Bringing the World into the Church

by Bro. Ray Evans
Perry, Florida

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (I John 2: 15, 16).

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2).

The verses quoted above are just a few among many that tell God's people they are different from the world at large, and that they should **separate themselves from the world** as much as possible in their lifestyles. They are to seek after things of a spiritual nature instead of things that please the natural senses. It appears that many churches have lost sight of how they are supposed to be conducting themselves (if they ever knew), and are making great efforts to conform to the world's way of doing things.

The week before Easter, I was reading the ads for church services in a large city's newspaper. When I turned to the pages where those ads were displayed, I was immediately struck by the similarity to the movie ads. It appeared that each church was trying to outdo the others in promising great entertainment. They were appealing to the worldly desires (lust of the eyes and ears) of the readers. Some proclaimed how much FUN could be had in their services. Some advertised entertainment groups LIVE! IN CONCERT! Some touted the qualifications of the evangelists who would be speaking. The combined message of all those ads was: **Come to church to be entertained!**

A few years ago, my wife and I had the misfortune to be "dragged" into one of those "entertaining" churches due to circumstances from which we could not excuse ourselves. When we entered, it was almost like stepping into a circus tent. Only the smell of peanuts and popcorn was missing. It seemed that every phase of the evening's proceedings was planned to entertain, even the 20-minute talk by the featured speaker, who was a misplaced comic. We could not see, hear or feel anything of a spiritual nature. When we left, we felt unclean. But the people around us were talking about what a wonderful service it had been. If they thought they had been worshipping God, their understanding of worship was quite different from ours.

Most of the things done in those churches that have adopted the show-business approach to religion are not bad in themselves, but they don't constitute worship. In fact, they seriously detract from any individual efforts to meditate and pray. As more and more entertaining features are added to the services, **the preacher's time is shortened!** Everyone knows how calamitous it would be if the services extended beyond 12:00 noon. If the services are broadcast or televised, the clock controls the proceedings. I read recently that most of the main-line Protestant church ministers have cut their speaking times almost in half in recent years. Many must plan messages that won't be disturbing to the souls of their members, regardless of the truthfulness of the message.

The things I am referring to are usually seen in the larger, richer churches. I have seen a number of small churches make great efforts to increase their membership, then enlarge the church, then make more efforts to increase membership to help pay for the new church, etc. , etc. In other words, they seem to seek to grow for the sake of growing. You can often hear their members or pastors boasting about how many members they have. Yet, God has said that it takes only two or three people gathered IN HIS NAME to assure that He is present with them. God isn't impressed by numbers, as He often tells us in His word.

As churches get bigger and bigger, more money must be spent for the finest choir robes, the finest instruments for the orchestras, the best television equipment, etc. But, out there in the membership, there are sure to be a few whose meager contributions are truly sacrifices, like the widow's mites mentioned in Mark 12:42 and Luke 21:2. They are often led to believe their offerings are necessary to accomplish God's work. I wonder how they feel if they realize their little bits of money are being spent on expensive window-dressing instead of going to serve someone needy?

If you ask why all these things are being done in a church, you are likely to hear that everything possible must be done to draw people in, so they will have an opportunity to get eternal life. We Primitive Baptists, and a few other groups, recognize that God has been giving eternal life to people of His choice ever since the time of Adam and Eve. The Bible doesn't mention a single instance where human help was enlisted to achieve that purpose. God doesn't need any specific kind of setting in order to deal with His people.

I admit to preferring small churches. When they grow to the point where the pastor doesn't know every member by name, that's big enough; however, I don't criticize anyone who feels the church can be even a little larger than that. I have noted that, the larger the church, the more businesslike, organized and formal things must be, and the less I can feel a sense of spirituality when attending. When the congregation can select hymns that have a special meaning to them, when time is not especially important, and when the minister is free to speak whatever God has laid upon his heart, then we are much more likely to be lifted up by the services and to be glad we came to church.

Our pastor recently pointed out that the Bible mentions only four activities in the early church: Preaching, praying, singing of hymns and sharing fellowship. When you think about it, nothing more is needed in order to worship God in an acceptable way. Isn't that why we claim we go to church, to worship God? We wouldn't go to a theater to worship. Why bring the theater into our worship services? I'm sure Satan must be pleased when he sees how **God's people are conforming to the world!**

Self-Service

by Elder Don McWilliams
Brownsburg, Indiana

The other day as I passed a filling station, (I've done this countless times), I read again the sign, "Self-Service." The thought occurred to me that this is the way many of God's people direct their lives. Self-service is **serving self**, helping self, satisfying self, etc. Therefore, we are not serving God.

Paul wrote to young Timothy, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures **more than lovers of God**." (II Timothy 3:2-4).

In the book of Deuteronomy, God gave instructions to Moses to relay to His chosen people. In chapter 6, verse 5, God's great commandment to the people through Moses is, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." In the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus repeats this commandment to show its great importance.

What does loving God to this extent include? How can we, as finite people, display our love, not to self or to the world, but to God?

Displaying or exercising our love for God will include all the things Jesus says: love with **all** our heart, **all** our soul, **all** our mind, and **all** our strength as related in the book of Mark. God has never and will never give one of His people a sufficient excuse for staying home from any church service, whether it's Sunday morning, Sunday night, midweek, or any other church activity, as long as that person is physically able to attend. When we refuse or neglect to attend a church function, we are heavy into **SELF-SERVICE!**

In Matthew 25, Jesus shows us how we can inherit the spiritual kingdom here on earth, and it is NOT through self-service, but it personifies our service to others; therefore, as Jesus says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40).

Paul, in Romans 15:1-3, writes, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself." Again, Paul writes in II Corinthians 5:15, "He died for all, that they which live should **not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them,** and rose again."

Self-service in life is pure selfishness on our part. We **feel** we deserve our time to sleep, play, go, or do as we see fit, not putting God first and foremost in our lives.

John Wesley had a rule for his life. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, and as long as you can."

Whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.

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"Lessons for Children"

Sin Amid God's People

by Elder McKinley Wright
Jacksonville, Florida

Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-14.
Background Scripture: Numbers 16.
Memory Selection: Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest ye fall. 1 Corinthians 10: 12

(The following lesson is intended to help teach children lessons from the word of God. Hopefully, parents will use this guideline to teach children. All Scriptures should be read with the children in order to understand the lesson. Of course, it is beneficial to all of God's people.)

Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 10: 1-14.

Background Scripture: Numbers 16:1-35

Memory Selection: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest ye fall" (I Corinthians 10: 12).

Introduction

There are many lessons taught in the death of Korah. In teaching children, one of the most important lessons is that we are God's people; and as His people, He requires certain types of behavior from us. You should emphasize that punishment is certain when we do things which we should not do, and that reward is just as certain when we do the right things. The reward might be only the knowledge of right doing, and a feeling of "Well done!" from the Lord, but that in itself is a reward. Point out that the only difference between the acts of Korah and Aaron was that Aaron had been "called," and Korah had not.

Comments Numbers 16:1-35

Israel was God's people. They were going to the land God have given them. As they went, they had many adventures, and God taught them many lessons. Most of them knew that God is great and that He tells His people what they should do. Today's lesson is about a man who did not believe that God does things like that.

God had made Aaron the high priest. The high priest led an easy life. About all he had to do was tell other people how to do their work. The real workers in the tabernacle were called Levites. One of these Levites was a man named Korah. Korah did not like to work all the time. He wanted one of the easy jobs in the tabernacle. Why, he thought he would even make a good high priest. He believed he could do things just as well as Aaron could.

God had told Moses to make Aaron the high priest, but Korah and two other men did not believe that God did it. They thought it was all Moses' idea. But Moses knew how to settle the question. He told Korah and those who believed him to come to the door of the tabernacle and burn incense at the same time Aaron did. They did it and God was angry with them immediately. He said that He was going to destroy all the people except Moses and Aaron, but Moses and Aaron asked Him not to do it. Then He told everybody else to leave the tents of Korah, Abiram, and Dathan. The people moved back and the earth opened up and swallowed the three men, with their wives, children, livestock, servents, tents, and everything that they owned. Fire then came out from the Lord and burned those who had believed them. The people were all afraid when they heard the cries of the three families who fell into the great hole. They ran as far from the hole as they could because they were afraid they would also fall into it.

Their action is a warning for us. God destroyed them because they went to the tabernacle and offered incense when they should not have done so. They also did not believe in the ones that God sent to guide them. They argued with them and accused them of things they had not done. God destroyed them for doing it. If we don't do the things which we should do, we will also be punished. If we do the things He tells us to do, we will be like Aaron. Don't you suppose he felt good when he wasn't destroyed with them?

Questions

1. Who was Aaron?
2. Who was Korah?
3. Why was God angry with Korah?
4. How did Korah die?
5. Why did the people run from Korah's tent?
6. Do you think they should have run from Korah's tent?
7. What does their leaving Korah's tent teach us?
8. What happens when God's people practice sin?
9. What happens when we do good?

Please Study God's Word With Your Children Each Day

Study Your Bible

Psalm 37:5 - Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Isaiah 2:2,3
Isaiah 55:8,9
John 14:6
1 Peter 4:19
II Timothy 1:12
Philippians 4:6,7



Isaiah 56:11 - The reason for our service: For ourself or for our God?

Acts 8:17-24
Job 1:13-15
Job 13:15
Daniel 3:14-18
Habakuk 3:17-19
I Corinthains 4:9-13



THE TRUMPET: Revelations 1:10,11 God speaking to His people.

I Corinthains 14:8
Psalm 89:15
Numbers 10:5-6
Joel 2:1 - Alarm
Numbers 10:9
Numbers 10:1-3
Joel 2:15
I Thessalonians 4:16
I Corinthians 15:51,52

I Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit.

John 8:47
John 8:42
Matthew 13:9
I John 5:13
Exodus 24:7
Revelations 22:17
Zechariah 7:11-13



Luke 20:25 ...render therefore unto Ceasar the things which be Ceasar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

I Corinthains 6:19-20
I Timothy 3:15
Isaiah 28:13,14
Romans 1:1
Acts 20:17
I Corinthians 16:2
Psalm 116:12-14



II Thessalonians 3:10 If any would not work, neither should eat.

Ephesians 2:8-10
Colossians 1:10
Phillippians 2:12
Isaiah 1:19,20
Proverbs 24:30
Revelations 2:7
Psalm 36:8

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Beyond the Church's Four Walls

by Elder Phillip Nichols
Blackshear, Georgia

Recently, I had a preacher tell me that we as God's people in the churches should not go about condemning sin in public. He stated that sin was wrong, but we should reach out only in love in order to win people over. He went on to say that we shouldn't sound so condemning to the people outside the church because they are walking in sin so we shouldn't expect them to follow the laws of God. He continued to say that we should only be concerned about teaching (in love) God's law in the church and expect only the church-going to follow the laws of God.

In this article, I would like to respond in two ways to what the preacher had to say. First of all, I am in complete agreement that we must begin teaching God's laws in the churches, and I would like to briefly cover the church's responsibility to its members. Secondly and later on in the article, I will consider our responsibility outside the church's four walls.

It is very important that we, in love, support our weak members, provide for our needy, restore our wayward and help each other in any way. Yes, we need love, but true love also involves discipline. Sometimes we must rebuke, reprove, instruct in helping our brethren overcome sin. Sometime or another each of us may need help in overcoming sin in order to better serve God and walking in the laws of God. Suppose a friend was helping me work on my car and the battery blew up causing him to be blinded. And if in his excitement he began to run madly toward the road, I would do all I could to keep him from running into the busy road. I would then get him the proper help in order that he might see again. Certainly the same application should apply to a church brother or sister who is caught up in sin. Sin can definitely blind a child of God causing him to run wildly toward the road of destruction. If we love our church brethren, we will at all means try to save or deliver their soul from a death or separation from God's fellowship. We are to keep in mind that if a person continues down a destructive path abiding in sin, God's wrath will come upon him.

We are never to be high minded, thinking we are better than our brethren. On the contrary, we are to go to them in the spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1), considering that we also are sinners, wretched and undone of ourselves (Romans 3:9-23). As Paul states in Romans 7:24 "0 wretched man that I am!" Verse 18 of this same chapter states "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing...". Galatians 6 goes on to teach us that we should consider ourselves lest we also fall or be tempted. You see, if we walk in the flesh, we will be blinded in sin. Pride (in ourselves) is fleshly and is sin. Galatians 6:3 also teaches that if we think that we are something, we are deceived and are nothing. Only in Jesus Christ are we anything at all. Although we are sinners, as believers we must be striving to live a life that isn't bringing shame or reproach on the cause of Christ.

When one walks in a particular sin such as fornication, adultery, idolatry, a railer, drunkenness, and extortion, he must repent or the church must remove him from the membership of the local body. This is brought out very plainly in I Corinthians 5. Here, we find that it was a known fact that there was a brother in the church that had a sexual affair with his stepmother. The church at Corinth overlooked this man's sin and was even proud that they had so much "love" for the brother that they didn't judge him. Paul rebuked the church in telling them that they were not to keep company with a fornicator, neither to eat with him (partake in the Lord's supper). Paul was not talking about a neighbor or someone at the job or school, but a brother or sister in the church body. The church has a responsibility to judge its members. Verses 12-13 of I Corinthians 5 teaches that God judges those that are outside the church, but **we are to judge those inside the church!** Such wickedness as listed above is not to be allowed among the church membership. I must stress this point as it is contrary to popular belief. We must judge (righteous judgment) in the church. It has been said many times, "Well if you put someone out of the church it will kill the church." When has doing what God tells us to do been detrimental to the church?

In judgment of the church, we must not be abiding in sin or be in the same sin as the one we are judging. This is taught in Matthew 7:1-5. We are first to clean up in our own lives, then we can see clearly and be more able to help our brethren. Otherwise, we are hypocrites saying that we have it together, yet we ourselves are blinded running madly toward destruction. How can we tell others what God's word says when we are not doing it ourselves. Matthew 15:14 states it like this: "They be blind leaders of the blind, and if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

In one last consideration concerning judgment within a local church body, we will consider what we'll call judgment according to appearance. John 7:24 states "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." Our judgment within the church body has to be based on facts and not hearsay. Sometimes we may judge on what we think we see. In bringing anyone up before the church, we must have all the facts. Job's friends thought for sure that Job was being judged because he was walking in sin. Job's friends went on what they thought, and

not what was fact. Job's faith was being proved because he was walking in righteousness and was upright, not because he was in some sin. Again, we all are sinners; but we must not abide in it or let sin reign in our lives.

God help us not to overstep nor to understep our bounds in judgment. Proverbs 17:15 states, "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord." II Chronicles 19:6-7 reads, "Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment. Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, not taking of gifts." This verse really sums it up. Remember, church discipline is used to preserve the church and to deliver the sinner from the error of his ways (James 5:20).

Church judgment is not all that this article is about, but I feel that this important subject should have been briefly covered. Now, we will go on from the judgment of the church and consider outside the four church walls or membership. Again, the preacher I had the conversation with, said that the church should not condemn sin on those outside because we couldn't expect the world to follow God's laws. Now, if the founders of this great nation in which we live went by this line of thought, there would be no laws or judgment outside the church. If people outside the church cannot be expected to live by the moral laws of God, then that means anything goes. If we can't expect people outside the four church walls to live by "Thou shalt not kill," then they can kill you, me, our family or anyone else they want to. We couldn't say anything against them. "Thou shalt not kill" applies to all mankind. Unfortunately in a nation that is so blest of God, we are allowing abortion (murder of unborn babies) and are heading toward killing those who are a "burden" on society (euthanasia). If we can't expect those outside the church to follow God's law, then they have the right to steal your earthly possessions, commit rape, or any other form of ungodliness. Of course, it is ludicrous that anyone would have the right to do any ungodly act he desires to do! There must be law and order.

It isn't the church's responsibility to stone people as Israel did. Civil law is the responsibility of the government. The government being the sword of God (Romans 13:1-4) must carry out punishment to those guilty of crime. Although capital punishment or any other civil law isn't carried out by the church, we still have a responsibility to uphold and support the laws of the land (as long as the laws don't go against God's). We are not just to keep our religion within the four walls of the church building. We are to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We are to show the world right from wrong and have a preserving effect. The churches are to be as a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hid, and is seen from afar off. The church's light isn't to be kept in the church building, but is to be put before the world to be seen in the job force, in our schools, on the streets, in our government or anywhere a child of God may be.

Someone might say, "Are you telling me we are to make the world's or the nation's people all children of God?" No, God alone has saved His people or those chosen in Jesus Christ before the world began (Ephesians 1:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 8:28-30; Romans 9:9-23; Titus 3:5). All of this is God's work! But we as His church are to be alight that God's people might see and come to a safe haven and be able to find rest in God's kingdom. God's kingdom is feeling sweet fellowship with God, to be at peace, and feel joy in God's Spirit (Romans 14:12).

Now, let's consider what effects following or not following God's law has on a nation. A biblical based marriage has great benefits, whether one believes in God or not. As a married couple (man and woman) starts a family and their home is one of trust, soundness, and morality, society will benefit. If children are raised in a good home and taught right from wrong, our schools wouldn't have such discipline problems as they do today. Children years ago were disciplined for pulling out a pack of chewing gum, now for pulling out a handgun or knife.

If a family handles their finances in a Biblical manner, we have less welfare and bankruptcies. Because of covetousness, some get into debt causing stress and major problems in the family and marriage. We as a nation have come from being the biggest lender to the biggest borrower. Deuteronomy 28:12 states, "And thou shalt lend into many nations, and thou shalt not borrow." Our nation suffers greatly now as we are over 4 trillion dollars in debt.

If children were taught that fornication (sex outside of the holy bonds of matrimony) is wrong, instead of how to have "safe sex," venereal disease or the pregnancy rate wouldn't be such an increasing problem. If homosexuality was called sin and condemned, AIDS wouldn't be so rampant. AIDS is not just a disease of homosexuals, it afflicts many innocent people also. Could it be because we as a nation have strayed so far from God's word and laws? Child neglect and molestation is on the rise because the breakdown of the family and the abundance of sexual promiscuity and pornography on television and other means. Marriage is out, living together is the norm in today's society .

Abortion has taken the lives of many unborn babies. (The average babies killed each day in the United States is 4,400.) The safest place in the world was once the mother's womb, but not anymore! Many times abortion is a worldly answer to the sin of promiscuity. Abortion is murder, yet we as a nation have allowed it for 21 years.

Drug addiction and alcoholism are big problems today because of the moral breakdown. Suicide is on the increase because of a sin-sick society. Some will even assist a person in suicide. The majority according to surveys at schools and colleges say it is alright to lie if it helps you. God, prayer and creation is out, while Satanism

and evolution is the in thing. Cursing and disrespect is in, while humility and respect for others is out. We could go on and on, but there is no need. If we can't see the troubles our nation is in, we never will. It is time we **come out from the four walls of the churches and shine the light of God!**

Since America has been in darkness for some time, the light will hurt eyes and the salt will burn the infested sores of the ungodly. Satan with all the host of hell will continue to try to keep us as God's children within the churches' four walls. It is time to go beyond the churches four walls and fight (not with arms) for the Christian rights on which this nation was founded. We should be just as David as he said before he went against Goliath, "Is there not a cause." Even if we fight, Satan will make us seem strange or like radicals to many, but that shouldn't stop us! If Satan can't get us to compromise, he can and will try to scare us with threats. Many church buildings or homes have been burned because of Christians standing against ungodliness. Many people of God will turn back due to fear and think that fighting the ungodliness is all in vain.

My brethren, I don't want to sound hopeless, for with God all things are possible. II Samuel 10:12 says, "Be of good courage, and let us pray the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth him good." Nehemiah 4:14 states, "Be ye not afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives and your houses." Certainly our enemies aren't flesh and blood, but Satan. Our weapons therefore are not carnal, but are mighty through God (II Corinthians 10:4-5; Ephesians 6: 12). We must put on the armor of God and go forth in love and fight with our brethren against ungodliness expecting all to go by God's universal moral law.

America was never perfect, nor ever will be; but America is like natural Canaan land. America, to me, is as a land flowing with milk and honey because it was built on God's word. For over 200 years, our nation followed God's laws much more closely, and was blessed of God! Even though America has been chastened at various times and ways, yet we were a nation **under God!** Psalm 33:12 states; "**Blessed** is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath Chosen for his own inheritance."

George Washington wrote in his farewell address these words: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, **religion and morality are indispensable**." Thomas Jefferson, one of the more liberal forefathers of this nation, wrote in the Declaration of Independence "And for the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." I encourage you to read the many speeches of our forefathers. There is no doubt that this nation was founded upon God's word! We need men today to pledge their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to God and each other to seek to restore this great nation which God has given us.

All our labors in restoring the nation should be done for Christ's sake, that He would receive honor, and also for the good of our children and grandchildren. Listen to what another forefather by the name of Thomas Paine wrote in a pamphlet called **The Crisis**. He stated "If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace...". He continued: The heart that feels not now, is dead; the blood of his children will curse his cowardice who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole and made them happy. I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death." Patrick Henry stated in the Virginia Convention, "Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason toward my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings."

Psalm 9:17 states, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Jeremiah 18:10 says this about a nation: "If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them." As God's people in America, we must remember that in a nation, judgment begins at the house of God. So if God brings destruction on this nation, we as the church will suffer in more ways, just as Israel did in the end of Jerusalem. There will be more persecution and misery. Yet, perhaps God in His mercy might spare our land if we as His people will humble ourselves and pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, then and only then will God hear from heaven and forgive our sins and heal our land.

In closing, if we are faithful, God will bless us in spite of what happens to America. How many of us will be faithful under severe persecution? Yes, I believe the church can prosper in bad times, and God will always have His church in the world somewhere. Yet, must we lose it all? **I pray not!** God's people need to experience righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost within themselves (Romans 14:17 and Luke 17:21) in order to be delivered or saved from the troubles of the world. If a number of God's people feel that comfort, and then shine inside and outside the churches' four walls that our families, brethren and laws be turned back to God, our nation will once again be walking in the light of the kingdom of God. We will be blessed of God. Revelation 21:24 states, "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it." God help us to go beyond the church's four walls, and take back our nation that is being turned into hell.

There Is A Difference

by Elder Fred Bethea
Deceased

The work of the minister of the gospel is a very sacred and solemn work; it is a work that only God can prepare and qualify a man for; it is not a "bright profession" that is attractive to young men seeking a place in the professions. It is a calling, a direct calling from God; and unless a man feels like Paul when he said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," there will be no power in his preaching and the people who listen to him will be unmoved in their hearts.

So, brethren, there is a difference; a difference between preaching and preaching. By this I mean that there is a difference between preaching sermons and preaching the Lord Jesus Christ and Him crucified. A man of letters may "get up" a good talk and have excellent illustrations at the right places throughout, but if it is of the man, it will not be real gospel preaching. For the real, God-called-and-qualified preacher will desire to know nothing among the Lord's people but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

A man preaching sermons is appealing only to the natural mind and understanding of men; but a man preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ is appealing to the renewed hearts of the Lord's people who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Today, there seems to be a cry across the land for well-trained and educated preachers. The thinking behind this idea is that the better educated a man may be in the educated institutions of men the better preacher he is. And, it may be true that an educated man can preach better sermons than the uneducated; but he can never preach the gospel of a crucified Lord better than the uneducated man who has received his call and commission from heaven. Oh what a difference there is in the sermons of a well trained man and the preaching of a called servant of God.

The ways of God are not the ways of men; and God's way of making a preacher is to take a man from the walks of this life and teach him in His own way; and give the man a burning desire to declare the gospel of grace. Most of those the Lord calls are not highly educated in the institutions of men. And it is good that this way of God is manifest; for, when an ignorant and unlearned man declares the gospel of Christ in power and demonstration of the Spirit, the hearer will sit up and take notice of such a servant and know that the things he preached were not things taught him of man, but by the Holy Ghost.

David said, "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound." The true gospel of Jesus has a certain sound to it that is joyful to the hearts and souls of the Lord's people; and, they are blessed when they are able to discern the difference between preaching (the man-made message of the servants of men) and preaching (the heaven-sent message coming from the heart of the Lord's servant).

It is a sad day for Zion when the Lord's people seem to have lost their desire for the whole counsel of God, and desire instead a preacher who is polished in the ways of public speaking and holding the attention of an audience.

Brethren and Sisters, any man who is not Spirit-called to his ministerial who can never, no matter how well educated he may be, preach in power and demonstration of the Spirit; and, no man, however uneducated, can fail to preach who he is called and qualified of God, a blessed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yes, there is a difference; and, it is my hope and prayer that the Lord will send us more servants who are men of high moral principles and who have been called and qualified by the Holy Spirit of God and sent to the sheep of God with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I would much rather hear a child speak who has been touched by the Spirit of God, than to hear the most educated man in the country who has not been taught of God.

WE NEED YOUR SCRIPTURAL ARTICLES AND PERSONAL TESTIMONIES! PLEASE WRITE TODAY

FINANCIAL HELP NEEDED!!!

A couple of months ago, we made an urgent plea for financial help in printing and mailing the magazines. We appreciate every individual and Church which has sent to ease our burden. We have decreased our overseas mailings and made other adjustments, but we still need more financial help. Many magazines go to poor people overseas who cannot help financially, and many go to elderly who are on low fixed incomes.

If you and/or your home Church want to help spread the truth of salvation by grace and the true gospel of Jesus Christ, please make as generous a contribution as possible. If you are able, we would like for you to help on a monthly basis. Please remember that no writer or administrative person receives any of your contribution. All donations and contributions go completely for the printing and mailing expenses. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for everything you do to help!

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10).

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

Answers to Grow In Knowledge

1. Dealt - Psalm 116:7
2. Servant - Psalm 119:65
3. Measure - Romans 12:3
4. Wonderously - Joel 2:26
5. Rproach - Luke 1:25
6. Doings - Zechariah 1:6
7. Sing - Psalm 13:6
8. Well - Exdous 1:20
9. Remeber - I Samuel 25:31
10. Sins - Psalm 103:10

COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

One of the most important ways to serve God is by serving His people. And two of the greatest needs of God's people are comfort and encouragement.

Comfort is defined as "ease the grief, pain, or sorrow of; to cheer." Our Heavenly Father is called "the God of all comfort" (II Corinthians 1:3). The Holy Spirit is called "the Comforter" (John 14:16,26). Numerous Scriptures emphasize God as the great comforter: Isa. 12:1; 51:3,12; 66:13; Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16; II Corinthians 1:3,4; 7:6; etc.

Since we have all needed comforting from time to time, we should know what a great blessing it is to not only feel the God of all Comfort, but to also have His people come to comfort us! Likewise, we should go comfort others.

COMFORTING OTHERS:

1. II Corinthians 1:3,4; 2:7
2. Isaiah 40:1,2
3. I Thessalonians 4:18
4. I Thessalonians 5:14
5. Hebrews 13:3
6. Galatians 6:2

EXAMPLES OF GIVING COMFORT:

1. Genesis 50:19-21
2. Job 2:11-13
3. I Chronicles 7:22
4. John 11:31,33

Not only should we comfort brethren, but we should also encourage them. Though this is similar to comforting them, I believe it goes beyond comforting them, though comfort may be encouragement. There are many things we can do and say to encourage one another. The word of God also teaches there are things we can do to encourage ourselves, as well as encourage others.

Encourage ourselves:
I Samuel 30:6
Psalm 23; 27:1,2,10
Job 13:5; 19:25-27

The Covenant and Prayer of a Preacher

(Written in 1950)

THIS IS THE PRAYER of a man called to be a witness to the nations. This is what he said to his Lord on the day of his ordination. After the elders and ministers had prayed and laid their hands on him, he withdrew to meet his Saviour in the secret place and in the silence, farther in than his well meaning brethren could take him.

And he said: Ah Lord, I have heard Thy voice and was afraid. Thou hast called me to an awesome task in a grave and perilous hour. Thou art about to shake all nations and the earth and also heaven, that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Ah Lord, my Lord, Thou hast stooped to honor me to be Thy servant. No man taketh this honor upon himself save he that is called of God as was Aaron. Thou hast ordained me Thy messenger to them that are stubborn of heart and hard of hearing. They have rejected Thee, the Master, and it is not to be expected that they will receive me, the servant.

My God, I shall not waste time deploring my weakness nor my unfittedness for the work. The responsibility is not mine, but Thine. Thou hast said, "I knew thee--I ordained thee--I sanctified thee," and Thou hast also said, "Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee, thou shalt speak. Who am I to argue with Thee or to call into question Thy sovereign choice? The decision is not mine but Thine. So be it, Lord. Thy will, not mine, be done.

Well do I know Thou God of the prophets and the apostles, that as long as I honor Thee Thou wilt honor me. Help me therefore to take this solemn vow to honor Thee in all my future life and labors, whether by gain or by loss, by life or by death, and then to keep that vow unbroken while I live.

It is time, O God, for Thee to work, for the enemy has entered into Thy pastures and the sheep are torn and scattered. And false shepherds abound who deny the danger and laugh at the perils which surround Thy flock. The sheep are deceived by these hirelings and follow them with touching loyalty while the wolf closes in to kill and destroy. I beseech Thee, give me sharp eyes to detect the presence of the enemy; give me understanding to see and courage to report what I see faithfully. Make my voice so like Thine own that even the sick sheep will recognize it and follow Thee.

Lord Jesus, I come to Thee for spiritual preparation. Lay Thy hand upon me. Anoint me with the oil of the New Testament prophet. Forbid that I should become a religious scribe and thus lose my prophetic calling. Save me from the curse that lies dark across the face of the modern clergy, the curse of compromise, of imitation, of professionalism. Save me from the error of judging a church by its size, its popularity or the amount of its yearly offering. Help me to remember that I am a prophet-not a promoter, not a religious manager, but a prophet. Let me never become a slave to crowds. Heal my soul of carnal ambitions and deliver me from the itch for publicity. Save me from bondage to things. Let me not waste my days puttering around the house. Lay Thy terror upon me, O God, and drive me to the place of prayer where I may wrestle with principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness of this world. Deliver me from overeating and late sleeping. Teach me self-discipline that I may be a good soldier of Jesus Christ. I accept hard work and small rewards in this life. I ask for no easy place. I shall try to be blind to the little ways that could make life easier. If others seek the smoother path I shall try to take the hard way without judging them too harshly. I shall expect opposition and try to take it quietly when it comes. Or if, as sometimes it falleth out to Thy servants, I should have grateful gifts pressed upon me by Thy kindly people, stand by me then and save me from the blight that often follows. Teach me to use whatever I receive in such manner that will not injure my soul nor diminish my spiritual power. And if in Thy permissive providence honor should come to me from Thy church, let me not forget in that hour that I am unworthy of the least of Thy mercies, and that if men know me as intimately as I know myself they would withhold their honors or bestow them upon others more worthy to receive them.

And now, O Lord of heaven and earth, I consecrate my remaining days to Thee; let them be many or few, as Thou wilt. Let me stand before the great or minister to the poor and lowly; that choice is not mine, and I would not influence it if I could. I am Thy servant to do Thy will, and that will is sweeter to me than position or riches or fame and I choose it above all things on earth or in heaven.

Though I am chosen of Thee and honored by a high and holy calling, let me never forget that I am but a man of dust and ashes, a man with all the natural faults and passions that plague the race of men. I pray Thee, therefore, my Lord and Redeemer, save me from myself and from all the injuries I may do myself while trying to be a blessing to others. Fill me with Thy power by the Holy Spirit, and I will go in Thy strength and tell of Thy righteousness, even Thine only. I will spread abroad the message of redeeming love while my normal powers endure.

Then, dear Lord, when I am old and weary and too tired to go on, have a place ready for me above, and make me to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

In The Beginning - God

by Bro.Jerry Forsyth
Waycross, Georgia

The thought that has been on my heart is found in the very first book of the Bible. In Genesis 1:1 it states, "In the beginning, God." We should take heed to these words and apply them to our lives.

First of all, in the beginning of each day we should certainly look to God and ask for His help as we go through another day, because without God we are too weak and frail to carry on.

The scriptures plainly teach us to ..."seek ye first the kingdom of God." This great country of ours used to put God first in the home, on jobs and in the churches but now God isn't in the beginning but we go to Him when we need Him or have time for Him. My brethren, this is why the judgments are coming on this great country now.

The old saying is, "We need to get back to the basics" and that means, in this case, to put God in the beginning of everything.

I think back to the beginning of my life. My parents always put God first. They always read His word to me and my brother and sisters and took us to God's house to worship every time the doors of a meeting were open.

Young couples, today, are getting divorces at the first sign of trouble. The statistics show that one half of young couples are "breaking up house" within the first year, because God isn't in the marriage. My brethren, Satan is well pleased with these figures.

Now look at churches today. Is God in the beginning of the meetings? The churches seem to be more interested in social activities like softball and yard sales rather than "thus saith the Lord."

I beg each of you to please not allow Satan to deceive you. Remember, God is Alpha and Omega-the beginning and the end.

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Yield Not to Temptation

by Bro. Robert Varn
Jacksonville, Florida

Many of you have been walking and laboring in the Kingdom of God. You may have been enjoying the fruit of Christ while walking in the light. If you are doing this, you have become an offence to Satan. Therefore, he will try and tempt you with the world, just as he tempted Jesus. Satan came unto Jesus in Luke 4:3 saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread." In the next verse, Jesus answered saying, "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Satan then took our Lord up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms in a moment's time, and said, "If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine." In Luke 4:8, Jesus answered and said unto him, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Jesus was tempted and sinned not.

We as Christians are tempted today more than ever with things such as alcohol, drugs, sex, etc. We must pray that God will make us strong as He made Christ to resist sin. The world clearly is the wrong way to go, and I speak from experience. In the book of Proverbs, it says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death." I beg of you to resist the temptations of the world. Colossians 2:20-23 says, "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using:) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

I beg of you to study these verses. The things of the world are temporary, God is forever. Let's pray for one another that we yield not to temptation. If we do fall, we may lose the great peace of God's kingdom and experience hell on earth. Let us stand strong and resist the wiles of the devil.

* * * \

Lowing As They Went

by Bro. Roger Sumner
Waycross, Georgia

"And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go. And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Beth-shemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that is not his hand that smote us; it was a chance that happened to us. And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home: And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods. And the kine took the straight way to the way of Beth-shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Beth-shemesh" (I Samuel 6:8-12).

I'm sure that you are all familiar with background of this story. The Philistines had taken the ark of God's presence. Hophni and Phineas (the son's of Eli the high priest) had been killed. Eli had fallen off his chair and broken his neck.

The Philistines placed the ark in the temple of Dagon. You all know the story. During the night, the statue of Dagon toppled over and was beheaded as well as losing both hands. Not only that, but the land was plagued with mice and the people all got emerods or hemorrhoids (I Samuel 5:6-12).

So the Philistines decide that they would test God with the ark. They put two cows that are nursing calves, and yoked them together to pull the ark. They decided that if the oxen left their calves and took the ark back to Israel, then their troubles would be over. If not, then they would conclude that the Lord God was not the one who put the trouble on them.

But I want you to notice what these two oxen did. They pulled the ark straight to Israel, the town of Bethsemesh. They didn't look left or right. But notice: they were "lowing as they went."

I don't know about you. Maybe I am the only one who finds myself in this place. But I do find myself sometimes like those oxen, "lowing as I go."

I knew when I was five years old that God had His hand on me. I knew all the way through high school that I couldn't be like everybody else. I knew that God had a destiny and an appointment for my life.

During 30 years of working with IBM, I went to countless schools to learn how to work on many different kinds of equipment. I went to schools to learn how to deal with people, especially irate people, (the others are easy to deal with). During this same time, I took many Bible courses and attended Grace Bible Institute. I took every course they offered. I even taught there for a season. I spent a stint as youth pastor, as associate pastor, and spent years as an elder, all the while knowing that I was drawn in a direction by a force so strong and so compelling that I dare not resist it, though I wanted to. I wanted to say, "Here am I, Lord, but please send someone else!", but I never said it. More than ten years ago I felt that the Lord was telling me that I would pastor at a Church in Waycross. I have to tell you, that did not excite me at all. I had seen and been through just about every kind of trouble a church can go through. I knew what all the possibilities were. I was not and am not now ambitious at all. However, I am driven. I am driven by the same thing that drives you.

I get up in the morning after long hours of sleeping and waking (I heard one preacher say, "I slept like a baby last night. I slept 2 hours and cried the rest of the night) praying under the burden of the place and the people that God has put me among. I spend much time praying for couples with marriage problems, financial problems, for youth who are plundering the depths of wickedness, for a city that seems to fall into more turmoil even as we pray for it, praying for my own family, wondering how our finances will stretch far enough to pay the bills, let alone send 2 more kids to college. I also find myself fighting against all of the attacks that come against families in the ministry, counseling with people who eat themselves into disability, or drink themselves into emergency rooms, or who spend themselves into financial straits.

Some days I wake up and I don't look to the left, or the right. I get under the yoke and I keep pulling. However, I want you to know that sometimes I am "lowing as I go." Sometimes I think, "man would I like to have the time to play some golf, or do some fishing, maybe take a cottage in the mountains for a while." I sometimes wish that I could just walk up to Walker-Jones and buy my girls a new Honda or Toyota. Yes, sometimes I wonder what I'm doing. Sometimes I wonder out loud. Sometimes, after I have encouraged everyone else and spent my last bit of emotional energy praying for someone whom I seriously doubt intends to follow my advice, I want to appeal my case and say, "Who will encourage me today? Who will tell me, 'It's going to be all right?'"

You see, I really already know that it's going to be all right. But sometimes we get tired because we are always going against the grain, always fighting uphill, always pushing against the tide and liberal morality, corrupt politics, popular opinion, political correctness, of religious ideology. But still, we walk! Still, we pull! Still we move because there is a call on our lives! It drives us. We may not enjoy all of it. Mostly we find great satisfaction in our calling, but there are those days…. We don't quit. We don't give up. But sometimes we just have to low a little.

These cows were going against everything in their nature. Their nature was to have those calves right there with them. Even their udders cried out for relief. Still, these cows didn't turn around. They didn't look left or right. They went straight for the mark: Beth-shemesh, and Israel.

A lot of times, what I am doing goes totally against my grain. I have worked since I was 12 years old. I have been on my own since I was sixteen. I've never had to ask for a handout. You cannot imagine the restraint that I have to invoke when I am dealing with a forty-year-old man who won't get a job to feed his kids, but is aspiring to be a pastor. To be patient with him and deliver the word of the Lord without grabbing him by his shirt and just beating the fire out of him, it goes against my grain.

I can barely control myself when explaining to someone that "No, the church doesn't help with cable bills, because it is possible (though few have tried it lately), to live without television." We had a bunch of medical bills this year, and I had to let some of them wait for a month. This bothered me, so I had our cable turned off, because I cannot in my conscience allow things that I don't need when I am having difficulty paying my bills. I could now afford to turn the cable back on, but I have decided that we are better off without it.

It goes against my grain to be patient while trying to explain to some sorry bum that the Lord doesn't want you to beat on your wife and kids. What I want to do is show him how it feels. But I don't and you don't. I stay in the yoke and I pull. I walk toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, (even though I know how Moses felt when he struck that Rock).

So listen to me, dear pastors. I don't know how you feel about me, but let me tell you that I need you. Brother Bill, I need the encouraging words that you give to me. I need a little building up now and then. I need to hear your testimonies. I need to hear your victories. I need to hear how you have overcome these things!

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever" (Jude 17-25).

After all of this, tomorrow I will wake up and I will put on the armor. I will get back in the yoke and I will pull! I will strain against the resistance, because I am driven by the same thing that drives you: I have a call.

* * * \

Call Upon The Lord, And Rest!

By Bro. Donald Crews
Hortense, Georgia

"And at that time Hanai the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, because thou hast relied on the King of Syria, and not on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars" (II Chronicles 16:7-9).

To fully understand the text, you should read the full account of Asa's reign in II Chronicles chapters 14-17. I believe there is a great admonishment and lesson in these verses for us today.

The Ethiopians, mentioned in the text, had numerous chariots. When king Asa called on the Lord, not only did the Lord smite the Ethiopians until they could not recover from it, but the people of Judah carried off much spoil also. When they relied on the Lord, not only did He deliver them but he also rewarded them and gave them rest. There were no more wars in Judah for twenty years.

When king Asa sought to solve his own problems, the Lord was angered. As a result of his depriving the Lord of His glory, rest was removed from Judah until the end of his reign.

Verse nine of the text shows us that the Lord seeks those of His which are walking in righteousness and need deliverance. By our deliverance, God shows Himself strong and receives His glory. We also see if we rely on God, we will be rewarded. We will be given rest from our troubles for a season.

Looking at the text from another side, we see it is possible to prevent the Lord from delivering us. After seeking our own means of deliverance, if God were to deliver us, we could perceive it to be by our own hand, and in our pride seek to glorify ourselves. Just as God rewards us good for relying on him, we are punished for not doing so. "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord and he shall save you." (Proverbs 20:22).

It is not for us to take upon ourselves to chastise the wicked, nor to seek leagues among men that it might be done. It is our duty to call upon God, from our heart, that He would show Himself strong in our behalf!

This may be a hard thing for us. It seems as if Satan has taken over our land, and our government seems to be in his service. From our point of view, it seems as if we had better be doing something or we will be over-run. Here I feel we need to be cautioned once again. If we let fear take charge, and seek our own solutions, not only will we not solve the problem, but the rest God would have given us will be removed.

We must remember as servants of our Lord if we are seeking to do what is right, we have nothing to fear. "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And this servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, be-hold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (II Kings 6:15-17).

Our Lord made it as plain as can be made. If the wise in the Lord strive with the world, no rest will be given. "If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether in rage or laugh, there is no rest" (Proverbs 29:9).

What is the rest God would bless us with if we really trust Him? King Solomon tells us in I Kings 5:4, "Now the Lord my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent."

Using this passage as our explanation of rest, it is shown to us God will remove our adversary (Satan), and also we will not be plagued with evil for a season. Can there be a better rest?

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." (Hebrews 4:9, 10)

It is my prayer that as a child of God each of us would call on the Lord to deliver us, whether our problems be great, or small. I also pray that as a collective body, we would call on Him to deliver us from the evil around us; that the strength of the Lord might be shown in our behalf and we might receive the rest only He can give!

Patience... Letting God be God.

...patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3

"For Preachers' Wives"

Don't Be Afraid

by Sis. Frances Jackson (Deceased)

We were living on a farm five miles from Barnesville in a small community called Goggins, Georgia. There was a store there, a depot, a train stop, a post office, a Primitive Baptist Church, Methodist Church, and Missionary Baptist Church, a community house and Community Club.

Everything seemed fine and we were very happy. I thought we were set for life.

We built a new house in 1947. In the Spring of 1948, we had a very sick neighbor man. The men in the community were going to sit up at night to help the family. Emory had been going at least twice a week to sit up. On this particular night that he was going, he said if someone else came in at 12:00 o'clock, he wanted to come home as he had a very busy day the next day. So I told him that I was going to lock the door and he would have to call me to let him in.

After he left and the children were tucked in bed, I retired. I guess I had not been asleep long when I was awakened by someone standing by my bed. My first thoughts were that it was Emory; but how did he get in when I knew I had not gotten up to unlock the door to let him in. I opened my mouth to ask him that, when suddenly I noticed it was not him, but a figure clothed in white. His head favored Emory. I was so frightened I could not speak. He called my name, "Frances," and I screamed! He stood right there until he called me three times, and I screamed three times. He did not say it in words, but the look on his face said, "Don't be afraid". Then he was gone. I lay there scared to even breathe, as stiff as a board. I don't know how long I lay there in that condition, but it was until Emory came home and called me to open the door. As Emory came in ,I burst out in great sobs, and I then told him what had happened. He said, "Why didn't you call me if you were afraid?" I didn't think about calling. I did not even remember that we had a telephone.

In 1949 Emory began to read and study the Bible more and more. He would come in from work during the day and read the Bible. After some time, he told me he felt that God had called him to preach and he asked me what I thought about it. I replied that if he felt that God had called him, that was fine; but if he had let someone talk him into it, I did not like it at all.

In 1950, he was ordained and served Flint River Church, Flatshoals and LaGrange Church, supplying at others along.

While he was pastoring these churches, the children and I did not go with him very often. It was a long hard day to carry them and stay until after church at night. So we stayed at home and went to Union Church and usually brought two or three other children home with us to play.

On one Sunday afternoon, a big dark cloud came up and lightening and thunder became very sharp and loud. One loud clap of lightening and thunder I felt sure had hit something. I went through the house looking out the windows and did not see anything. The children were afraid, so I said," Let's sing something." They gathered around the piano, and we sang "Yes Jesus Loves Me."

Then I smelled smoke. It was coming up at the door between the kitchen and dining room. Our water pump had been hit by lightening, so we had no water. I called the fire department in Barnesville and was told they did not usually come out that far. I told them our house was going to burn down if they did not come. On permission from the Mayor (who was my brother-in-law) they were there in just a few minutes and put out the fire that was burning under the kitchen where the lightening had come in on the gas line. A hole in the gas line, as big as a match stem, was feeding the fire.

I thought on this incident, and I felt that God was telling me He could take away this house and all we had. There was no use for us to cling to material things.

At the end of the year at call time, Flint River called Emory full time. A member in talking to me about the call said they didn't want us to move. They just wanted was him just to come over every Sunday and preach, and she wanted to know my feelings on that. Flint River was a good church. It looked like everybody loved everybody else and really it looked good to get to stay in our own home and go on with the farming. But I did not have any feelings about it. I told her that if God was in the matter, that would be fine.

I do not know how long it was after that, when Emory went to the mail box. When he came into the house, he handed me a letter. Not saying a word, he turned and walked out of the room. I looked at the letter and saw it was from Tifton and something went through me. I knew we were going to have to move to Tifton, and I had not yet read the letter.

Several days later I told Emory how I had felt when He handed me the letter. He said that was exactly how he had felt when he got it out of the mail box before he opened it.

God had been preparing me for this moment in that of the vision and the fire, showing me that He could take all our material goods. I must not try to hold to them.

After these experiences and serving Tifton, Emory served Statesboro and Atlanta Churches. Both were wonderful churches.

God has so wonderfully supplied our needs all these years. So, I say to young preachers' wives, "Don't be afraid." His promises are true. He will never leave you or forsake you. I can say with David in Psalms 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." We have a great God!

(Sis. Frances Jackson and Elder Emory Jackson faithfully served God's people for many years. They were a great example and inspiration to all who knew them.)

Bible Reading Calendar for September

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Psalms 145-147	I Cor. 11:1-15
2	Psalms 148-150	I Cor. 11:16-34
3	Proverbs 1,2	I Cor. 12
4	Proverbs 3,4	I Cor. 13
5	Proverbs 5,6	I Cor. 14:1-20
6	Proverbs 7,8	I Cor. 14:21-40
7	Proverbs 9,10	I Cor. 15:1-32
8	Proverbs 11,12	I Cor. 15:33-58
9	Proverbs 13,14	I Cor. 16
10	Proverbs 15,16	II Cor. 1
11	Proverbs 17,18	II Cor. 2
12	Proverbs 19,20	II Cor. 3
13	Proverbs 21,22	II Cor. 4
14	Proverbs 23,24	II Cor. 5
15	Proverbs 25,26,27	II Cor. 6

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Proverbs 28,29	II Cor. 7
17	Proverbs 30,31	II Cor. 8
18	Eccles. 1,2,3	II Cor. 9
19	Eccles. 4,5,6	II Cor. 10
20	Eccles. 7,8,9	II Cor. 11:1-15
21	Eccles. 10,11,12	II Cor. 11:16-33
22	Solomon 1,2,3	II Cor. 12
23	Solomon 4,5	II Cor. 13
24	Solomon 6,7,8	Galations 1
25	Isaiah 1,2,3	Galations 2
26	Isaiah 4,5,6	Galations 3
27	Isaiah 7,8,9	Galations 4
28	Isaiah 10,11,12	Galations 5
29	Isaiah 13,14,14	Galations 6
30	Isaiah 16,17,18	Ephesians 1

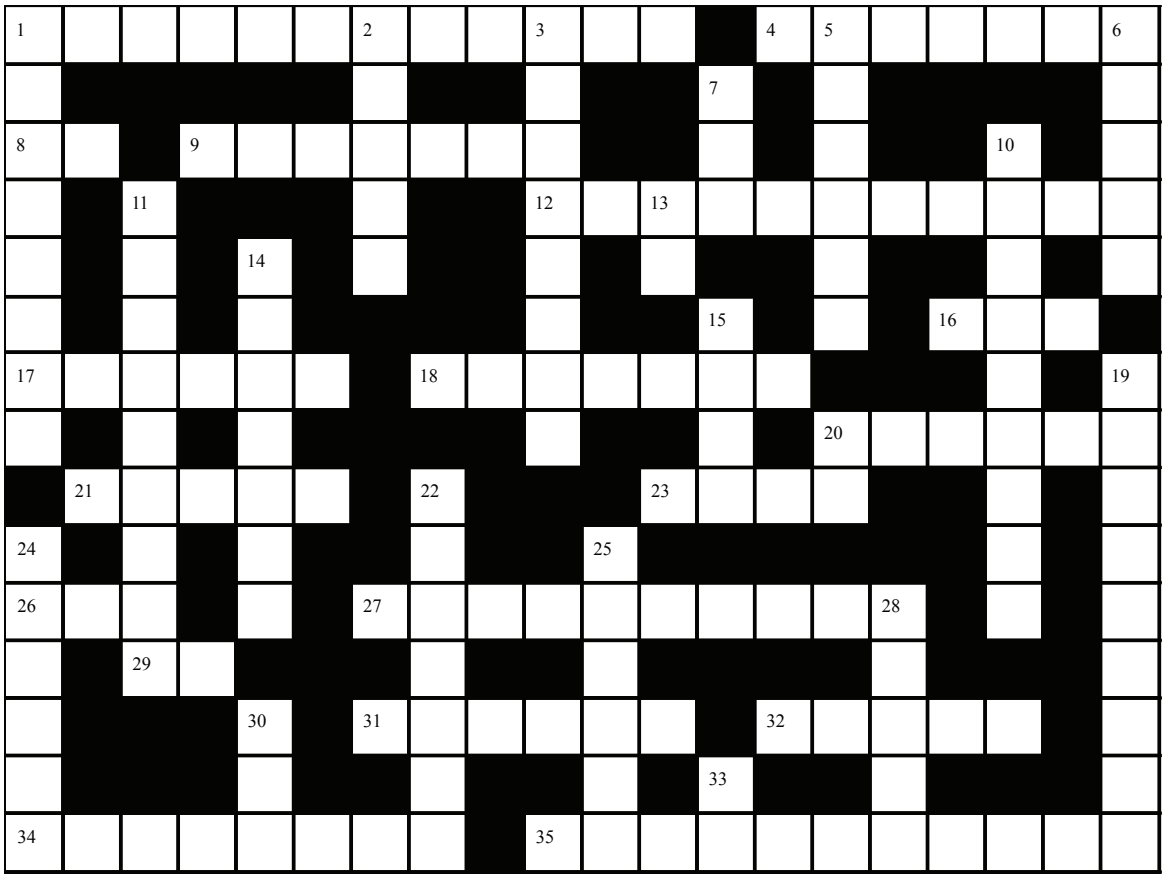
ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE AUGUST 2008

1 C	O	N	T	2 R	I	T	E	■	3 N	■	4 M	U	L	5 T	I	T	U	6 D	E
O	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■	H	■	■	■	E	■
7 M	A	Y	■	C	■	■	8 S	■	9 M	A	S	10 T	E	R	■	11 S	U	C	H
F	■	■	12 B	E	C	A	U	S	E	■	■	H	■	■	■	E	■	L	■
O	■	■	■	I	■	■	N	■	■	■	13 R	E	F	U	G	E	■	14 A	M
R	■	15 S	A	V	E	■	16 G	I	V	17 E	■	Y	■	G	■	■	■	R	■
T	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	S	■	■	■	18 H	O	R	19 S	E	20 S
L	■	21 O	■	D	■	■	■	22 H	■	C	■	■	■	■	■	■	I	■	A
E	■	F	■	■	23 F	I	N	I	S	H	E	24 D	■	■	25 C	■	N	■	L
S	■	F	■	■	E	■	■	S	■	E	■	26 E	V	E	R	■	■	■	V
27 S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	■	■	W	■	A	■	■	E	■	28 O	■	A
■	■	R	■	■	B	■	■	■	29 S	E	N	T	■	■	T	■	30 N	O	T
31 E	V	I	L	■	32 L	E	33 S	T	■	D	■	34 H	A	V	E	■	E	■	I
■	■	N	■	■	E	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	O
35 M	I	G	H	T	■	36 R	E	C	O	N	C	I	L	I	A	T	I	O	N

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. “Casting down, _____ and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” 4.”So then every one of us shall give _____ of him self to God.” 8.”For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, _____ shall be measured to you again.” 9.”To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein _____ he hath made us accepted in the.” 12. “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they, both are to the Lord.” 16. “And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for _____ Lord, who is with you in the judgement.” 17. "The wicked shall be _____ into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” 18. “For we not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,...against spiritual wickedness in high places.” 20. “Destruction and _____ are in their ways:” 21. “Who hath _____ us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began;” 23. :Not by works of righteousness which we have _____ but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;” 26. “Or hown wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own _____?” 27. “Whose mouth is full of cursing and _____.” 29. “There is _____ fear of God before their eyes.” 31. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus _____, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ;” 32. “For if a man _____ himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” 34. “And we know that all things work _____ for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” 35. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own _____.



DOWN

1. “Wherefore not let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no _____ with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.” 2. “Let them _____: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” 3. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are _____ of God.” 5. “(For the weapons of our warfare are not _____, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)” 6. “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in _____ own eye?” 7. “According as he hath chosen us In _____ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:” 10. “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge _____ judgement.” 11. Brethren, if a man be _____ in a fault ,ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest there also be tempted.” 13. “And the way _____ peace have they not known:” 14. “Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which _____ him good.” 15. “For what have I to do to judge them _____ that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within” 19. “Thou _____, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” 20. “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver _____ from the body of this death?” 22. “_____ shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” 24 “If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will _____ of my good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.” 25. “The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his _____, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.” 28. “Their feet are _____ to shed blood:” 30. “_____ not then your good be evil spoken of:” 33. “For whom he did for know, he also did predestinate to _____ conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”