there’s no hope for him who waits  
Until the judgment day.

**SONG IN THE HEART**

**Ina Jarvis Kellogg**

Give me a song in my heart  
When day begins to break;  
With the singing birds at dawn,  
Let my praise to God awake.

Give me a song through the day,  
Thanks to my risen Lord;  
Hosannas to Him belong,  
My Christ, beloved, adored.

Give me a song at night,  
As tears of joy upwell;  
His Spirit speaks to me,  
My Friend, Immanuel.

Give me a song when death  
Approaches through the gloom,  
A rapture that my King  
Leads to His crowning room.

Give me a song of peace  
Forever and for aye,  
A song to the Three-in-One  
Who washed my sins away. †

***“I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.”***

***—Psalm 77:6.***



Dear Young People,

Greetings! Listening to the voice of God is so important. You must always take time to listen and adhere to what He says to you. There are many distractions in our world that would lead you away in paying attention and staying close to God.

For this Young People's Page, we are sharing a full-length message preached this past January by Bro. David Martin, a young brother in our congregation. We trust and pray that it will be a blessing to you.

—Bro. Doug

## CAN YOU HEAR ME?

**U**SING FOR our text—Luke, chapter 8, verse 21: “And he [Jesus] answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.” The title of our few thoughts is, “Can You Hear Me?” It's a simple, caring, and concerned question.

Sometimes in life we are asked the question, Can you hear me? Sometimes it's very annoying and irritating when we can't hear one another, isn't it? We can't hear some words when someone is trying to tell us something. I already warned my wife that I would bring this up: Sometimes I say to her, “What did you say?” I feel sometimes that it's just repeated in the same direction, and in the same volume, and I still can't hear it. It is something that causes a problem because it is a stop in the communication. You don't know what the other person is saying.

Sometimes there's a lack of hearing between children and parents, and sometimes it's not because they can't physically hear, but maybe there's a lack of desire to hear. Maybe the children don't want to hear what the parents have to say. Maybe it's between co-workers in the workplace. A lot of noises happen in the workplace. At a print shop, there are a lot of noises. In a car shop, there are a lot of noises in different areas. If you work along the road somewhere, or in construction, sometimes there are a lot of noises around. Sometimes it's hard to hear what your foreman is saying or what a co-worker is trying to tell you. Maybe it happens between companions or someone you really feel close to, because you just think you know them well enough to know what they're going to say. You think you already can hear the words that are coming out of their mouth. It's something how our minds can hear things, even though we can audibly hear them, but if we think we already know what they're going to say, that's what we hear. Before too long, maybe something gets messed up or goes the wrong way or whatever the case might be: “I told you this.” “Are you sure you did? because I



thought I heard something else.” Maybe we just already think we know what they're going to say.

Sometimes there's a lack of hearing between people who are lost and those who are trying to find them, because they're just not in the same area. No matter how much they call out, they can't hear them because they're not even close enough to be able to hear. There's a distance. There's something blocking that hearing.

So often we hear of people hoping that God can hear them. We read in the Bible where different ones were asking and hoping that God would listen, and incline His ear towards them to hear what they had to say. But I'd like to think this evening in the other direction, to think about the asking coming from God.

Does God ever say, “Can you hear Me”? Does God ever think those words as He's trying to direct His children? “Can you hear Me?” Caringly, concernedly. He doesn't say it quietly, knowing you won't be able to hear Him. I don't think He says it just super annoyed, “Can't you even hear what I'm trying to tell you?” No, no, not like that, but simply, “Can you hear Me?”

### SOMETIMES WE FEEL DISTANT

This thought has been running through my head a good bit lately: *Sometimes we feel distant from God.* Don't we? Sometimes we just feel like there's a little dead spot, but we know He's always with us. I'm not saying that He leaves, but sometimes we just don't feel that we're as close to Him as we would like to be. We don't feel like we can hear God very well. What I realize is, it's my fault. It's my fault that I can't hear God. God wants us to hear Him. He desires to be close to us. He desires to tell us things that we need to know. He desires to give us good and solid direction. We're His children, but we're human, aren't we? I imagine sometimes it might be a little hard for God to get our attention, and to get us to be able to hear what He has to say to us.

I have a few points I'd like to bring out. These may be personal reasons that I've had experience with, and may be reasons why God just can't get a hold of us. Sometimes we just can't hear Him.

Let me ask this question before we discuss how to hear God: Does it really matter if we hear Him? Yes! Absolutely, 100% we need to be able to hear what God has to say to us. God is our Leader. He's the One that we're following. He's the One who knows the future. We need to be able to hear our Leader because He's directing us. He's the One who is our Beacon, our Lighthouse. He's the One that shows us the path that we need to go on. So we need to be able to hear Him and hear what He has to say.

Isaiah, chapter 48, verse 17 says: “Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.” God desires for us to prosper and to profit, doesn't He? He desires what's best for us, and He's able to give those directions for the good things in life. He's able to direct us towards the companion that we would be with the rest of our lives. He's able to direct us to those jobs, those career paths that we should take. God knows the future. He knows what we should do. We don't just have

to hope that the instructions He gives us will be for our good. He doesn't merely give us good instructions, no! He knows firmly, surely, and absolutely what would be the best way for us to go. He knows just what we need. Yes, it does matter if we hear what God wants to tell us. In fact, it can determine whether we make heaven our home or not. It *will* determine whether we make heaven our home or not. We have to continue listening to God's directions and know what He wants for us, and know what we should do to be able to, one day, make heaven our home.

So many times in life, we don't even realize we need directions. We don't even realize that we should go a different path. We think the road is just being paved before us. Sometimes it really seems that way. It seems like, *well, that door opened*. We hear that saying all the time, but we also hear that we want God to close doors if they need to be shut. That's so important. That's why we need to hear God.

### HEARING GOD EFFECTIVELY

I want to discuss a way that we can be able to hear God effectively. Our first point is, *What is our personal relationship status with Him?* I'm realizing a lot of times it just seems like it's who you know in life. It's all about who you know. You know, there are things that you can accomplish, things that you can find out, help that you can get, and you can even get out of a bad spot if you know somebody. You have that contact. So many times I've asked Laina, "Do I know somebody that does this? Surely, I must know somebody that does this type of work." Or, "Surely I know somebody that would be able to shed some light on this subject." Relationships are very important in life. It's all about who you know, it seems.

Relationships are something we have to work through. We have to put our best effort into keeping relationships, because over time they can get cast by the wayside. They can naturally grow apart, as it were, and that is something we have to watch out for in our relationship with God. Our relationship with God is the most important relationship that we can have. It's our relationship with God that causes all other relationships that are good for us to develop. God helps us with all our relationships in life. We need to remember to stay close to that relationship with God and not grow apart from Him. We need to be "touching close" to God in our relationship with Him. Why do we stay that close? So that we can hear Him. Close enough to hear when He's calling out to us. It's just like those who are lost with people trying to save them by calling out to them. They're calling out to them, but they can't hear their names because they're so far away.

How do we stay close enough to God that when He talks to us we can hear Him? Well, how do we stay close to friends here on Earth? We talk to one another, don't we? We communicate with each other. We share what is on our minds with one another. We vent, as it were, with one another. We can vent to God. He's the best One we can vent to and share our troubles with. It helps that relationship with God when we can just vent to Him, when we can talk to Him. Whenever we're that close and can just talk to Him as if He's our brother, or an earthly friend, or a family member, then when that

still small voice tries to speak to us, we won't be so far that we can't hear Him. We need to communicate with God. It's okay to talk to Him out loud. It's very much okay to do that. Sometimes when I'm driving down the road, I just talk to God about the day. I talk to Him about how things are going and about how I may be struggling with something. It's good, because we're human. It's nice to communicate out loud with God. Sometimes, personally, it helps in my mind to solidify that He's there with me. I can just talk to Him because He's right beside me.

I was working on a vehicle recently, and it just about drove me to my wit's end. It was so complicated, and I just wasn't getting it figured out. Then when I was done, I really didn't think the part that I installed was going to hold up. As hard as it was to get to, and as much as it took of my patience, I didn't trust the part that was installed. And what do you know? I got a text saying, "Something is wrong with my truck again." I'm like, there it goes. So I brought it in the shop, looked at it, and it was something different. I audibly thanked God so much for helping me with it, because I was very worried about it. I was almost trembling when I was looking at it because I knew how much time it involved, and I didn't want that to happen. I felt close to God at that moment when I told Him, "God, thank You." I looked up at nothing particularly, but in my mind I was looking at God, and I was saying, "Thank You! Thank You for helping me with this." We have a relationship with God. It's personal. It's close. I think it helps when we can talk to God if He were standing right there next to us.

We are God's children. What do children do to their parents? They mimic their parents, don't they? They ask questions of their parents. They follow their parents around. That's how we need to be with God. We need to mimic God. We need to ask Him questions. Do as He does, and it will be easier to hear His instructions. It will be easier to hear Him when He tries to communicate with us.

### LISTENING FOR A SPECIFIC ANSWER

Our second point is, *Are we listening for a specific answer?* Let us turn to I Kings, chapter 19, verses 11 and 12. This is talking about Elijah listening for God: "And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind [Can you imagine how that experience must have been with the wind renting the mountains and breaking the rocks into pieces? How mighty that must have felt!]: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire [Now, if I witnessed all of that, I feel like I might be able to quickly jump to a conclusion and decide that maybe God was trying to speak to me. It was the might and power of God, but God wasn't trying to tell Elijah that He was all-powerful, and the earth was His.]: and after the fire a still small voice." Elijah waited for that still small voice.

What if Elijah thought that he knew God so much already that he figured He was just in the earthquake



and in the fire? He didn't wait around to hear that voice. Maybe he translated it to mean something to him, like, "Okay, I get it. This is what it means." But, no! Elijah waited for God. He waited for God's voice, and it came completely different. As I said before, sometimes that's one of the ways I feel we don't hear people. We think sometimes that we just know them well enough that we know what they're going to say. I feel like it's something that happens between companions all the time. You do something over and over, and you hear them asking you to help them with something, and you feel like it's going to be the same thing, but one time it may be a little bit different, and you just don't hear it. That's something that I think we can do to God, don't you? I think maybe that is something that can happen in our relationship with God.

### **HELPED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**

We read in the Bible about the children of Israel and how God helped them so many different times. Recently, I've been reading Deuteronomy in the Old Testament about God's hand of power that was so manifested with the children of Israel as they traveled, and as they came face to face with so many great nations as they were reaching the Promised Land. We'll turn to Deuteronomy, chapter 11, verses 23-25: "Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you." Wow, what an astounding promise that God would just be with them! No matter where they were going, or how big the enemy was, God would make that land theirs. Over time, I feel like the children of Israel became accustomed to wherever they went that the mighty hand of God was behind them, and they conquered. Sometimes they didn't even use their whole army. God just selected a few of them, and He used them to wipe out nations.

We'll turn to Joshua, chapter 2. This is talking about when the spies were sent into Jericho, and they were staying with the harlot that helped to hide them as they were in there trying to spy. "And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." All the people in the land around that area knew about the Israelites. They knew about the God the Israelites served, and they knew what He was capable of.

We'll look further to verses 23 and 24 of Joshua, chapter 2: "So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them: And they said unto Joshua, Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us." So in their minds, they had already conquered Jericho. They knew that God was going to be with them. They knew that He was going to help them like so many times before. I feel like it would have been obvious the way God would answer them. They would just sweep right in and conquer the city.

Joshua, chapter 6, verse 1: "Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in." Because they were afraid. Verses 2 and 3: "And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days." We know the story. I'm not going through the story and how it happened. But the point I'm trying to make is, this is something that was completely different than what they had done previously, isn't it? God used a different way to conquer Jericho. It is something we sing about today and something that we share in story. It is something that's found in our children's story books. It's a marvelous act of the power of God and what faith in Him can do. It encourages us today.

What if Joshua would have just gone right in and expected that God would deliver the people into his hands by using whatever method he wanted? Joshua would have failed. He wouldn't have gotten the victory, because he wouldn't have been listening to the voice of God. Even though he thought he knew God, and thought he knew what was going to happen, or how he should do it, it wasn't the way God wanted it done. They would have lost that battle, and we wouldn't have had that to talk about today and look back on.

### **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS**

We must pay close attention to the instructions of God and what He wants from us in our lives. Maybe that's why we feel we can't hear God. Maybe that's why we feel at times God isn't answering something we feel needs answered. Maybe we're thinking there's a different answer that's going to come. Maybe God has already answered it and has done the work, and we just don't see it, because we expected something different. Lord help us to trust God and to want His plan to be done.

Isaiah, chapter 55, verse 8 and 9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." With God, we must have an open mind. We need to have an open mind because we don't know what His plan is. God used Paul, who was once a persecutor of Christians, and the least likely individual that I think anyone in His day would have thought God would use. Paul is a blessing to us today. He wrote so many books in the Bible. We use the scriptures that God helped him to understand and to know, and we refer to them all the time.

We don't know the ways of God, do we? His thoughts are truly so much higher than ours. We want to make sure we're always listening to Him and having an open mind. We really don't want things to go our way rather than God's way. Sometimes we think we know the right way, and then we go through life and it just doesn't seem it's working our way. But when we look back, we thank God for not allowing it to work out our way. He had such a better path in store for us. We can only see what's happened right up to a point, and a lot of times we really don't even understand what's happening up to this point. But God sees the whole picture. He sees everything that's happening—from beginning to the end.

Our third point is, *Is there too much noise?* Is that a reason why we can't hear God? There's too much noise around us. There are so many distractions in life, aren't there? Things can distract us. Sometimes family can be a distraction, can't they? Sometimes work or other duties we have distract us. Distractions aren't always a bad thing. Did you ever hear someone say "I need to get my mind off of it"? Maybe something bad has happened. Maybe you suffered a loss and something is coming up that you're anxious about, and you want to get your mind off of it. There's nothing you can do about it, so you need to be distracted. Sometimes distractions are good. They take our minds off of things, but all too often distractions are used to pull us away from things we should be focused on and things that need our time.

### **THE ENEMY TRIES TO DISTRACT**

We have an enemy that's always working to distract us. He purposely wants to distract us. There are so many objects he sets before us. There are so many different things that he can use. The list of things the devil can use seems endless, and he knows what to use for each one of us. He knows what thing will grab our attention more than another one. It might not work for one of us as it does for somebody else. I don't feel that he always has to use sin to distract us. In fact, if he laid sin right before us, something we know that is completely wrong to do, we would just turn right away from it, wouldn't we? We know that God would give us the help to just turn right away from it. The devil can use something that doesn't seem so bad or is not really wrong at all, but it will simply rob us of the time that we should be spending with God.

There are so many different things that can distract us. All I have to do is to take my cell phone out, and there's a little notification that comes up. If I don't like that notification, I go into one thing and the other thing and another thing. Pretty soon my eyes start hurting, and then I realize why they're hurting. It's because I've been looking at the screen for so long. It just pulls you in. There are people who are hired, and who go to school to write programs that tell them what you want to see, whether the programs are work related or occupational or whatever. It just keeps generating different things. Pretty soon it pulls our time. It's right down where we live. It's something we struggle with. Is it wrong to look at your phone for a while? Is it wrong to watch something for a while? No, it's fine to relax once in a while. It's fine to browse to see what's happening around us

or something we might need to buy. But what if it starts blocking out God?

I love a good bargain. I really do. Sometimes if I see something that's really a good deal, or a website that seems to know how to find a good deal, and I can just scroll down through there, that can take up a lot of my time. Before I realize it, I'm thinking about it. It starts robbing our time, doesn't it? It's robbing us of the time we need to spend with God, and time we need to spend getting a little closer to Him so that we will be able to hear Him better.

God won't force salvation on anyone. He wants true and honest love. He wants someone to love Him innocently. He won't force Himself on anyone. In the same respect, I really don't think God is going to yell at us. I don't think He's going to yell over the noise. I know sometimes He has compassion on us and allows things to be like a wake-up call to us, but I don't think He's going to try to yell over the distractions or run all around trying to get our attention. Our part is to look for God and to listen for His voice. We need God. I need God. I need His help and guidance always. I always need that guidance that only He can offer.

### **DO WE WANT TO HEAR?**

The last point is, *Do we want to hear what God is trying to tell us?* Do we really want to hear it? Sometimes we can have selective hearing, or we know something is coming, and we tune it out. "In one ear, and out the other," as the saying goes. Sometimes we have it when we want to make a purchase. We've already figured out that's what we want, and we don't really hear what people might be telling us. "Well, I've had one of those before, and it really didn't work." "Well, I haven't, and I want to try it." You know, you really don't hear what people are trying to tell you because it's just something that you want. Maybe we are told that we really need to go somewhere or do something. We really don't want to do it, but we see it coming. We can see that this person is busy doing this, and this person is busy doing that. This person didn't come today, and we know it's just going to come down to us, so maybe we try to make ourselves scarce.

What if we just really don't want to hear what we should be told? I remember someone talking recently about not wanting to feed the chickens, and when their mom would tell them to go and feed the chickens, they would run away as far as they could. They knew that time of the day was coming, and they didn't want to be able to hear it.

I gave this testimony a week ago: In the recent past, there was something that I knew I should do, and I really didn't want to do it. It came down to it, and I started to feel my stomach getting into knots. My conscience was really bothering me. Did you ever feel like you did something wrong, and you just couldn't put your finger on it, but you felt like you did something wrong? Maybe someone said a comment to you, and you asked yourself, *did I offend that person? Did I say something wrong?* There's just something in the back of your mind and you just can't shake it. Well, I felt that, and it got stronger and stronger and stronger. I realized that was God trying to tell me, "I need you to

# RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRED

Radio Message by Bro. Greg Tyler

do this. I know you don't want to do it, but I need you to do it." Even though it might not be something that a bunch of people needed to profit from, or necessarily wonderful for me in the long run, it was just simply something that God wanted me to do.

## LEARNING SUBMISSION

There was something that I was taught in school. I remember Sis. Jackie telling me one time that I needed to learn submission. I needed to learn just to submit to authority. Maybe it was something God was trying to tell me. "I need you to submit to Me. I need you to do this because it's important to Me." When I realized that, when I changed my mind, God blessed me so much. He showed His approval on me, and it felt wonderful. I felt like I was drawing so much closer to Him.

I thought about this message, and I thought I had something else I wanted to speak about, but this subject just kept flooding my mind. I started praising God and thanking Him for speaking to me. "Thank You, Lord, that I can hear You. I realize what You wanted to tell me." It's wonderful to feel that.

My child isn't old enough to correspond with me right now, as far as directly telling her something or her listening to me, but one day, Lord willing, I hope that I can ask my daughter to do something, or show her the way to do something, and she'll listen. I know what's better for her. If she listens, she'll find that it's good. That's beneficial to both of us in our relationship, isn't it? It's beneficial to her because it helps her along, but it's beneficial to me as it gives me an opportunity to put my approval on her. It gives me an opportunity to thank her, to tell her what a wonderful job she did, to tell her that this is great, and look at what it saved you. It is the same way with our relationship with God. It gives Him a chance to shine His face down on us when we listen to Him.

## CONCLUSION

Again, Luke 8:21 says, "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it." We must figure out how to clear out all those distractions of life that the devil wants to place between us and God. We need to hear what God has to say. I need to hear God's directions. I can't live without hearing God's directions. I can't imagine life without hearing God's directions in my work, in my relationship with my wife, my family, and in my church. I can't imagine going through life without hearing what God says. Even though we may not want to do what God says, or maybe want to do something else rather than spending that time with God, we need to be close to Him. We need to do what God wants and be in His will. We know good will come from it if we do that. We know good will always come from doing what God wants us to do.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Again, "My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God."

I always want to be a part of the family of God. I always want to be able to hear what God says to me. †

**W**E INVITE your to attention to Matthew, chapter 5, beginning with verse 17: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Verse 20 is what we will focus on for this broadcast, where Jesus said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

*Righteousness* is simply doing what is right. Righteousness has taken many blows from our pulpits across this land. Righteousness has been made fun of and mocked. Preachers make a hobby out of misquoting certain scriptures to make it appear as though it is absolutely impossible to live a godly and a righteous life. But I want you to think with me about what Jesus Christ had to say about righteousness. He said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of [hypocrites], ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Let us back up a little bit in Matthew chapter 5, for we don't want to just skip over a few verses prior to this: Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." The reason that the Jewish people rejected Christ is that they felt like He came to destroy the law because His teachings were higher, and His teachings set aside some of the teachings of the Old Testament. As I've said before in other broadcasts, every Mosaic law pointed to the coming of the Messiah, and every Mosaic law had a type and a shadow of greater things which were to come. These greater things were brought to light by the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus did not destroy the law but He fulfilled it. He did not tell His followers to disobey the law, but rather, He told His followers to obey the Word of God. The problem was, many under the Old Covenant did not understand the Word and the will of God, and it took the Son of God, the Master Teacher, to come and unravel all that God had given to mankind. The New Testament, the New Covenant, is a higher and a better standard than the standard of the Old Testament. Even though it seemed sort of harsh in some places under the old law, yet those things were done as a precedent, or a foreshadowing of that which was to come. So we see that Jesus was laying out a foundation for some of the things that He was about to say.

Jesus has told us that it was not just the act of adultery that was wrong, but that a man could commit

adultery even in his heart, and it was not the act of murder alone that was wrong, but a man could commit murder in his heart without actually carrying out the act, and that was wrong. We see a higher, stronger, fuller standard in the New Testament as set forth by Jesus Christ.

In verse 19 of Matthew 5, we have a scripture that is misunderstood by a lot of people. It says: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Breaking a commandment is sin, but we must understand that sin comes in two different natures. One is: all transgression of the law is sin, period. But more importantly to us, Beloved, is imputed sin, for God does not hold us responsible for that which we do not know. Romans 4:8 says, "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Imputed sin comes with knowledge, a known transgression of the Word of God. If we are doing something that is wrong, and doing it ignorantly (not knowing), then God is not going to hold us responsible. He's not unjust. He is a fair God. But if we know something is wrong, and then we go ahead and do it, that is an imputed sin. That imputed sin causes us to die spiritually. It causes our names to be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life.

Do you remember in the Old Testament when God was ready to destroy His people after Moses was up on the mount, and Moses intervened for the children of Israel? He said, "Lord, blot my name, I pray thee, out of thy book." God said, "No, Moses, whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." And we're told in the book of Revelation 20:15, "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." That's the judgment scene. So we know that our names must be written in the Book of Life if we're going to make it to heaven, and we know through the book of Exodus, the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter, that through sin, our names are blotted out of God's Book. In passing, let me remind you that some people teach that it's impossible to backslide, but I want you to consider the Word of God.

What does it mean to have your name "blotted out of God's book"? If your name is blotted out, being once there, that Beloved, is called backsliding. Your name is no longer in the Book of Life because of a known transgression of the Word of God. So there is such a thing as backsliding, and we need to be warned against carelessness, idleness, worldliness, and sin, so that we do not allow our names to be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life.

Now, back to our scripture in Matthew 5:19, where Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these [that would be, transgression of the law] least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." This not someone who is knowingly sinning and transgressing God's law and teaching men that it's okay to do it. That's not what Jesus is talking about. Beloved, the Word of God does not transgress itself. There is no contradictions in the Word of God when the Holy Ghost is able to give us the proper understanding. Every scripture

line up with every other scripture. This idea of one preacher saying that he has more scriptures to back up his teaching than what another person does is nonsense, for when properly understood, every word of God will line up with every other word of God. God is not the author of confusion. God does not put His approval on a multiplicity of beliefs and religions. Excuse me, for I don't want you to be offended at what I have to say, but I believe, with all of my soul, that the multiplicity of religions that are dividing and scattering the flock of God is out of hell. It's fathered by Satan who is the author of division. He is the one who divides and separates men. He is the one who tells people that they can believe the Word of God any way they feel like believing it and it will be alright. Such is not the case.

There is truth. That truth is found in the Word of God. What does Matthew 5:19 mean then? Someone who does not know that something is wrong, and ignorantly breaks a commandment, and teaches men that a certain thing is wrong or a certain thing is right that is not necessarily so, he is teaching men to do the same that he is doing, but he is doing it ignorantly. He has an honest heart. He is not knowingly teaching men to commit transgressions against God. But rather, because of ignorance, he does not know something is wrong. He is still in the kingdom of God, but he shall be least, because he is building on a faulty foundation. "Whosoever shall do [that is, obey] and teach them [other people to do that same], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

I would like to call your attention to a verse of scripture in I Corinthians, chapter 3, beginning with verse 12: "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." You see, if someone who is abiding in a false religion, yet his heart is honest, he has been born again (saved), but he believes false teachings, he is building with wood, hay, and stubble, and his work is going to be burned. Yet, because he is innocent in the sight of God, he shall be saved. But if you're building on truth, Beloved, gold, silver, and precious stones, your work is going to be made manifest, and your reward shall be greater. This is why Jesus said that those who break the commandments ignorantly, and teaches other men to do so, if he is really saved, he is still going to be in the kingdom of heaven though his work is not going to be rewarded. But if you do and teach the Word of God, that is, live and do righteously, you shall be great in the kingdom of heaven.

That leads us to our main thrust, which we're not going to be able to fully expound on this broadcast. Nevertheless, Jesus said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Righteousness is required, Beloved. I know the Bible says that our own righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God, but that kind of righteousness is righteous-

ness that we ourselves are responsible for. Things that we might do of our power and strength that we take hope in or stock in. That kind of righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God, but I do want you to know that in our scripture reading that Jesus said, "Except your righteousness ..." There is a righteousness that is required. That righteousness is allowing Christ to be fulfilled in us. He is our righteousness, but He is only our righteousness if we allow Him to have full control in our lives. †

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## BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

### THE STEPS OF THE RIGHTEOUS THE LORD'S SUPPER

**Scriptures:** Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30.

Matthew 26:17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

**Memory Verse:** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

—Matthew 26:26.

**Aim:** To show the purpose and place of the Lord's Supper in the life of a Christian.

#### INTRODUCTION

The deliverance of the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage is of great historical significance, the popularity of its often-told story being greater than of other important events in history. The Passover, instituted just prior to this miraculous deliverance, commemorated the passing over by the death angel of the firstborn of the Hebrews, who had put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, according to Moses' instruction. Once each year the Jews observed the Feast of the Passover (also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the two forming a double festival), and it was for this

event that Jesus and His disciples were assembled in the story of today's lesson.

As a Jewish family observed the Passover, it was customary for them to recount this marvelous liberation, the story usually being related by the youngest son, or if there were no son, by the youngest daughter. Today, as followers of Christ, we recount as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the great sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who shed His life's blood for our redemption from sin.

#### MEDITATIONS

**THE PASSOVER SUPPER—Matthew 26:17—Where wilt thou ... eat the passover?**—Jesus was very faithful in observing all the law; it was in force until the day of His death. **Verse 18—The Master saith**—Could He not rightfully refer to Himself as "Master"? Indeed so, for He had all power in heaven and in earth! **At thy house**—The need of a room for a feast was quickly taken care of, for it was a practice for the Jews to give to anyone who asked for accommodations for such an occasion. **Verse 19—Made ready**—The paschal lamb was to be without blemish and large enough to meet the need of the family killing it. Two families, if they were small enough in number, might eat one lamb together. Jesus and His disciples constituted a family unit, and for this feast they purchased or were given a lamb. Unleavened bread (such as was prepared for the Israelites' flight from Egypt) and bitter herbs (perhaps to call to mind the bitterness of the Egyptian bondage) were to be served with the roasted lamb; whatever remained of the meat after the meal was to be burned. The skin, we are told, was to be left for the owner of the house.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER—Matthew 26:20—He sat down**—This would be the last Passover God would recognize, for, according to the divine plan, Christ would at this time institute the corresponding ordinance which we now know as the Lord's Supper, or communion. The Jews of course still observe the Feast of the Passover, but since they reject Christ, it is of no spiritual value.

**THE SYMBOL OF THE BREAD—Matthew 26:26—This is my body**—What a fitting symbol! Bread is regarded as the staff of physical life; Christ is the Bread of life spiritually. John 1 pictures Him as the Word, and Matthew 4:4 tells us that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. The unleavened bread of communion is intended to remind us of the broken body of our Lord, who endured the cross that He might bring us salvation.

**THE SYMBOL OF THE FRUIT OF THE VINE—Matthew 26:28—This is my blood**—The New Testament is the will that Jesus left for His followers, and of necessity no testament or will is of any force until the testator dies. Literally, the New Testament was sealed with the blood of our Savior. When we partake of the Lord's cup in communion (We use unfermented fruit juice.), we are reminded of the blood that was shed for us. What greater gift was ever given to mankind? To die for one's friends is heroic; to die for one's enemies is divine!

## JAMAICA CONVENTION REPORT

Catadupa, St. James

February 13-18, 2024

Theme: "Cry Aloud, Spare Not"

Theme Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1; Micah 3:8



OUR CONVENTION began on Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. Pastor Hezekiah Lamey did the welcome. Brethren from Hagerstown (USA), Honduras, and the Cayman Islands were present. It was a first trip for many of our overseas brethren to our island of Jamaica. Thank the Lord for all our brethren, both from aboard and locally.

Pastor Hezekiah Lamey, Host Pastor, opened the service. Pastor Rupert Shippy prayed the opening prayer. Bro. Brian Richards from Hagerstown was the night's speaker. First, he brought greetings from Bro. Greg Tyler and the brethren of Hagerstown. His message was entitled, "Spiritual Darkness." His texts were taken from Romans 1:18-26; II Timothy 4:2; II Chronicles 7:14. He preached a soul-searching message.

**Wednesday—6:00 A.M.**—Sis. Sonia Golding was in charge of the prayer meeting. Two hymns were sung. A responsive reading was read entitled, "Great and Precious Promises." Souls were blessed. Ministers' meeting was held immediately after breakfast. Bro. Shippy spoke on the standard of the church which God has set for us to follow.

**10:00 A.M.**—Chairperson: Sis. Molly Darby. Bro. David Shaw prayed the opening prayer. The scripture was taken from Galatians, chapter 5. Hymns and other special songs were sung. Bro. Hezekiah Lamey preached from the Word of God based on the theme, "Cry Aloud, Spare Not." Isaiah 58:1 and Micah 3:8 were the texts. Before closing, Sis. Molly reminded us as the Church of God, we should be determined to live for God.

**2:30 P.M.**—Choruses and other songs were sung. Bro. Donovan Darby was the speaker. His text was taken from St. Luke 21:31, and the message was entitled, "Satan's Desire to Have You."

**7:00 P.M.**—Sis. Dorette Clark, pastor of the Salem congregation, was the chairperson. A hymn was sung, along with other specials. The speaker was Bro. Aldrin McLaughlin from Honduras. He sang, "When My Sins Were Not Forgiven" before he spoke. His text was taken from Isaiah 53 and Romans 6. His title of the message was, "Stand for the Truth and Die for It."

**Thursday—6:00 A.M.**—Bro. Tracy, a minister from the Grants Mountain congregation, was in charge of prayer meeting.

**10:00 A.M.**—Sis. Paulette Barrett chaired this service. The hymn, "On the Winning Side" was sung. Ephesians 6:10-20 was read by the congregation. Bro. Peter Ramsay from Cornwall Mountain prayed. Other items were rendered. Bro. Craig Anderson brought the message. He read from St. Matthew 21:12, 13. His message was entitled, "The Seal of Thine House Has Eaten Me Up." Bro. Leston prayed the closing prayer.

**2:30 P.M.**—Sis. Paulette Barrett was the chairperson. Hymns were sung. Bro. Leston was the preacher,

**THE PLAN COMPLETED—Matthew 26:29—**I will not drink—After the severe test of Calvary and His resurrection that followed, being beyond the reach of mortal hatred and power, His work in the great plan of redemption completed, Christ could drink of the cup anew with His disciples in His Father's kingdom. **Verse 30—Sung an hymn—**The Passover Supper having been interrupted for a brief period while the Master set forth the way in which His disciples were always to remember His passion, a parting hymn was rendered according to the custom of the Passover. What we know as Psalms 113-118 were the passages sung. Read them that you may catch a glimpse of the sentiment that prevailed as the disciples went out into the night.

### CONCLUSION

As is the case with nearly every true teaching of the Scriptures, false doctrines and practices surround the subject of the Lord's Supper. Among them is transubstantiation, a Catholic theory which declares that the communion "elements at their consecration [that is, when blessed by the priest] in the mass [are changed] from the substance of bread and wine to the [actual] substance of the body and blood of Christ, with only the ... taste, color, shape and smell of the bread and wine remaining." Actually the bread and wine are symbolic only, and the "eating of the flesh" and "drinking of the blood" of Jesus applies to the Christian's daily walk in the commandments of God. Then there is the teaching that the clergyman officiating must drink all the wine; whereas Jesus had said to His disciples, "Drink ye all of it." Every Christian at the appointed time should in great reverence drink of the Lord's cup. Some teach that communion is to be kept every Lord's Day. Although I Corinthians 11:25 lets us know it should be often, in observing it as often as every week there is danger it will lose its sacred significance and become a mere form.

Communion is not offered for the purpose of satisfying physical hunger. (See Paul's instruction in I Corinthians 11:34.) This solemn ordinance must not be entered into lightly and should never be partaken of by those who are not born again, for we are carefully warned in I Corinthians 11:27-29 that whosoever eats or drinks of the Lord's cup unworthily shall heap upon himself damnation. Paul also states in the same chapter, verse 30, that because of a laxity in properly observing this sacred rite, "many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep," or have completely lost out with the Lord.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. State the similarity of the Passover of the Jews and the Lord's Supper of the New Testament and the purpose of each.

2. Of what is the communion bread symbolic? The wine?

3. Who alone may lawfully partake of the Lord's Supper?

4. What is the danger in partaking of communion "unworthily," that is, without a clear Christian experience?

5. How often should the Supper be observed?

6. Is the Supper intended to satisfy hunger? †

and his texts were taken from Luke 12:13-15; I Kings 21:4; Hebrews 13:5. “Let Your Conversation Be Without Covetousness; and be Content with Such Things as Ye Have” was the basis of his message.

**7:00 P.M.**—Bro. Peter Ramsay chaired this service. Bro. Shippy prayed the opening prayer. The hymn “Since Jesus Came into My Heart” was sung, and other items were given. “Jesus’ Blood Can Make the Vilest Sinner Free” was sung by a group from the Catadupa congregation. Bro. David Shaw was the speaker. Before he brought the message, he sang, “Victory in Jesus.” His text was taken from Isaiah 58:1, “Cry Aloud, Spare Not, Lift Up Your Voice Like a Trumpet.” In closing, Bro. Shaw talked about Lazarus and the rich man. The hymn “Pass Me Not” was sung for closing.

**Friday—6:00 A.M.**—Bro. Day led prayer meeting. After this prayer service, Ministers’ meeting was held immediately since a fast day was called.

**10:00 A.M.**—Chaired by Bro. Shippy. Sis. Jutan prayed the first prayer which was followed by four more. The hymn “To God Be the Glory” was sung. Bro. Brian Richards prayed for all the ministers, and Bro. Shippy implored everyone to carry on the work of the gospel. The closing hymn was, “Stand Up for Jesus.” Bro. David Shaw prayed the closing prayer.

**2:30 P.M.**—Bro. H. Langley was the chairperson. Hymns were sung and other items were rendered, one of which was a group song done by the brethren from Salem. Bro. Sanval Deacon was the speaker. His text was taken from St. Matthew 28:18-20. “All Power Is Given Unto Me in Heaven and in Earth” was the title of the message. In closing, he commissioned us to go and make disciples.

**7:00 P.M.**—Choruses were sung, after which Pastor Hezekiah Lamey moderated. Two hymns were sung and other specials were done. Bro. Fisher from Honduras was the speaker. His text was taken from St. Matthew, chapter 25. The title of the message was, “Time Is Running Out.” During the closing song, a couple of souls came to the altar.

**Saturday—6:00 A.M.**—Bro. Thomas was in charge of this prayer service.

**10:00 A.M.**—Bro. Peter Ramsay preached on the theme of the convention, “Cry Aloud, Spare Not,” using Isaiah 58:1. He also read from Ezekiel 33:1 and Joshua, chapter 7.

**7:00 P.M.**—Sis. Orinthia Shaw-Allen was the chairperson. Sis. Dorette Clark was the speaker. Her text was taken from Isaiah 14:6, “What Shall We Cry” and Ecclesiastes 12, “All Flesh Is Grass.” She reminded us that it is not what man sees but what God knows.

**Sunday—9:30 A.M.**—Sis. Nadine from the Salem congregation conducted the Sunday school period. The children sang and said poems. The adult Sunday school class was led by Sis. Joyce Lamey. The lesson was entitled, “A Place for Each Child of God.” In closing, she said that we must work in the place God called and placed us.

Sis. Susan from the Salem congregation led the praise and worship segment of the morning’s worship service. A hymn and other songs were sung. Bro. Brian Richards was the speaker. His message was based upon

“Roles in the Church.” In short, he said that we all need to be willing to work and to be directed by the Holy Spirit while making ourselves available to God.

**5:30 P.M.**—This last service of the convention was chaired by Bro. David Shaw. Bro. Aldrin McLaughlin brought the message. The scripture text was taken from St. John 5:5. The closing hymn was, “Are You Washed in the Blood?” Bro. David Shaw did the altar call. Bro. Leston prayed the closing prayer. The vote of thanks was given by the host pastor, Bro. Hezekiah Lamey.

*We thank the Lord for His blessings during this year’s convention. Our hearts have been uplifted and we’re pressing the battle on with God’s help.*

*Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this convention a success. Without our faithful workers, both in the temporal part, and in the spiritual, it would not have been successful.*

*We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Sis. Sonia Golding for her invaluable contribution towards taking the minutes, and to Sis. Teanna Lamey for her role in organizing the notes. †*



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### **SHORTWAVE**

**WWCR**, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band

Sunday, 7:30 A.M. Eastern Time—12:30 G.M.T.

*Listen live—Go to [www.wwcr.com](http://www.wwcr.com)*

**WINB**, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

Friday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time, Saturday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time—2:30 G.M.T.

*Listen live—Go to [www.winb.com](http://www.winb.com)*

### **INTERNATIONAL**

**JAMAICA**, MELLO-FM, 88.1, 88.3, 88.5, 7:00 A.M. Sundays

Heard throughout Jamaica

### **THE BIBLE STANDARD BROADCAST**

Church of God (Universal)

James Arch, Pastor

Radio Cayman

1:30 P.M. Sun. E.S.T.

Grand Cayman

## **COMING MEETINGS**

**2024 INTERNATIONAL**

**CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION**

**Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.**

**July 2-7, 2024, Lord willing**

**Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor**

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### ***Revival Services***

**Essex, Maryland**

**April 17-21, 2024**

**Bro. Tim Crooks, Evangelist**

**Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor**

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**Hagerstown, Maryland**

**April 24-28, 2024**

**Bro. Harley McClung, Evangelist**

**Bro. Greg Tyler, Pastor**

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**Craigsville, West Virginia**

**May 16-19, 2024**

**Bro. Doug Shenberger, Evangelist**

**Bro. Harley McClung, Pastor**