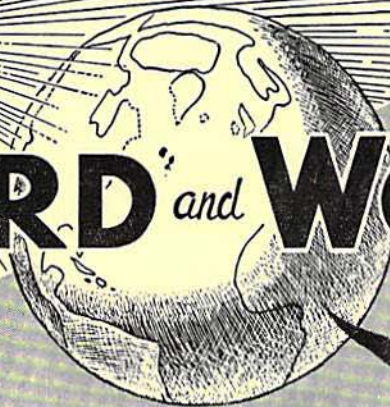


*"Holding fast the faithful Word . . ."*



# The **WORD** and **WORK**



*"Holding forth the Word of life."*

MARCH, 1980

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Robert Heid is a minister in Louisville, Kentucky.



## God's Family

W. R. H.

### Prayer and Anointing

And when even was come, they brought unto him many possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities and bare our diseases.—Matthew 8:16, 17.

This word from Matthew tells me that the Holy Spirit interprets "griefs" and "sorrows" in Isaiah 53:4 to be our physical sicknesses, and with this light, we can know that the Lord of life is not only able to give blessing to these bodies, but that it is within the scope of His agenda for all of us, who "like sheep have gone astray".

Three times in His ministry, Jesus raised people from the dead, and one time is recorded each for Peter (when he raised Dorcas) and Paul (when Eutychus was taken up for dead after falling from the window). These passages well establish that the Lord has the power and love to meet the needs of men. But what word do we have for today?

James writes, in the fifth chapter at verse 13:

Is any among you suffering? let him pray. Is any cheerful? let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him. Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.

Now, what do we do with this passage? Many who love to read it, don't dare to try it. They have the strong feeling that it was something written for the long ago, and that we have no right to presume upon it for our own personal ailments. Others, who in a time of extremity would like to follow its counsel, cannot find elders who are like-minded in a belief that it should be followed. Some who are in congregations where there are no appointed elders, must inquire for elders from elsewhere to fulfill this office, or do without.

Some basic points need to be noted:

1. The word for "sick" is bodily infirmity of all sorts.
2. The sick one is to "call" for the elders to come (Or go to them).
3. The elders are those elsewhere described, as in 2 Tim. 3 and Tit. 1.

4. A plurality of elders is indicated.
5. The elders are to pray over him and anoint with oil.
6. The word for "oil" has its root "olive" indicating what oil to use.
7. The elders are to pray "the prayer of faith" (expecting healing, of course).
8. The Lord raises up the sick one (Elders are not the healers).
9. If sins have been involved, they are forgiven.
10. Confession of known sin seems to be a prerequisite to healing.

Many believers do not know that they have this option when they are sick. Others think they are too insignificant, and don't want to be a burden to the elders. Some do not know that the parents should do the "calling" for the little children when the little ones are too young to understand. Many think that their illnesses are not serious enough to involve this program.

Perhaps the chief reason that many do not call, is that it has not been the practice (as far as they know) in their congregation. For this reason, preachers and elders ought to report when folks have been anointed, and public thanksgiving should follow healings.

Many times our sicknesses overtake us gradually, and we do not at any particular time think to initiate the call for the elders. We do, however, think to call for the doctor. Could it be that we have more confidence in the doctor than in this prayer formula?

But suppose that the Lord does not will to heal me? Then you will not be healed. But those sins that were confessed will be forgiven, and that in itself is even greater and is eternal. I have known the Lord's answer to be "No," in many cases of anointing. But also I have known his answer to be "Yes", even in cases of cancer. And it may well be, that if we sincerely ask Him, He will do for us other than He had planned, (as He did for king Hezekiah) just because we beseech Him. He delights to give us the desires of our hearts.

And now a word to elders: If you do not have knowledge that this type of praying is effective, it will be almost impossible for you to pray this prayer of faith. When you next have an illness, call for believing elders to pray for you, and when you experience the answer in your own body, you will be able to pray for others.

In conclusion to these remarks, I could wish that:  
Each congregation has a plurality of faithful, accommodating elders.  
Anointing oil was available for use at all occasions.  
That during the assembly, sick ones would ask the elders to fulfill this service.  
That both the young and old would take this great passage as their own, as we all do to all of the other teachings in the book of James.  
That the preacher and elders teach the people that the Lord's answer will not always be "yes" but that it probably will be so more often than we now think.

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## THOUGHTS FROM ROMANS

Ernest E. Lyon

### God's Judgment — According to Light

The American Standard Bible, from which I usually quoted, translates Romans 2:12 this way: "For as many as have sinned without the law shall also perish without the law: and as many as have sinned under the law shall be judged by the law." In that one verse the ASV makes four mistakes by not putting the word "the" in italics before the word "law". The word "the" is not in the Greek. I have noted this time and time again in reading comments of Greek scholars, so I went through the many translations I have and found six of them that translated variously much as Wuest did in his "Expanded Translation of the Greek New Testament": "For as many as without law sinned, without law shall also perish. And as many as in the sphere of law sinned, through law shall be condemned." You see, most translations assume that Paul is speaking about the Law of Moses (that very poor translation down as "Today's English Version" even puts in the words "Law of Moses") and so they supply the "the" before the word "law".

Maybe this is not important, but I wanted you to see that regardless of whether a person knows the Law of Moses or not, he may still not be "without law" because of his knowledge of some of the things God requires of man. On the other hand this verse indicates that there are probably some people who have no conception of the principle called law, no realization that there is a "higher power" who has a standard to which we must live.

With this understanding of the verse, now look again at it and notice first of all that Paul says that those who sin without law will perish. That means they will go into the "outer darkness", the "lake of fire", the "darkness" that is in the place where those who will be banished forever from God will spend eternity. To use a more common term, they will spend eternity in Hell. To me this settles once and for all the age-old question about those who have not heard about Christ and therefore can not believe on Him. Many have tried to figure out something to please the minds of men without consulting God as to what He will do in judgment of such. God says, through Paul, that such will perish. They have sinned and the wages of sin is death, the soul that sinneth it shall die—these statements from Romans 6 and Ezekial 18 strengthen the meaning of this passage. The sinner will perish.

But now look at Wuest's translation of this verse and get the rest of the picture: the person who knows the principle of law, of God's dealing with us on the basis of our morals, on the basis of our obedience to Him, that person shall be judged by the law that he knows. He has greater light, so his judgment is greater, based on a higher standard. That is what I meant when I entitled this study of God's judgment "According to light."

I have been assuming that you know that all have sinned, that there is no man other than the man who was also God, Jesus Christ, who has ever lived perfectly according to God's law. And I think it is also fair to say the point that this chapter is driving home, that no man has ever lived perfectly according to his own standards, the standards by which he judges others.

Yes, my friend, if you appear before God without the righteousness of Jesus Christ, if you try to "make it on your own" when the Judge of the Universe calls you before Himself, then you have only one end—to perish. The quality of the punishment you will receive will vary according to the light you have had, but it is still true that you perish, you will be cast into the "outer darkness", in the midst of the fire that gives no light. I don't want you to go there, Jesus Christ doesn't want you to go there, God the Father doesn't want you to go there, but you judge yourself and you will receive sentence accordingly if you do not flee to the one place where you can have the righteousness of God, in the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Before closing may I point out to Christians how this stresses the great need of mission work, a work that should be increasing day by day instead of decreasing as it is at present. Those who do not hear will perish without law and without the gospel if we do not tell them. Let us pray, let us give to support those who go, and it may be God wants *you* to go. Prayerfully consider that as you think of the millions going into a Christless grave because we did not tell them. May God forgive us!

---

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## Questions Asked of Us

Carl Kitzmiller

*How responsible are society, schools, homes, and others for the wrong lives that many people lead? Doesn't a lot of crime and perversion begin with broken homes and the failure of parents and others?*

There are two powerful influences in the life of every human being. One is heredity, the other environment. Heredity speaks of

those things handed down through our genes from our ancestors. Environment speaks of external conditions which come to bear in our life from birth—the action of parents, the influences of others, the teaching that one receives, the events that help form decisions, the circumstances under which we live, etc. There can be no sensible denial that these both affect very much what we are.

Heredity is often evident in physical features and even in mental ability. Children may look very much like a parent or a grandparent. Certain traits and characteristics, both good, and bad, and indifferent, are quite clearly passed along. While this is not totally predictable it is nevertheless certain. Even mannerisms—the toss of the head, the way one holds an object—betray heredity. In a store recently I saw a person who was a stranger, yet I kept thinking, “I must have met or known that person at some time.” After a few minutes it occurred to me that the mannerisms and certain physical features were those of someone I did know. I have no doubt that they are very close relatives. Some of us are by heredity more optimistic or pessimistic, more or less active, more or less brilliant than others. No doubt some of our likes and dislikes trace back to this source. Twins reared separately under very different circumstances show great similarities. Ancestry does leave some very marked characteristics on us. And don’t forget that by heredity we are descendants of Adam, with fleshly desires which are very strong.

If heredity is powerful, so is environment. Very very early we begin to be formed by the forces that bear on our lives. Many of our reactions are learned. The love, or lack thereof, from our parents, their discipline, their standards and values are factors which help to form our personality and character. It is the fact that children are teachable which makes us emphasize the importance of Christian homes and beginning very early in teaching them God’s word. We learn to respond in certain ways. We learn values. This can work for us or against us, depending on what is taught.

Generally speaking, our environment may be complex, consisting of both good and bad influences, ever changing as we move from place to place or enter into different periods of our life. The forces of God and the forces of Satan are both to be found in most places. We begin very early to choose which influences we will most allow to affect us. Our heredity seems to have some influence on how we will react to our environment, on what portion of it we allow to influence us; but the teaching we receive, both by example and by word, has a greater effect on the choice. Environment is not limited to childhood but goes on affecting us all our lives in some measure.

All of which is to recognize the strong effects from these two forces. Those children who grow up exposed to violence, hatred, drunkenness, crime, etc., in homes where selfishness rules or where little influence for good is presented, certainly stand a good chance of being criminals, ne’er-do-wells, drunkards and dopers, etc. It would be foolish not to recognize this. Surely every Christian needs an awareness of these powers in a life so he does not lose his compassion. There are those who have “never had half a chance.” We sorely need to be able to look at those in sin, crime, and ignorance with the realization



that except for the grace of God we might be in their situation. Those who have come from good homes and who have been deeply influenced by Christian values must beware of taking too much credit for what they are.

There is another side to the coin, however. While heredity and environment are both powerful, they are not mechanical and fatalistic. Their control in a life is not so absolute as to rob mankind of the freedom of choice. None of us are merely victims of these forces in our lives to such an extent that there can be no changing. (We all recognize that there are a few people who lack the mental capacity for making choices and who are not responsible for their actions, so we are speaking here of those who are responsible beings. And—we might add—responsible before God, not according to mere human sociological theory.) There is a force still greater than either that we have mentioned. It is the power of the Spirit of God to create new life within the believer. The whole Bible, and especially the New Testament, recognizes the power of people to make a choice for God and declares the personal responsibility of those who sin.

There is a strong effort in our day to excuse sin on the grounds that it is the result of disease, or social conditions, or something over which the individual had no power. The attempt is to put the blame somewhere other than on the individual. But God's word holds the sinner responsible for his sin. Without denying the influence of parents or others, Jehovah declared that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). He went on to declare that ultimately we are all responsible for our own sin. Those who come into judgment are going to give account to God for their own sin.

Poverty is sometimes blamed as a reason for crime and for sin. But some of those who grow up in poverty are the finest examples of manhood to be found anywhere. The same environment does not always produce the same type of character. This is because of the power of choice. Broken homes are not the nursery that we would willingly choose for a child, but there are those who serve God in spite of this bad influence. They made a choice to do so. One of the glories of the gospel is its power to reach into the lives of those who have been fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners and such like, to change those lives. At Corinth there were those who had come out of just that kind of background: "And such were some of you; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Sometimes there are those who grow up in good homes, who have been under the right influences during much of their life, who have been taught the word of God from infancy, and yet they throw it all aside and choose sin and rebellion. They have made a choice. The good environment can be rejected as well as the bad. Human beings are not robots.

Surely we ought to do what we can toward changing those things that "hinder the truth" (cf. Rom. 1:18ff). We are not putting any premium on the wrong, negative things. By all means we must be diligent in teaching God's word and in bringing this great positive

influence to bear. But let the individual face up to his own responsibility before God for the choices he makes. The guilt of his sin is his, not another's. Sin never has such power in a life but that in the power of Christ and by the grace of God the direction of that life can be changed.

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## Viewing the News

Jack Blaes

IN A SPEECH the Education Writers of America, Jessie Jackson concluded: "We are determined to make education a national priority; we can afford no less. If we send any child to a state University in this nation for four years, it will cost less than \$20,000 on an academic scholarship. If we send that child to the state penitentiary for four years, it will cost between \$50,000 and \$126,000. Ignorance and incarceration cost more than education and employment." While we agree with the revolutionary preacher if the prospective student is given a sound education in truth, we must face the sad fact that such may very well not be the case.

**MORE SOCIALISTIC FOOLISHNESS.** Sweden, which already has passed legislation outlawing corporal punishment, is now considering a law that would allow children to divorce their parents. Supporters of the bill say they don't intend the bill to be used by a six-year old who has had a fight with his parents. But if a sixteen-year old girl was living with her boyfriend, she "would have the opportunity to divorce her parents if they objected to the relationship." Now, perhaps if the jurist would just include a little alimony, the fornicators could find financial security.

**MRS. FORREST JAMES, WIFE OF THE** Governor of Alabama, says that her husband has decided that Alabama

will not participate in this year's White House Conference on Families. And for all the right reasons! Because the conference guidelines "do not establish traditional Judeo-Christian values concerning the family, the foundation of our nation under God." In a letter to Jim Guy Tucker, the chairman of the conference, Mrs. James says that "terminology used in White House guidelines, such as 'family stereotypes,' 'differences in structure and lifestyle,' along with mandated instructions that state delegations be selected without regard to 'sexual orientation,' very frankly, are offensive to my husband and me and in no way reflect either the law of the land or the kind of conference that would reflect the basic concepts of most Alabamians." The White House Conference, to be held at regional meetings in Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles in June will deal with such topics as abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, divorce laws, adoption, foster care, single parents, and economic pressures on the family.

—Suggestion: Why not take this information as a basis of a letter to your governor asking him to follow this example in Christian, American statesmanship.

**PHILIP CRANE IS QUOTED IN** the New York Times that if elected president he would not have Henry Kissinger as his Secretary of State because of

Kissinger's promotion of SALT and détente. Two good reasons, and there are many more, all of which can be summed up as: Henry just isn't a friend to The United States of America as formulated by our founding fathers.

**SENATOR JESSE HELMS SHOCKED** HIS colleagues recently by revealing that the F.B.I. knows the location of more than 1,500 K.G.B. and other Soviet agents in the U.S. And of another 700 stationed at the United Nations in New York. But the F.B.I. is unable to take any action against them because of interference by highly placed Administration policy makers.

**FREEDOM, FREE GOVERNMENT AND PROSPERITY** stem from the moral law. If we hope to retain (read regain) our privileges and our well-being, we must begin again to reemphasize the Ten Commandments as the basis of civilization. —Kershner-Rowe Commentary

**AND JUST WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** "My opinion of the Russians has changed most drastically in the last week than even the previous two and a half years before that. It's only now dawning on the world the magnitude of the action that the Soviets undertook in invading Afghanistan." Of course, you know this was said by President James Carter. Less than a week after "seeing the light" (?) the President asks the Senate to defer (Note well defer, not drop) the SALT II treaty. I would ask the Senate to take it up at this time because a majority of the Senate would deny passage of this traitorous compact. Mr. Carter is still in favor of SALT —now is he fooled, or is he trying to fool the public?

**AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL** built an enormous factory —Kama River Truck plant in Soviet Russia several years ago over the strenuous protests of many Americans. A confidential Commerce Department memo says that trucks produced at this plant have been seen with Soviet forces in Afghanistan. This was not supposed to happen according to those Americans who supported the building of this plant.

**FIFTY OF THE NATION'S TOP COR-**

**PORATE** leaders, including the president of Lever Brothers, a top fashion designer, and a director of a Wall Street law firm, announced recently that they are beginning a campaign to win ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. At a press conference at the Equitable Life Assurance Building in New York City, Coy G. Eklund, president of Equitable, announced the formation of the National Business Council for E.R.A. He stated that the group will attempt to "persuade" legislators in states where votes on E.R.A. are pending. Joining Eklund in the announcement were William M. Agee, chairman of the Bendrix Corporation, and actress-business-woman Polly Bergan, who will co-chair the council. Agee said E.R.A. would benefit big business through nationwide uniformity in regulations that effect business.

**RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIZABETH** Holsington—the Army's first woman general—speaking in opposition to the so-called 'equal rights' amendment at a General Assemblée hearing on Wednesday Ratification of E.R.A. would mean by law half of U.S. combat troops would be female. "Can you imagine a fighting line where every other link in the chain is a weak one? . . . Don't you think we will be the laughing stock of the world with a half-and-half Army, Navy, and Air Force?"

**LAETRILE TESTS APPROVED BY FDA.** Officials of the Food and Drug Administration announce that they have given permission to the National Cancer Institute for the first clinical trial of Laetrile on humans. The officials say that the trial must be preceded by a Laetrile test on six rabbits and a three-month toxicity study on the rabbits to make sure they do not ingest too much cyanide from Laetrile. If the clinical test shows the Laetrile samples to be safe for human use the Cancer Institute will proceed with a full clinical trial. The trial will take a year and will involve 200 to 300 advanced cancer patients who would volunteer for the treatment. The FDA is sceptical of Laetrile's record so far, but according to Commissioner Jere Goyan these tests will be objective and all data produced by the study will be promptly evaluated.



# THE BODY OF CHRIST

Dennis L. Allen

## Part II

### LIFE OR DEATH IN THE BODY

Every member has his unique part in serving the body of Christ. What each member has in Christ has a characteristic of its own. It is distinctive. It is also needed. Christ has apportioned gifts to the body "even as He will." Failure to acknowledge and exercise the gift brings loss to the whole Body. On the other hand, ministering what you have received from the Lord brings life to the Body. The Life of the Head is supplied to the Body through the members. This is the only way I can serve Christ and minister what He has given me.

Again, our position in the Body of close and vital relationship to the other members brings increased responsibility. Was not the Holy Spirit teaching this in His dealing with Ananias and Sapphira? They had failed to recognize the true nature of the Body and their relationship to it. What they did was not just a personal matter but affected the whole Body. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump," and the Spirit had to deal with it. How often do we hear Christians talking in an individualistic manner as if they had no obligation to any one! I deny the Body when I assert my right to freedom of action and a disregard of the consequences or influence on others. Every defeat of a member weakens the body; every victory strengthens it. Each member has a responsibility not only to receive but to supply; otherwise he is a weight. (1 Cor. 14:26). There are no tourists or spectators in the church.

How sad if people are made to feel that they have fulfilled their requirement if they have filled a seat and even worse if they feel nothing more than that would be welcomed by those who have "planned" the service down to the last hymn and prayer. No wonder those who have life leave such a meeting with a feeling of lack even though the teaching given may have been good. If the Body is not recognized in our coming together, vital truth is being obscured regardless of the good things taught from the pulpit. But some one says, "There are many aspects to the life of the Body besides the gathering together to break bread. Opportunities for sharing can be at other times." This is true, but if the real nature of the body is not recognized in the coming together of the saints, is it likely it will be at other times?

### GROWTH THROUGH MINISTRY

There are spiritual needs that can only be met as we minister to

the needs of others. When Jesus arrived at the well in Samaria he was hungry and thirsty. But before either need was satisfied He was confronted with the need of the Samaritan woman who was more thirsty than He. In the process of meeting her need He found Himself no longer hungry. Of course, He had physical needs just as we, but it is also true that whoever meets the needs of others shall find himself satisfied. Whoever bears another's burden finds his own burden easier to bear. "Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over," applies in the spiritual realm also as well as to giving.

### AUTHORITY IN THE BODY

Brethren, let us not deceive ourselves into thinking that a "church of Christ" is a group of people with the "right" background, or the right doctrinal beliefs and form of worship. This could all be true and yet the Lord be shut out as He was at Laodicea. How can the church be His body unless He is really recognized as the Head and allowed to have His way in our midst? In the church the Spirit must be able to express His desires without any hindrance. The Spirit cannot be quenched in the body of Christ. If the authority of the Holy Spirit is established in the church then we must destroy our own authority. Elders that lose sight of the authority of the Head can do great harm to the Body.

When the children of God are filled with the fulness of God they will find themselves harmonizing with one another. This comes by growing up in all things into Christ, who is the Head. A group of children even from the same family if left alone together for some time will tend to begin bickering with one another. But the return of a wise loving mother can soon bring a bond of oneness and love that one would not have deemed possible when she was not there. So it is with the body of Christ. When Christ is truly made the Head of the church, when His presence and authority is recognized in our midst everything is different. We are drawn together in a spirit of unity, humility and love which would be impossible otherwise.

### LIVING WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS

How much we can learn from studying the relationship of the members of our physical body! The fingers are lost and helpless in relating to each other apart from the head and even then there is a time and patience element involved in developing skill and coordination. Even the hands are not in direct relationship with each other. All control is through the head.

A Chinese brother gave a beautiful illustration with respect to the mouth. How many and diverse are the members there and in such close proximity! Sometimes the tongue even with the best intentions gets in the way of the teeth and gets bitten. Does it then say to the teeth, "Why did you bite me? If that's the way you are going to treat me, I'm going to leave." Rather both members try harder to avoid such a circumstance in the future. Yet how often in the church brothers and sisters are easily offended and leave, losing sight of

their position in the body. The tongue *can't* leave because he is joined to other members of the body. They need him and he needs them.

As we fail to be under the headship of Christ we fail to function as a body but are rather disjointed or spastic. Only as the whole church in a locality lives in this relationship will there be oneness and the unity for which Christ prayed. It will not be perfect but it will be manifestly above the human level. The church should represent the supernaturally restored human race even in this present evil age. Relationships will be redeemed. That which seemed hopelessly marred and broken will be restored. It will not be just words but healing and restoration that can be seen by all.

### "THINGS WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN"

We have no right to diminish the standards the Lord has set up for His body, nor do we have the right to elevate others that He has not given us. If the Lord has not given us a form, then in that we have freedom. He has told us to sing but has not said whether the songs should be written on clay tablets, parchments, bound in books, or simply memorized. We may have preferences but the Lord has given freedom and this freedom applies to you as well as to me. He has told us to assemble together, but he has not said how we are to get there. Taking a plane is not necessarily less spiritual than riding in a buggy. The Lord has not instructed us, therefore we have freedom and must give our brothers freedom. Nor can we say that only what is commanded is allowed. In that case it would be wrong to have a building, church pews, Sunday School literature, loud speakers, etc.

These are times when the Lord's people need to be clear in their minds regarding the things which can and cannot be shaken, and not confuse the church with its external trappings. These may be taken away. The building may be burned to the ground or confiscated. Bibles and hymnbooks may be burned. Church schools may be closed and equipment taken over. All of this could happen and the church could still continue and grow.

Going to other countries, especially the undeveloped countries, gives one a new perspective on what is important and what is not. I have seen evangelistic meetings where the only externals were some rough cut boards laid across supports for seats out in front of the house and some kerosene pressure lamps for lights. The Word was preached in power and the Spirit was free to work.

The communists thought they had destroyed the church in China when they closed the church buildings, burned the Bibles and hymn books, cut off foreign support, repudiated the religious leaders through accusation meetings, sent them through the streets with dunce caps on their heads and set them to carrying night soil and garbage, or even chopped off their heads. But they were mistaken. They had only removed the things which could be shaken, but the things which cannot be shaken remained, and we are beginning to see that even after 30 years of communist repression and persecution the church still remains—purified and alive. The buildings are closed, but two brothers

can gather for fellowship under a bridge as they "chance" to meet on the road. A few can go out into the forest. Meetings can be held in homes. The Word can be copied down by hand. Songs can be passed from mouth to mouth. Even in the prisons the word of God is not bound. In the prison camps in Russia believers can have sweet fellowship even in abandoned mine tunnels and maintain one another's spiritual life.

How impoverished we are if we feel that the trappings are the essentials! If we are so dependent upon the preacher we would not be able to carry on without him, then something is wrong. Suppose the hymn books were burned? Could we still sing? It might even prove to be a blessing to get us out of the books when singing songs we have sung for 30 years and help us to sing from the heart. Better yet it might get us out of a rut in our singing. Traditional hymns are fine if through the words they still speak to our hearts, but they are not sacred. Have all the best songs already been written? Fanny Crosby did not think so, and because of it we have all been blessed. There may be new music that would be a better vehicle for the truth that will challenge the hearts of today's Christians, and it doesn't have to be an imitation of worldly music. For example, a number of beautiful scripture verses of praise or exhortation have been set to music that really lifts the spirit. Missionaries should not feel that only traditional American and English hymn tunes are spiritual. Indigenous music may provide a vehicle that speaks better to the hearts of the nationals. The church is not static. It continually faces new needs and challenges. Should we not be alert to the needs and sensitive to the Spirit to meet them, even when it goes against tradition?

### MEETING THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE BODY

The independence of American life which we Christians as a whole have adopted as our own life style is not necessarily Christian. We don't like to have to depend upon anyone else. But how much of this spirit is just selfish independence which really works against God's purposes in our lives? The Christian community which was such a vital part of the body life of the Jerusalem church is being seen with new eyes by many of the Lord's people today. Could it be that our troubled economic times may be designed by the Lord for the purpose (among other things) of helping us come to a new realization of our proper relationship to the other members of the body.

As inflation eats away at our financial resources we will be encouraged to begin to share more with one another rather than duplicate resources. Why should each family buy expensive tools and equipment that could well be shared by several families? If we lived closer together we could do this even more. Not only could equipment and tools be shared, transportation could be combined and many other economies effected. Think how much resources could be freed for promotion of the kingdom of God! Is it really good stewardship not to do so? Skills could be exchanged and in so doing we could be together more and our sense of brotherhood and oneness would be deepened. When the resurrection life of Christ is free to operate in

the Body the current, yes even the daily, needs will be met. This is so evident in the book of Acts, and the Lord has not changed.

How much should we allow the world and its demands fit us into its mold. For example, a young brother is suddenly asked by the company he is working for to move to another city. Should we meekly bow to these demands even though it may have devastating spiritual results for the brother and his family and real loss to the local body, or should the Body be vitally concerned in this matter and if they are agreed that this move is not for the good of the brother or of the Body, why should the company's desires prevail? The church has access to the resources of heaven and is not dependent upon any company for the welfare of a brother.

Community based upon purely economic considerations will not long endure, but that does not mean Christian community cannot include this area if it has the right basis to begin with. We have fellowship with one another because of relationship to Christ. Without Him we cannot know our brother or be one with him. We can have community only in and through Jesus Christ.

"But concerning love of the brethren ye have no need that one write unto you; for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another; . . . but we exhort you, brethren, that ye abound more and more." 1 Thess. 4:9-10. May the Lord help us in these days to do just that!

#### THE GOAL FOR THE BODY

Christ's goal for the Body is that we "attain unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13) His desire is that we "may grow up in all things into him, who is the head . . . from whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in due measure of each several part, maketh the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love." (Eph. 4:15, 16) The Lord designed the body life of the Church so that we would be fitly framed and knit together. Let us enter wholeheartedly into His purposes for us and use the means He has provided!



## STUDIES ON PRAYER

Jesse Z. Wood

Father—Son—Holy Spirit, and our address to the First, in the name of the Second, in the power of the Third.

God the Father is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24), yet He is a Person. He acts, creates, speaks, hears, loves, saves, sustains, and He is eternal.



Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. He was with His Father before the world was brought into existence (Jn. 6:62; 17:5; Phil. 2:5-11). Before the Lord Jesus left heaven to become the only worthy sacrifice for our sins His Father prepared for him a body like our own (Heb. 2:14, 15; 10:5).

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity. Matt. 28:19 speaks of the three members of the Godhead in this order: "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." In Gal. 4:4, 5 God sends forth of His Son, born of a woman. Then He sends forth the "Spirit" of His Son to indwells believers in His Son (verse 6). Read Rom. 8:1-17. In Matt. 1:18 the Lord Jesus is called "Child of the Holy Spirit," yet in Matt. 3:16, 17 when the Holy Spirit was seen descending as a dove and lighting upon the Lord Jesus, a voice was heard from heaven saying "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Compare Matt. 17:5.) So the great mystery of our God is too great for us to fully grasp. God is "One," yet He sends His Spirit who acts, speaks, guides, comforts, convicts men of their sins. (Read Jn. 14:16, 17, 26 and Jn. 16:26 plus all of Jn. 16; Acts 13:2; Eph. 4:30.)

One day our Lord Jesus' early disciples asked Him to teach them to pray (Lk. 11:1). In Matt. 6:9 they were instructed to pray to "Our Father who art in heaven." Notice, they were not told to pray in the name of Jesus. (This was not yet in order, but it was to come later. After His death, burial and resurrection, and when He had taken His seat on the right hand of His Father in heaven, they began to acknowledge Him as their High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16).

"In my name" (something "new" revealed) (Jn. 16:22-30. Col. 3:7: "... do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Now what does it mean when we say "in Jesus Name"? Is this expression a sort of "pass word" or "talesman" attached to the end of our prayers guaranteeing answer when we pray? Certainly not! It has a deeper meaning, surely! To me, it means that, I, of myself, am unworthy of entering into the very presence of the Creator of the universe, but there sits one on His right hand who is indeed clean, pure, sinless-holy; and He sits there as my personal advocate—my High Priest (and behold "Such a High Priest") (Heb. 8:1; 1 Jn. 2:1; Heb. 4:16). Since He is there, ever living to represent me, having "swapped places" with me (2 Cor. 5:21), He becoming the sinner and I becoming righteous—(not a right of mine own, but credited with His infinite rights) I now have *His* boldness of approach to our *mutual* Heavenly Father, all because of Jesus Christ my redeemer and saviour! And, I personally, am trying not to merely say "in Jesus Name" but "in the name of the *LORD* Jesus," for even unbelievers talk about "Jesus", but they do not and cannot, honestly call Him "Lord". (See Rom. 10:9 and 1 Cor. 12:3.)

We'll "take a 'class-break'" here until next issue.

Any Questions? Write:

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## Have the Old Testament Restoration Prophecies Been Fulfilled?

Dr. David R. Reagan

(Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series of five articles being written by Dr. Reagan in response to an attack on Pre-Millennial doctrine by Guy N. Woods, the Associate Editor of the Gospel Advocate.)

The final argument which Guy N. Woods presented in his attack on Pre-Millennial viewpoint was phrased as follows: "Pre-Millennialists get their mistaken ideas by taking prophecies that apply only to the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity and applying them to a so-called reign of Christ on this earth." He then pointed to Ezekiel 36 & 37 and Isaiah 66 as chapters which have been "distorted" in this manner by Pre-Millennialists.

### *New Testament Prophecies*

The first point that needs to be clearly made in response to Bro. Woods is that the Pre-Millennial concept of a future reign of Christ on this earth is *not* dependent upon the "distortion" of Old Testament prophecies. The reign is clearly taught in the New Testament:

- 1) Paul states in 2 Timothy 2:12 that "if we endure, we shall also reign with him."
- 2) Lest someone conclude that Paul is speaking of some sort of ethereal, spiritual reign of the saints with Christ in heaven over the church on earth, let's proceed to consider the words of Christ in Revelation 2:26 & 27: "He who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, I will give him power over the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron..."
- 3) Jesus repeats the same concept in Revelation 3:21 when He promises: "He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne." Notice that Jesus says the redeemed shall share *His* throne, not His Father's throne. What is His throne? It is the throne of David—the earthly throne in Jerusalem which the Lord has been given but which He has not yet claimed and will not do so until He returns in glory. (Luke 1:32 & 33)
- 4) In Revelation 5:9 & 10 the heavenly hosts are pictured as singing a "new song" which glorifies Jesus as the "worthy one" and praises Him for the shedding of His blood to "ransom men for God." The hymn then proclaims prophetically that Jesus and the redeemed "shall reign on earth."

- 5) In Revelation 11:15 John records a prophetic hymn of anticipation that is sung in heaven when the seventh trumpet is blown: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever."
- 6) In Revelation 19 we have the great vision of the return of Christ in triumph, ready to battle with the forces of evil. The purpose of His return is stated in verse 19: "From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron . . ." This is the same scene portrayed by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2.
- 7) Finally, in Revelation 20 Jesus is pictured as reigning with the saints and martyrs for a thousand years on the earth.

### *"Distorted" Prophecies*

Now that it has been proved that the Pre-Millennial view-point is not based solely on the "distortion" of Old Testament prophecies, let's proceed to take a look at the Old Testament prophecies that supposedly have been "distorted".

Bro. Woods referred first to Ezekiel 36 & 37. His point is that these chapters were fulfilled in the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity and that they therefore have no relevance to any future reign of Christ on the earth. Unfortunately, Bro. Woods did not bother to explain how these chapters were fulfilled by the return from Babylon. They may have been *prefilled in type* by the return from Babylon, but they certainly were not *fulfilled* in any *literal* sense.

### *Ezekiel 36*

For example, in Ezekiel 36:15 God promises that after the Jew's regathering to Palestine, they will no longer "hear any more the reproach of the nations." Nothing of the sort occurred after the return from Babylon. As a matter of fact, the returning Jews were an object of scorn, ridicule, and persecution by the neighboring nations (Ezra 4:4-6). In 36:24 the passage makes it clear that the regathering of the Jews to their homeland will be worldwide in extent; yet the Babylonian homecoming involved only about 60,000 Jews who lived in Babylon.

In Ezekiel 36:26-28 God promises to give the returning Jews a "new heart" and a "new spirit" that will cause them to walk in His statutes and observe His ordinances. Surely no one is going to argue that this promise was fulfilled after the return from Babylon. God also promises in verse 33-36 that He will restore the land so that people will say "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden." No such thing happened after the return from Babylon.

### *Ezekiel 37*

Ezekiel 37 continues the theme of a future kingdom of regathered Jews in the land of Palestine. The theme is expressed in the form of a vision of dry bones that are rejuvenated and gathered to the land of Israel. Again, the regathering is pictured as world wide (verse 21). It is also portrayed as involving Jews scattered from both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judah (verse 22), whereas the

Babylonian captives were taken only from the southern kingdom of Judah.

The most interesting aspect of Ezekiel 37 is the promise in verse 24 that "My servant David shall be king over them" while "they dwell in the land where their fathers dwelt" (verse 5). Surely no one is going to argue that this promise was fulfilled after the return from Babylon. I have heard people argue that it is currently being fulfilled in the reign of Christ over the church, but such a gross spiritualization of the passage makes a mockery of its clear intent.

Rather than render language meaningless by spiritualizing these passages, I think it would be more honest to use the alternative argument that these promises to the Jew of a future Messianic kingdom have been rendered null and void by Jewish rebellion against God, particularly by the Jew's rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. However, that is an impossible argument to sustain since these and many other passages make it clear that the promises are unconditional and are not dependent upon the repentance of the Jews (Ezekiel 36:22 & 23). This same principle is taught by type in the return from Babylon, for it too was not dependent upon the repentance of the Jews (See Daniel 9:3-19, especially verse 18). It came about because God had promised it to (Jeremiah 29:10), and because God wanted to use it as a demonstration of His grace, to His name's honor and glory.

### *Isaiah*

The other "distorted" Old Testament passage to which Bro. Woods referred was Isaiah 66. But again, he did not get specific, and it is difficult to determine what he was referring to, since chapter 66 is mainly concerned with the judgment of the Lord and the eternal state. About the only section of chapter 66 that he could have had in mind would be verses 10-14, which describe the comfort and prosperity which Israel will enjoy during the Messianic kingdom. God promises that during that time He "will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream" (verse 12). History records no such prosperity for the Jews after their return from Babylon.

It could well be that Bro. Woods had in mind chapter 60 of Isaiah, for that chapter is almost entirely devoted to a description of the future glory which Israel will enjoy during the Messianic kingdom. But again, the glories promised in this inspiring passage were not enjoyed by the Jews after their return from Babylon.

### *Other Old Testament Prophecies*

The most often repeated prophecy in the Old Testament is the promise that God will someday regather the children of Israel to their homeland and settle them there permanently in peace. There is just no way that the regathering from Babylon can be made to fit these prophecies—except as a foreshadowing of the Great Regathering yet to come. Consider the following passages:

- 1) *Isaiah 11:11-12* — This passage speaks of a "second" regathering which will involve the dispersed of both Judah and Israel. The Jews will be brought back to Palestine "from the four

corners of the earth." This description does not fit the facts of the return from Babylon.

- 2) *Deuteronomy* 30:1-5 – Moses prophesies that following a dispersion to the "uttermost parts of heaven," God will regather the Jews to the land of their fathers that they "may possess it." The Babylonian dispersion was not world wide, and the Jews never possessed the land after their return. They were under constant foreign rule.
- 3) *Jeremiah* 16:14 & 15 and 23:7-8 – The prophet says that the regathering of the Israelites to their homeland will be considered by the Jews to be a greater miracle than their liberation from Egypt. The miracles of the Exodus will be eclipsed by the miracle of the Regathering. The Jews do not have any such attitude toward their regathering from Babylon. Is the prophecy wrong, or is it yet to be fulfilled?
- 4) *Ezekiel* 20: 33-35, 41-44 – The prophet promises that the Lord will serve as king over Israel and that this will occur after their regathering from a widespread dispersion. He prophesies further that the Jews will suffer a period of judgment after their regathering and that this tribulation will result in their acceptance of the Lord. When were any of these prophecies fulfilled following the return from Babylon?
- 5) *Hosea* 3:4 & 5 – The prophet predicts that after a long time of dwelling without a king, the Jews will be regathered "in the latter days" and shall seek the Lord and David their king. No kings of the Davidic line served the Jews after their return from Babylon.
- 6) *Joel* 3:1 & 2, 12 – The prophet says that when the fortunes of Jerusalem are restored, God will gather the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat for judgment. No such event occurred after the return from Babylon.
- 7) *Amos* 9:14 & 15 – God promises that the fortune of Israel will be restored, that the cities will be rebuilt, that the vineyards and gardens will be replanted, and that the Jews "shall never again be plucked up out of the land which I have given them." This is an unconditional promise that has not been fulfilled. The Jews who returned from Babylon were plucked from the land by the Romans, first in 70 AD and then again in 135 AD. This passage must be speaking of a regathering and restoration that is either occurring now or is yet to come.
- 8) *Micah* 4:1-7 – The prophet presents a picture of the Lord reigning from Mt. Zion over a worldwide kingdom of peace, justice, and righteousness. Nothing that occurred after the return from Babylon even remotely fits this picture. Again this promised kingdom of peace is unconditional, as the prophet makes crystal clear in 7:18-20.
- 9) *Zephaniah* 3:14-20 – The prophet foresees a time when the Jews will be regathered, their oppressors will be dealt with, and Israel will be "renowned and praised among all the

peoples of the earth." Needless to say, these things did not happen following the return from Babylon. It is also interesting to note that Zephaniah says another characteristic of this restoration period is that the Lord shall reign as king "in your midst." (verse 15)

- 10) *Zechariah* 10:8-12 – This passage is the clincher in proving that the Old Testament restoration prophecies were not fulfilled in the return of the Jews from Babylon. It was written *after* the return from Babylon, yet the prophet still looks forward to a time when Israel will be regathered from among all the nations to which they have been scattered. At that time, says the prophet, God will make them strong "and they shall glory in his name."

#### *Paul's Attitude*

The Apostle Paul certainly did not labor under any illusion that the Old Testament promises to the Jews had been either fulfilled or annulled or transferred to the church. Romans 9-11 constitutes a New Testament reaffirmation of God's promises to the Jews.

In Romans 9:4 Paul asserts that to the Israelites belong "the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises . . ." And lest anyone argue that he is referring to "spiritual Israelites" (Gentile Christians), it should be noted that he prefaces this statement by explaining that he is talking about his "brethren, his kinsmen by race." He proceeds then to explain that he is not talking about all Jews, but only those who have followed Abraham in faith. In chapter 11 he refers to this group as "a remnant chosen by grace," and again he emphasizes that he is talking about physical Jews who have followed Abraham in faith:

I ask then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

Paul concludes this discourse in Romans 11 by stating that this Jewish remnant will be saved after "the full number of the Gentiles come in." And he says this will occur because "*the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.*" This marvelous statement of God's grace for the Jew is an echo of an earlier statement by Paul in Romans 3:1-4a:

Then, what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews are entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? *Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?* *By no means!*

Once more, these passages make it clear that Paul did not believe that the Old Testament restoration promises to the Jew had been either fulfilled, annulled or transferred to the church.

#### *Conclusion*

God still has a purpose for the Jew. The children of Israel will be regathered to the land of their fathers, they will enter into tribulation,

they will turn to the Lord, and they will be restored to a position of primacy among the nations during the reign of Christ on earth.

He is mindful of his covenant for ever,  
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand  
generations,  
the covenant which he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Issac,  
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,  
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."

(Psalm 105:8-11)

(Note: Next month Dr. Reagan will begin a new series of articles on the Rapture.)

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## **Buried Treasure** **(The Kingdom of God)**

Cecil Garrett



While still a schoolboy in Rhodesia I was told a story about a young man who inherited the family farm from his father. He did not want to continue the non-glamorous career of farming and decided to sell out. He would use the money to seek his fortune in faster and more exciting ways. He left the country and in a few years time after trying several projects that used up all his funds he returned for a visit to his ancestral home. He did not find a farm, but a thriving mine and smelter. When he signed the deed to sell the place, he had been sitting on a stone fence made of chunks of high-grade ore of a semi-precious metal. The present owner was making the very fortune the young man had been seeking.

You and I have read about another man who knew the treasure was there: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." (Matt. 13:44) Peter said to Jesus, "We have left everything to follow you. What then will there be for us?" Included in Jesus' answer was: "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children for MY sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." Matt. 19:29

Do we know what is in that treasure chest he found? "Every spiritual blessing . . . adoption as sons . . . redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins . . . the seal of the Spirit . . . the riches of his

glorious inheritance . . . his incomparably great power for us who believe . . ." Eph. 1. "All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" Paul says are hidden in Christ. Col. 2.

Is it possible for a person to encounter such treasure, give up everything worldly in order to obtain it, and then ignore most of its contents for the rest of his life? Is it possible that it is so much more full of blessing than we first thought? Maybe we have *never* dug down to the bottom of the chest!

Are we under the impression that most of the blessings of this treasure are relegated to the future? Certainly some of them are: We have the *hope* of salvation, our eyes are directed toward heaven, from whence we *await* a savior, we have turned from idols, to serve the living and true God, and to *wait* for his Son from heaven. Some of the jewels in the treasure chest will not be worn until the time of the "glory that will be revealed in us." Rom. 8.

It seems to me that many of us Christians are like the proverbial housewife who tells her husband on the eve of some party, "I don't have a thing to wear," when the husband knows that her closets are so stuffed with clothes that she has forgotten what some of them look like. A few years ago my wife discarded an old velvet dress she had worn as a teenager. It went into a box of "dress-up" clothes to sell to the little kids at the college fair. After many years, the college closed and the remnants of the fair items were being processed to give to the local "Need Center." My wife recognized the dress and thought of our daughter. "I could have it dry-cleaned, put on a new flower, and it might just fit her." She did, and it did. Now the daughter is wearing with pride a dress that for many years had been counted as having no value whatsoever for the family.

Listen, Brothers and Sisters: There are blessings God is just waiting for us to claim to be used right *now* in our service to Him that we have either not known about, have ignored, or have been taught are not for our time.

Sometimes when these blessings which some Christians enjoy today are mentioned we hear a negative reaction like: "Maybe it is just not God's will for you to have that." Perhaps. Then what is it doing in the treasure chest, I would like to know? I think some of these blessings are not enjoyed by us because we haven't paid any attention to the instructions on how to put them on to wear them.

If we will learn about more of these treasures (blessings) and begin utilizing them, we will be more fruitful and happier servants of the Lord. II Peter 1: The divine power of Jesus our Lord "has granted unto us *all* things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; whereby he has granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature . . ."

Our eyes have been opened in recent times to one area of the treasure chest that many of us have been ignoring. Some of you who read this are trying to read through the Bible at least once this calendar year. Most of that reading will necessarily be in the Old Testa-



ment. Those are the scriptures that Paul told Timothy were able to make him "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

I therefore recommend to all who are reading through the scriptures to keep a notebook of all the blessings and promises that God reveals are available to those who seek to serve Him with their whole heart. Also write down any conditions that you can see are attached to the promise. You had better get a thick notebook and be ready for some soul-searching surprises.

## PROPHECY

Edited by Dr. Horace Wood

### Where Are We Now?

Winston N. Allen



"Now from the fig tree learn her parable: when her branch is now become tender, and putteth forth its leaves, ye know that summer is nigh; even so ye also, when ye see all these things, know ye that he is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all these things be accomplished. Watch therefore: for ye know not on what day your Lord cometh. Therefore be ye also ready; for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:32-34, 42, 44

Passenger to pilot, as they flew over a vast wilderness area in the Northland, "Where are we now?" Pilot to passenger, "I don't know, but we're making good time!" As we enter the decade of the 80's, many are asking, "Where are we now? What is ahead?" James Schlesinger publicly expressed his opinion a few months ago that this generation might not make it through the 80's. Another prominent leader warned that the new decade would witness apocalyptic judgments. For this decade experts are predicting a new money system, a world government, and that a nuclear war of catastrophic proportions will break out in the Middle East. Alexander Solzhenitsyn has again warned the West regarding Soviet leaders, "These madmen will clearly succeed in plunging our country and the whole world into war."

As we journey into the 80's, is there a sure guide and are there mileposts along the way? A few weeks ago it was necessary for me to make the 15-mile trip from Eagle River to Anchorage, even though the weather forecast was not good. "Whiteout" conditions developed and much of the time on the way to Anchorage Brother Ray Couturi- aux and I hardly knew where we were. Blowing snow and ice particles often cut visibility to just a few feet. Many cars had missed the road and were stranded in deep snow. On the way back, while travelling

alone, conditions were even worse. I drove slowly in a blizzard situation where each driver had to keep moving if he could. Finally the problem was partially solved by staying close to the vehicle ahead. Often little could be seen except the two tail lights, but I figured that as long as they kept moving I was safe. Attention was focused on those lights and they proved to be a sufficient guide. We read in 2 Peter 1:19: "And we have the word of prophecy made more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts . . ."

Where are we now? If the end of the age is near as the Word of God and current events indicate, the rapture of the saints must be nearer. What are some of the signs heralding the end of the age? Jesus said, as recorded in Luke 21:25-28:

There shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows; men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; because your redemption draweth nigh.

Notice specific prophecies dealing with the sun and moon. Isaiah 30:26 foretells the time when the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, and the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun. Rev. 16:8, 9 foretells the time during the approaching Great Tribulation when men will be "scorched with great heat" from the sun. Joel 2:31 and Matt. 24:29 foretell the time when the sun shall be darkened and the moon will appear red as blood. Astronomers assert that approximately one-half of the sun's hydrogen has been consumed, and this together with increasing sunspot activity lead some scientists to believe that our sun could soon nova (period of extreme heat and light followed by period of darkness).

Also scientists are forecasting other sobering events for our solar system. In the latter part of 1982 all nine planets will be in alignment on the same side of the sun. It is predicted that the gravitational pull thus produced will have far reaching effects on both the sun and the earth. In their book *The Jupiter Effect*, Gribbin and Plagemann list the following:

- 1) There will be a great increase of magnetic activity on the sun, including huge sunspots.
- 2) The ionosphere of the earth will be changed.
- 3) Radio and television communications will be disrupted.
- 4) Weird lighting effects will be seen in the sky.
- 5) Wind directions will be changed.
- 6) Rainfall and temperature will change.
- 7) Earth's rotation and the length of days will change.
- 8) Many earthquakes along fault lines will occur.

Revelation 16:21 foretells a devastating hail storm, and Rev. 11:2-6 foretell a 3½-year drought. Isa. 24:20, Heb. 12:26 and Matt 24:22 foretell a change of the angle of inclination of the earth and the length of earthdays. Earthquakes are predicted in Matt. 24:7 and Rev. 16:18-20.

With the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other, the true Christian is both thrilled and saddened by the fulfillment (or setting the stage for fulfillment) of numerous prophecies in our day. He is thrilled by the prospects for those who know Christ as Savior and Lord. He is saddened because of the terrible sufferings ahead for those who reject or neglect the Ark of Safety.

In the 1980's communications satellites parked in orbit will make possible direct broadcasting of radio and television programs to any and every inhabited spot on planet earth. This has a direct bearing on Christ's prophecy in Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto the nations; and then shall the end come." New communications discoveries will also make it possible for the coming world dictator, the Antichrist, to monitor the population of the world when the command is given to worship him. All nations will be able to see the image of the beast (Rev. 13:15-18), and the bodies of the two witnesses in the streets of Jerusalem (Rev. 11:9, 10).

The Bible foretells that the ancient city of Babylon will be destroyed in one hour as was Sodom and will never again be inhabited (See Nov.-Dec. '79 *Word and Work*). The Nov. 15, 1979 edition of *The Jerusalem Post*, in an article entitled "Restoring Babylon" gives an interesting up-date regarding oil-rich Iraq restoring and rebuilding the city of Babylon.

Another development in the Middle East which may have prophetic significance is the plan of Israel to build a 46½-mile tunnel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. See Zechariah 14:6-8 and Ezekial 47:8-11.

I was impressed by this statement in the Jan. 29, 1980 issue of *The Anchorage Times*: "General David Jones, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs, told Congress today that 'the possibility of a military confrontation with the Soviet Union will increase significantly' between now and 1985. Jones and Defense Secretary Harold Brown said the Russian move into Afghanistan shows the Soviet Union might be willing to threaten U. S. interests in oil-producing regions." Many Bible students believe the stage is being set for the tremendous events described in Ezekial 38 and 39.

Another recent article in *The Anchorage Times* foretells the threat of a global famine that "may pose even greater problems than current energy woes." Matt. 24:7 and Rev. 6:5, 6 give definite prophecies regarding famine.

Greece is now the 10th member of the European Community. For the first time since Daniel penned his prophecy in Dan. 2, the revived Roman Empire is getting into position to be smitten by "the stone cut out without hands" (the Messiah), after which He will establish His Kingdom on earth.

Skyrocketing crime and immorality and unbelief in our day were foretold in Matt. 24:12; 2 Tim. 3:1-7, 13; Luke 17:28-32; and 1 Tim 4:1-3.

In Sept., 1979 the *Oklahoma World Record* in an article headlined "The Dollar's Demise!" had this statement: "Franz Pick, an American Financial expert who claims he has not been wrong in 40 years, is

predicting the U. S. economy will collapse in 18 months and old dollars will be traded for new at a rate of 100-to-1." Yes, a new money system is on the way and it will incorporate a number for every human being, but when the system is working under Antichrist (Rev. 13) Christians will be gone (1 Thes. 1:9, 10).

Where are we now? We don't know exactly, but we have the assurance we are headed toward a glorious destination as we hear the voice of the Shepherd and follow Him. The Written Word and the Living Word are guiding Lights in a dark world. Our Guide knows exactly where we are, and He looks forward to the time—it may be very soon—when we will be with Him forever. Until then He is able to guard us from stumbling, and to use us in His service. Are we ready by His grace for the rapture, for the Judgment Seat of Christ, for the marriage supper, for the Millennial reign, for eternity?

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#### REFLECTIONS ON THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT—

We regret an interruption in this column this month, due to a transition to more current figures and necessity for broader research. Brother Larry Miles hopes to have an article for us for next month. —Editor

Larry Miles, a member of the Portland Avenue congregation, is working in Cincinnati and has taken classes at Cincinnati Bible Seminary.



## GLEANINGS

Larry Miles

### *THE TRUE EFFORT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE*

The true effort of the Christian life is not to become what we are not, but to live worthily of what God, in His infinite grace has made us in Christ.

—Selected

### *OUR MISSION*

Our mission is not to rival other religious organizations in an attempt to make an outward show, but to "set forth Christ and Him crucified." For this reason it behooves us to please God instead of man. For when Jesus Christ returns in His glory, then He shall make known the hidden things of the heart, and everyone shall receive his praises from the Lord (1 Cor. 4:5). Hence all diligence should be given to present the truth in the spirit of love, that we may all be found in fellowship with each other when our Lord returns for us, bringing His reward with Him.

—W. J. Johnson

### *THE CHURCH ON FIRE*

The church in a certain community was on fire. Among those who were following that peculiar instinct that makes most folks run to a

fire was an infidel. A church member called to him, "This is the first time I ever saw you run to Church."

"Well," said the infidel, "This is the first time the Church has been on fire."

This reply, taken in another sense, gives food for thought. Why are there so many empty pews in the average church? There are many reasons, but one cause lies in the fact that many churches are cold.

—*King's Business*

### CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL

It is very evident that the Apostle Paul writes his letter to Philippi under the stress of circumstances. Not that circumstances are causing him one moment's anxiety, but they are such as compel him to face the alternative possibilities which lie just ahead of him. It is while in this condition that he writes this letter and condenses into one swift burning sentence an epitome of Christianity as he has realized it: "To me to live is Christ." To him Christianity is Christ.

Christ! I am Christ's! And let the name suffice you,  
Ay, for me, too, He greatly hath sufficed;  
Christ in the end, for Christ was the beginning,  
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

—*G. Campbell Morgan*

### FEEDING THE SOUL

Feeding the soul—how vitally important! Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word the proceedeth from the mouth of God. There is manna, living bread. Do not neglect it. An undernourished soul is worse than an undernourished body. Believe it. If you have fed on wordly sugar coated dainties, and have a perverted appetite and taste, correct it.

—*Stanford Chambers*

### UNDECIDED CHRISTIANS

Christians likewise. How some of them, when they saw the unworthiness of their Christian life and the secret sin that was destroying their peace and power, have yet fooled their lives away, expecting some day to turn a new leaf and become real, out-and-out, devoted Christians. But it is illusive. As you have lived; so shall you die. Unless, indeed, you hear now, and right now turn with purpose of heart unto God to make whole-souled surrender; to give up your grudges and hatreds; to renounce the sin that does so easily beset; to set about the Lord's work and service. Now is God's time; tomorrow the devil's. "Today if ye shall hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

—*R. H. Boll in Words in Season.*

### THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We are informed that when Dr. Horatius Bonar retired for his night's rest, the last thing he did was to draw aside the curtain of the windows, look up into the heavens, and say, "Perhaps tonight, Lord." Then the next morning when he arose he would first of all look out upon the new day, and remark, "Perhaps today, Lord."

—*Blessed Hope*

Until next time, **MARANATHA!**

# Missionary Messenger

*"Greater things for God"*

Bob & Joy Garrett

Salisbury, Zimbabwe - Rhodesia

February 6th.

As the children memorized so much for the January 1st Sunday Schools service held at Harare, only the top child in each age group of each congregation was able to participate. Bibles, New Testaments, and Bible portions were given to those who had memorized the most in number and accuracy. Therefore, after Bob's monthly Saturday Bible Class he is having the different Sunday Schools take turns to give all the children who memorized scripture an opportunity to recite their verses. In January the Glen Norah young people took an hour to give us their memory work. Some of it was done in Shona and some in English—but all of it God's word laid up in the heart.

Because Bob's passport was about to expire and the American Embassy was not to return to Zimbabwe Rhodesia until after the election, we journeyed to South Africa to procure a new passport and have a few days rest. Mother Garrett and I went also. It was relaxing to be away from a country which has been at war for the last 7 years. However, I found myself starting to open my pocketbook and parcels at the entrance of every store as we must do here in Zimbabwe - Rhodesia. In the Beit Bridge - Fort Victoria convoy on our way home we saw people working on a bridge that had had a hole blown in it just a few days before. The ceasefire has not as yet stopped the war. However our trust has always been in Jehovah. Please pray for this country that we may have peace and a government that will allow freedom of worship.

Bro. Patrick Machaya's family have moved from Gatooma to Glen Norah, Salisbury. Bob is still putting the finishing touches to this parsonage.

Pressure on the Bible Society is causing them to republish the 1949 Shona Bible. However, a new translation is needed. Pray that the right people will be raised up to do that work.

Alvin & Georgia Hobby

Zambia, Africa

January 31st.

I have been hindered from teaching Bible in the primary schools this year as I have taught for the past two years, due to one school inspector complaining that this must be done by the classroom teacher. I know it is supposed to be done by the classroom teacher, but some of the teachers are not religious people and totally incapable of teaching the subject. Anyway, I have applied to teach Bible in a large high school and went for an interview yesterday morning. The Lord willing, I should start teaching the first of next week. This can be done in high school since it has "subject teachers" instead of classroom teachers.

Alvin and Dennis go out to the preacher school, 7 miles from here, every morning to teach. The preacher students and Dennis have a

new congregation going in Libuyu township. They have had 8 or 9 baptisms the past two Sundays, and had a house full last Sunday. This could be done in every township if we had a building to meet in (a necessity, No. 1 due to the political situation), and people to be leaders.

We have had some hot, dry spells since the rains started, but I suppose this is normal for this area. There seems to come an anxious time every year when we are afraid that the crops will all fail and there will be a famine. In fact, there was a crop shortage last year due to drought, and there would certainly be a famine now if S. Africa and Rhodesia were not sending thousands of tons of corn to Zambia. Makes you wonder why Zambia is so hostile to them.

George C. Galanis

Athens, Greece

January

We thank God for another year spent in His precious service. We are so thankful to our Lord for giving us strength and wisdom to spend all our little time left serving Him and His purposes. What a joy it is for us to know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord! Every moment we invest in God's vineyard we are not going to lose our reward.

Here is a summary of our activities in 1979: We kept on preaching for our two congregations four times a week; We distributed one hundred thousand Bible correspondence cards; We tried hard to establish one Bible Center Branch and some Bible study circles; We sent out two thousand Christian calendars; We kept on issuing our monthly Magazine *SEARCH & BELIEVE*.

Our plans for 1980: To visit all our correspondents to establish contact; To distribute at least one hundred thousand correspondence cards to enroll new students; Our efforts will concentrate on organizing study groups; A missionary tour in Crete in March and another in August.

The Lord has given us our first grand child. It's a lovely girl. She was born on 29 November 1979. She weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces. Her name is Debra - Akrivi. Costas, our son has been honorary discharged from the Air Force where he spent 26 months compulsory service. My wife's health is somewhat frail, nevertheless she keeps on working for the Lord and the family.

Please pray for us. We do count on your prayers and care.

Shichiro Nakahara

Shizuoka City, Japan

January

We hope and pray that the work of your church is flourishing and your efforts are rewarded with rich spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. The work here is going pretty well and the members now have a willingness and eagerness to get themselves involved in the Lord's service. They have become aware of a need for Bible knowledge as well as training for service. We are working on a program to meet the spiritual needs of this congregation. I am working to be prepared to meet their needs as they come to me with them, so that they might be better prepared to meet the needs of others.

We had a general meeting on January 15 at which all the members were present. Time was provided for discussion on self-re-examination and prospects for possible work and service to be done this year. There was much enthusiasm and there have been good results. We

have planned this year's program. We have initiated a cottage meeting program, and any member who is willing to have us come is to report to the one in charge of the program. The first meeting was held at Mrs. Ito's last Sunday afternoon. She provided lunch, and then until 3:30 we discussed the forth-coming summer camp and preparation for the November yard sale—monthly planning and discussion meetings in preparation for this event. The leadership training meetings are to start as soon as everything else is in order.

Spring will come soon, and we will lose many of our young people, all of whom are members, as they go to college—some to Tokyo and some to the West. This is a great loss to our work here. Of nine high school graduates, only one boy is to stay here, as he fortunately got a job here in town. When the young people leave for the cities, 99% remain and live there, so we can hardly get any of them back after graduation. This is one reason we cannot grow in number. We have been working hard at getting older men and women in, but with little success. We have not given up at all. We will continue to pray and work to get some in. I believe we can. Please join us in prayer for all these needs we have before us.

Our girls at Portland Christian School seem very happy and are enjoying every day at school. We are thankful to God that they can attend such a school. We three at home are fine. Teruko was down with the Hong Kong flu, which prevails here, but she is back to her normal health.

Alex & Ruth Wilson

Manila, Philippines

January

It has been a busy seven months since our return here. (For example, we arrived on the morning of June 7, and that evening, Alex was involved in a planning meeting!) CBI has continued to have around 100 students this year. We rejoice to see some students turning to the Lord and others taking an active part in serving Him. Many were involved in an evangelistic campaign held in Oct. Here were some homes I saw during the follow-up: "Aling Sotera" is a young woman of 29 with four children. The family of six lives in a little shack about 8 by 12 feet. It is about 3 feet from the railroad track, where trains pass often. "Aling Conchita" is a little younger, with 3 children. Her husband recently experienced a nervous breakdown but is better. The only things that I could see in the "house" (a room on the rear of a house) were a few clothes, a pot on a small kerosene burner, and four images of "saints"! The trust in these images was pathetic. Praise God that these people receive regular material assistance from a group called the Norwegian Missionary Alliance. This group counts on our church to supply spiritual assistance to around 600 families from among their recipients.

The book which Alex co-authored on cults in the Philippines has come out in its third printing in English. It has also been translated into two Filipino languages. In addition to my high school Bible clubs, the Lord is giving me more of a ministry with women, primarily in home visitation.

The Manila church and CBI, which use the same premises, urgently need more space. The building is not strong enough to add a 3rd



story, so what can we do? Buy an additional building? Buy a lot and put up our own building? Costs are prohibitive. Please pray.

February 18th.

We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of prayer for Joy's health which the letters of many friends have assured us of. For those who have not heard, our daughter Joy in mid-January was stricken with both typhoid fever and mononucleosis! (For a while the doctor said she had had strep throat too, but later he said that wasn't so.)

The Lord has answered your prayers abundantly. Joy has recovered very rapidly and now is almost as good as new! This is especially remarkable in relation to mononucleosis, which sometimes lays its victims very low for months. Her typhoid fever would have been much worse were it not for inoculations we get here annually. Doubtless she got the typhoid from unsafe drinking water during a trip at year's end. Anyway, she is well and quite strong now, and has nearly caught up with assignments she missed due to being out of school several weeks. And we are profoundly grateful to you for your prayers and the Lord for His answers. He is so good.

Late December and all of January was a joyful time of harvest. Over twenty were buried with Christ in baptism. About five other teenagers want to do the same but are forbidden by their parents. That is a painful dilemma for them; please pray. Satan has counter-attacked in several ways: serious sickness of one worker, some misunderstandings, etc. But our Father is sovereign, and we wait upon Him.

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## AT BILL AND BETTY'S

### FIVE FOR THE CHOPPER

For a long time there's been talk of a merger at Bill's work and now at last it is happening. Some of the men are being let go, so of course we've been a bit worried about Bill. The other day he was called into the office by the Section Manager.

"I expect you've heard we've got to let go some of the chaps, Turner?" he said. "We don't like doing it, but the order has come from the top so it's out of our hands."

"I gathered there would be some sackings," Bill said quietly, waiting for the worst.

"We shall do all that we can for the men," the Section Manager promised. "Some of them we hope to be able to fit in somewhere else, and if it means a move, we'll pay all their expenses."

Bill couldn't help wishing the Manager would get to the point.

"Now about your Section," Bill's boss went on, consulting a list on his desk. "We shall have to cut it by five. You must know the men under you better than anyone else. Where do you think the axe should fall?"

Bill said afterwards he was torn between relief that his own job was apparently safe, for the time being anyway, and horror that he was to be expected to name the men for the chop. It wasn't something that he was prepared to do straightway.

"Well, that's rather a tall order off the cuff, Sir," he said, "I shall want a bit of time to think about it. It's a big thing to sack a man, particularly if he's getting on in age!"

"The good of the firm must come first, Turner," the Manager said briskly. "I hardly need remind you that personal feelings must be left out of a thing like this. I'll give you to the end of the week. You must make a decision by then."

Bill wasn't himself for the rest of the week, and I knew that the affair was worrying him.

"There's Coates," he said to me one evening when we were talking about it, "He's a chap we could do without as far as work's concerned. But I keep thinking of his wife and kids, and that house they've bought down by the railway station. Besides, if I put him on the list the chaps will say it's discrimination. They've never forgiven me for that business about the insulating wire that he pinched, and I made him put back."

"But you know that's got nothing to do with it, Bill," I said, "And that's what really matters. You've got to do what is right, whatever people may think."

"And there's poor old Wilson," Bill went on. "He's nearly sixty and he's not really up to the new processes. But his wife's dying of cancer. How can I, as a Christian, be the means of landing him another blow?"

"And what about young Toms? His Dad's an absolute ne'er do well. Drinks everything he earns before his Missis even sees it, and half the time he's out of work anyway. It's only young Tom's money that keeps that home going. I know that for a fact. And I'm meant to be a Christian, Bet. Looking after my weaker brethren and all that. And yet I know in my heart young Toms will never make an engineer. Not with the best will in the world. And the Manager said I mustn't let personal feelings influence me," Bill snorted. "A fat lot he cares."

We've both prayed so earnestly that God will guide Bill's final decision, but it's so difficult to sort out what is the right thing to do.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

"They rehearsed all that God had done with them . . ."

Jacksonville, Florida: The Southside Church of Christ is a very small congregation. We usually have 30-40 people attending the services. We are still without a real preacher. I am the substitute for such.

The church is interested in inquiries from those interested in preaching and helping to build up the work. This could be for several weeks, months, or forever. The work in Jacksonville desperately needs trained teachers. A seminar or workshop would be tremendously helpful—

Contact me — Harold J. Adams, 1746 Landon Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

Church address: Southside Church of Christ, 2516 La Mee Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207

Thank you for being interested and will to help.

—Harold J. Adams

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