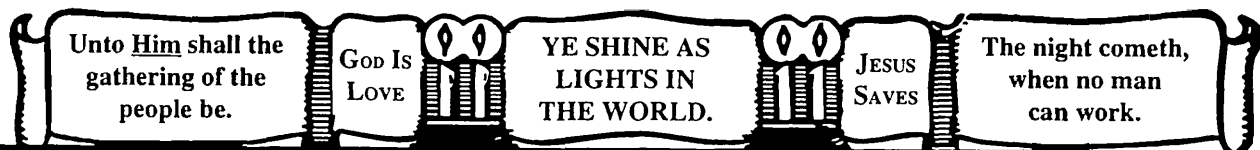


FAITH AND VICTORY

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HIDDEN TRUTH

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

In the days of the apostle Paul, the Greeks sought after wisdom. The writings of Homer, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and other highly esteemed Greek scholars and philosophers were studied and taught. The Greeks believed that god-like mental ability would give them power and control over others, their future and their destiny. It was this pursuit of worldly wisdom that caused the Greeks to think of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as foolishness.

The apostle Paul addressed this problem concerning the Greeks in the first two chapters of I Corinthians. "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of

God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." I Corinthians 1:22-25.

The Greeks, who studied the preaching of Christ through worldly wisdom, rejected His message as foolishness. They considered the Gospel foolish and weak because it went against human nature. They believed the mind controlled the way a person lived. One Greek philosopher wrote, "All things were in confusion until Mind came and set them in order." Modern fields of psychology, which is the science dealing with the mind and with the mental and emotional processes, are still influenced by the teachings of the ancient Greek philosophers.

One philosophy that the Greeks believed was that a man would be good if he taught his mind good things and kept good company. Through the teaching of psychology today, many humanistic scholars teach the same principles in schools and universities around the world. Good produces good, so they teach. However, they struggle to define what *good* is without a set of absolute right and wrong behaviors. The same ancient Greek questions are asked: How much evil can a person do and still be considered *good*? Are some harmful behaviors worse than others? When does one person's liberty invade another's personal rights? The questions run on and on, leaving the philosopher shiftless and empty inside.

When he was an old man in a Greek prison, the renowned master, Socrates, was still searching for reason in life. He asked the ancient question that four centuries later Pilate asked

Contents

Hidden Truth.....	1
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Dates and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	8
Hidden Truth (Continued).....	10
Obituaries	10
Heart-Garden—Below the Surface	12
How Are You Spending Your Life?	14
The Wasp And The Spider	15
Are You Of The Few?	16

Jesus Christ, "...What is truth?..." John 18:38. Jesus has the answers to life's questions. He told His disciples that: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. Jesus said, "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32. Through Jesus Christ there is freedom from evil, approval from God and entrance into eternal life. These are three highly desirable human quests the ancient Greeks and our culture share in pursuing. The hidden Truth people seek is Jesus Christ crucified. He fulfilled God's covenant with Adam's seed.

We understand that the first man, Adam, sinned and brought sin to all his descendants. (Romans 5:12.) When God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He gave them one commandment. How many times did they disobey that commandment until it was finally called sin? There was one act of disobedience to one commandment multiplied throughout the generations on earth. Every person born has a sinful nature that will soon lead him into displeasure with God. So how much evil can a person do and still be considered good in God's sight? "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Psalm 14:2-3. From the inside out, no one is good in his human nature.

God, in His infinite wisdom, began a plan of redemption for poor, sinful men and women. He promised that the seed of the woman (Jesus) would bruise the head of the serpent (satan). (Genesis 3:15.) Abraham and his descendants anticipated the coming of this Redeemer. Their sacrifices of perfect lambs and bullocks did not remove their sins from their lives but these were a shadow of good things to come. (Hebrews 10:1-4.) Keeping the Law of Moses did not cleanse the heart from sin, but this Law was a schoolmaster preparing the way for the Redeemer. (Galatians 3:24.) The final fulfillment of the Law was in the crucifixion and resurrection of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. When a believer washes his sins in the blood of Jesus, he is set free spiritually. This Truth will change lives from bad to good from the inside out.

Today psychologists believe this Truth is unrealistic and superstitious. They study human behavior from an intellectual point of view. They review a person's past and blame behavioral errors on bad experiences, evil persons and/or difficult circumstances. Scriptures tell us "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." Job 14:1. All these things do affect a person, but each person is sinful by nature before all these problems come upon them. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5. Sin is bound in the heart at birth because "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. Blaming someone else for personal sin was one of the first sins that God punished.

Adam and Eve played the *blame game* in the Garden of Eden, and both were punished by God for what sin the man, and the woman, had committed. Adam was not punished for Eve's sin, nor was Eve punished for Adam's sin. God dealt with each one for what they had done. Blaming behavioral sin on past errors or on current circumstances will never cleanse the heart or change it. This psychology does not acknowledge the Truth and the power of redemption. It just puts patches, or Band-Aids, on painful gashes of sin and despair. Self-justification does not lead to peace and happiness because the core trouble is not acknowledged and eliminated. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits." Proverbs 16:2.

Two Greek historians, Herodotus and Thucydides, saw the confusion and suffering that self-justification created. They recorded how the Athenians were dishonest, and a Greek market was "a place set apart for people to go and cheat each other on oath." Similar to Proverbs 16:2, Herodotus wrote that "All men, if asked to choose the best ways of ordering life, would choose their own." Imagine a society where each individual chooses to do what is right in his own eyes, and you have the modern day humanistic society that the devil has created today. We are supposed to be tolerant of any lifestyle or perverted actions because someone thinks it is right. If something goes wrong in life, blame something or someone for it. How confusing is that? Those who accept this philosophy should study Greek history and take note of their dreadful demise.

The Word of God teaches us a better way: You are responsible for your own sinful nature. It is good to communicate with your own heart (Psalm 4:4) and know what manner of person you are. What are your reactions to others? How do you treat others? Can you change for the better to help some bad situation? Accept responsibility for your actions and words in any problem. Humble your heart before the Lord and confess your sins. (I John 1:9.) Jesus is faithful to forgive us and teach us a better way to act and talk.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He did not say, "Father, you know I was not accepted by this world from the beginning, but I was born in a stable and King Herod nearly killed Me at infancy. I grew up in the poor section of Nazareth and My ministry was never accepted by the leaders of Your people. Father, the Sanhedrin did not give Me a fair trial in the middle of the night...." Jesus did not enumerate all the mistreatment He had received. He uttered one sentence from the groaning of His heart, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34. Jesus knew the awful pain of sin. He died because of it. Yet He did not rehearse over and over what all had happened that was unfair to Him. He forgave.

In the model prayer that Jesus gave to His disciples, He said, "...Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...." Then He spoke about forgiveness. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:12,14-15.) Let us comprehend the crucial statement that Jesus is making here. Our relationship with God and our eternal destiny hinges on this pivotal point of forgiveness. How can we have our sins removed if God will not forgive us? If we remain sinful, we will be defiled and God will not allow us to enter into heaven with sin. (Revelation 21:27.) If we want God to forgive us so we can have peace with Him and enjoy eternal life, then we must forgive others. That is what Jesus is saying, and He set the example before us when He was crucified. This hidden truth was rejected by the Jews and Greeks and is still rejected today.

There is a lip forgiveness that is acceptable as being courteous: *Please excuse me. Sorry, I didn't mean to.... Please forgive me for being late, etc....* These are surface apologies and acknowledgements. Jesus may have been talking some about this when He told Peter to forgive seventy times seven in one day if neces-

sary. However, the parable that Jesus tells to explain forgiveness goes much deeper than simply being polite. (Matthew 18:21-35.)

Jesus said that a King (God) forgave a servant of much money (sin) so that the servant would not be indebted to him anymore. This servant thanked the King for not punishing him. Then he went out and found another servant that owed him money. Though the second servant pleaded for mercy also, the first servant had him thrown into prison for the little debt he owed. When the King heard this, He called for the first servant, admonished him and had him delivered to the tormentors. Jesus finished by saying: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

This forgiveness is deeper than words. It is a surrendering of ill will from the heart. When hateful words or actions are thrown at a child of God, he can claim spiritual power to overcome through Christ crucified and the atoning blood of Jesus. A conscious choice must be made to forgive and let Jesus erase the hurt, anger and revengeful feelings that a human will feel when treated wrongfully. The hidden truth of forgiveness will set the forgiver free from the sin of ill will and release the other person(s) into the hands of God.

There are levels or degrees of forgiveness to meet each type of sin. Verbal abuse stings the mind. Physical abuse hurts the body and mind. Sexual abuse injures the body, soul and mind. Child neglect or abuse cripples a life. Are any of these dark sins too bad for the blood of Jesus to wash away? No, His blood has power to cleanse all unrighteousness. (I John 1:7-9.) His blood will cover the sins of the one who abuses and the one who was abused. The abuser must plead forgiveness for committing the act(s) of sin to another, and the abused must seek the blood of Jesus to wash away the ill will, hate, revenge and other feelings that are naturally presented to the human heart when mistreated. It seems easier for the aggressor of an offense to admit wrong doing, but it is harder for the offended to see their need of forgiveness from God when they have held these things in their heart. Holding grudges and hatred in the heart is just as evil in the sight of God as the committed sin that caused the hurt. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, for-

(Continued on page 10.)

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ-the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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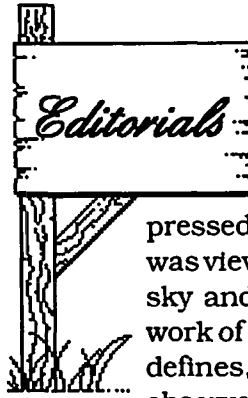
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"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10. The word, *behold*, was im-

pressed upon my mind recently as I was viewing the wonders of the night sky and thinking about the handiwork of God. The Webster dictionary defines, *behold*, in this manner: to observe with care; look at; see.

This word, when used in the Scriptures, seems to call our attention to some person, object, event, instruction or principle that contains significant value for us. We could almost consider it as a flag waving and saying, "Hey, I've got something I want to show you." How often people hurry right on by without stopping to consider what the Lord desires to reveal. If we expect to truly profit from these nuggets of truth, we must examine more closely what His Word and His Spirit is trying to show us. In our busy world, where there seems to be little time for things of spiritual value, it is no wonder that so many have so little understanding of spiritual things. If one could be termed a "weak Christian," it surely must be traceable to a failure on their part to behold what God is trying to call to their attention. The Scriptures abound with instructions and examples that will help a young Christian to mature into one who is strong and full of faith.

The concordance indicates the word *behold* is used in the Bible 1326 times. If you considered various tenses of the word, it would be found many more times. Sometimes it is used to get the attention of specific people and sometimes it is the Lord who was beholding things. How beneficial it would be for us to understand what God was thinking about those things He was beholding.

When the Lord attempts to call our attention to something, it often takes great effort on our part to comprehend it. While the concept may be very simple, yet to us it may seem difficult and obscure because our eyes are fastened on earthly things and the perspective of our understanding has been darkened by past failures and hurtful experiences of life. But when God opens some of these truths to us it can be like a light turning on in a dark place. Suddenly we

can see clearly and things will be so plain we will wonder why we never could understand it before. God delights in revealing truth to those who are honest in heart and are seeking for it.

When the angel announced to the shepherds the glad tidings of the Savior's birth, it was indeed a glorious event. Never before had mankind heard such wonderful news, yet they believed and left their flocks while they went in search of the Savior. If we will believe the message God is sending to us, we will also find the Savior and the answer to many questions that pertain to life and death.

If you desire wisdom from the Lord or would like your experience with Him to be more real, then you should consider an exploratory search of what the Lord has told us and others to *behold*. Psalm 119:18-19 says, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. I *am* a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me." If we will make this our prayer, the Lord will open our eyes to things that will cause us to be surprised and strengthened. It may cause us to have fear and trembling when we read, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12. It should spur us to action when we read, II Corinthians 6:2 quoting from Isaiah 49:8, "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Great comfort can be ours when we read and claim the promise God gave Abraham in Genesis 28:15. "And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of."

Isaiah 59:1-2 has a very relevant message for many today and could provide answers to the problems some are having. It says; "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear." I John 3:1 could identify the source of problems that we are having. It says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." There is a big difference between

the two classes of people these verses identify. One is suffering because the Lord has withdrawn His blessing and presence and the other is suffering because they have been rejected and are persecuted by the world, but God's blessing and presence is still with them giving comfort, encouragement and hope. How much better it is to have God's approval on our life. Jesus gave a special encouragement to Thomas when He said in Luke 24:39, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." This verse gives us great assurance that the Father, who raised Jesus from the tomb, accepted His sacrifice and He was offering proof of His resurrection to Thomas. Before Jesus ascended to His Father He left this promise, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The presence of His Holy Spirit causes a child of God to be complete and gives him power to overcome the wicked one.

Psalm 39:5 says, "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth;..." Our days on this earth are limited and it won't be long before they will have all passed away. Our eternal destiny will be sealed by how we lived this short life. Therefore we should be diligent to discover the will of God and do it while we have opportunity. When Stephen was martyred for the cause of Christ, He was given a special vision that brought great encouragement in his hour of persecution. Acts 7:56 says, "...Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." Our heavenly Father has the special ability to tailor the things He reveals to be exactly what we need for our encouragement. What a mighty God we serve!

This short editorial can only introduce the things God has in store for those who will hearken to His voice and behold the riches contained in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit will also reveal things to us from our natural environment and our daily relationships when we take time to behold what He desires to show us.

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The *Beautiful Way* and *Bible Lessons* Sunday school materials were mailed out on September 15th and 19th. Our intention was to mail the Bible Lessons on the 16th but we were delayed because of equipment breakdown. While we were folding the book sections, the folder had

a bad paper jam and a thrust bearing, which we found was already seriously worn, on one of the main shafts failed. We called several bearing dealers in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and none of them had the bearing in stock. One company did a computer search on their stores in this area and found that their outlet in Coffeyville, KS had the bearing. Bro. Herschel Eck, who lives near Bartlett, KS graciously bought the bearing for us and brought it to the wedding of Bro. David and Sis. Reesa Bell which we both attended in Sapulpa, OK on Saturday the 17th. After working on the folder and installing the new bearing over the weekend the Lord helped us to have them ready to mail on Monday the 19th.

The theme for the fourth quarter *Bible Lessons* is on the Biblical truths concerning pride and humility. Beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden the seed of pride was sown in the heart of man and has affected him in various ways throughout the course of time.

The lesson titles are: A Matter of Life or Death; The Fall of Man By Pride Into Sin; The World Condemned By the Faith of Noah; The Folly of Man's Big Ideas; Man's Ways and Thoughts; Thinking Soberly With the Mind of Christ; God's Goodness Prepared for the Poor; Humility Toward Others; Thanksgiving, A Mark of Humility; The Exaltation of Self; The Evils of Pride; God's Invitation to Peace With Him and The Way of the Lord.

The *Bible Lessons* and the *Beautiful Way* papers can be obtained by writing or calling us and requesting them. They sell for \$1.50 for a single quarter or \$5.00 for a year's subscription. It is our prayer that the Lord will make them a blessing.

We give thanks to God for His mercy to those who were in the path of the Hurricanes that went through Louisiana. While there were many

"If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:"

Deuteronomy 30:4.

trees blown down and some damage to the saints' property, it was obvious that His hand was protecting them. We trust some will share their testimonies in a future issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper.

There are some reports of urgent needs in some of the foreign countries noted in this issue. The Faith Publishing House maintains a missionary fund and supports several laborers of the gospel in various countries on a monthly basis. If the Lord directs you to give of your means to some of these needs on a regular or occasional basis, you may do so through this office. Faith Publishing House is classified by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. It is not a private foundation and is further described in section 509 (a) 2. Declared as such by the IRS, contributions are tax deductible. In the event you desire to have our Employer Identification Number for business purposes please feel free to contact us. It is our desire to see the Church of God prosper at home and abroad and we appreciate those who share our burden for precious souls. Many thousands of dollars of our operating costs are due to the Gospel literature we provide to foreign countries. This outreach has been made possible by the saints who freely give to this work. To those saints I gratefully express my thanks and trust God will reveal Himself to you in a very meaningful and precious way. There will be saints you have never met, from distant countries of the world, waiting in heaven to greet you because of your sacrifice.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



OK—Bro. Michael Smith is battling an affliction in his body. Continue to remember him in prayer.

OK—Sis. Mary O. Jones requests prayer for her sister, Darlene Adams. She also would like the Lord to heal her legs so she would be able to walk again.

MN—Bro. Lee Hilton, who has been on our standing prayer list for a number of months, reports the Lord has given him an instant healing. We rejoice that the Lord is still answering the prayers of His saints.

CA, SC—Request to “pray for a pastor” has been received from saints in Fresno, CA and Holly Hill, SC.

OH—Sis Betty Goldstein has some heavy burdens on her heart that she desires prayer for. Her eyes are also giving her problems.

MO—Sis. Nelva Stanley desires prayer for her unsaved loved ones and would like the Lord to help her son who has physical problems.

CA—Sis. Doris Pihaylic requests prayer for her legs and also has some urgent unspoken requests.

OK—Remember Sis. Velda Wisner in prayer. She has a very serious affliction in her body.

LA—The Lord is good to His children and helps me to press on. Pray for me.

—Sis. Velma Mancil

Kenya—Urgent request for prayer has come in for starvation conditions that are occurring among the saints in the famine struck areas of Kenya. If the Lord lays a burden on your heart to help with this need, you may do so through this office.



Standing Prayer Requests

- Bro. Carlos Arriaga
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Sis. Helen Carson
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
- Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
- Bro. Troy Gentry
- Bro. Jeff Gutwein
- Bro. Robert Hetland
- Bro. Doyle LaCroix
- The Lounds Sisters
- Sis. Marie Mitchell
- Sis. Melba Powell
- Sis. Anna Severs
- Sis. Catherine Shaffer
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Sis. Velda Wisner

MEETING DATES

- Holly Hill, SC (Revival)—October 9-16
- Victorville, CA (Revival)—October 14-16
- Sapulpa, OK (Revival)—November 2-6
- Alcoa, TN (Revival)—November 10-13
- Loranger, LA (Assembly)—November 23-27
- Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 23-Jan. 1



MEETING NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL REVIVAL

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to attend our Fall Revival. Lord willing, it will be held October 9-16. There will be one service daily at 7:00 p.m. Accommodations and meals will be provided to all who feel burdened to come and worship with us. If you are planning to come, please contact Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414, so arrangements can be made for your stay. We hope all will come who are able, and we trust all will pray with us for the Lord's blessings and anointing in our services. We are so dependent upon Him for all things.

VICTORVILLE, CA, FALL REVIVAL

Here we are, through God's grace, anticipating the special blessings of our Fall Revival. We are looking to reach our community for God October 14-16.

Worship will be Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 12:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Pastors Travis Johnson, Alice Johnson and congregation invite you and your support and prayers. The Church of God chapel is located at 11515 Baldy Mesa Rd., Victorville, CA 92392. (This community is also known as Baldy Mesa.) Phone (760) 949-1617, chapel (760) 956-6330. Mailing address: P.O. Box 290861, Phelan, CA 92329.

SAPULPA, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God on Frankoma Road in Sapulpa invites you to our Fall Revival. November 2-6. Services will be nightly at 7 p.m., Sunday morning at 10:45. Dinner will be served after the morning service.

Lord willing, Bro. Bob Wilson will be with us. Take time from your busy schedule of daily life to strengthen your walk with God. Bring some

friends and enjoy worshipping the Lord with the saints.

For information or directions call Bro. James or Sis. Tricia Bell at (918) 247-4579

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. November 23rd, with services daily through Sunday, November 27th. Come for a blessing and please support this meeting with your prayers. There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring your own sheets and linens if possible. Power and water hook-ups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40. For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (Take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information write Bro. Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone (985) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

MEETING REPORTS

WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

We truly thank God for His continued faithfulness. He blessed in our meeting and sent messages to help all. Even though Hurricane Rita was raging in the Gulf and southern states, the power of God was moving here through His Word. We appreciate and thank the ministers who came and helped us during the meeting. We are thankful for everything that was accomplished. Our thanks to all who prayed for us here. Let us all prove faithful to God.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK— Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our blessed Redeemer. I have just recently been encouraged by the scripture where it says, "...but

David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." I am sure David was in a distressed circumstance, but he remembered how his God had helped him in the past and as he thought of God's faithfulness and of His many promises it was easy for him to take courage in his God. So we too can take courage when we face the storms of life for God has said, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

It is a good thing for us to read and remember this scripture, I Samuel 30:6, and then do as David did. If we do, we are sure to come out all right.

Other encouraging verses are Romans 8:28, 31. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose." "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?" I Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." And II Corinthians 2:14, "Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

Trust the Lord to bless in every phase of the work of the Lord there.

Remember us in prayer,

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

KS—Dear Bro. Willie: I am happy, redeemed and free and much encouraged in the ways of the Lord.

The results from Hurricane Katrina have really been awful but we thank the Lord for protecting His saints. The church in New Orleans is fine except for some lost shingles. The Scott home needs some repair; the Clements' mobile home has some leaks and small damage. Sis. Kimble had not been back in her home as of Thursday (September 29) but from a distance it looks okay. Thank the dear Lord, He is so good.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

From Nigeria...

September 27, 2005—Our dearly beloved American brethren: Greetings to you all in the most highly exalted name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who remains the same until now. I have the spiritual joy to let you know that our 2005 National Camp Meeting, which lasted five days, victoriously and successfully ended on Sunday,

September 18, in Port Harcourt. It is my hope that Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo, the host pastor as well as our national secretary, shall send you a detailed report of it in due course. Thank God so much!

It is indeed welcome and exciting news to us, the people of Tombia town, that the government of Nigeria has sent soldiers to our war-torn community at last to keep the peace. To God be the glory for answering our earnest prayers for Tombia. And may He richly reward all of you who mercifully did forward the Tombia violence to the throne of grace with us.

I visited the town twice last month in order to ascertain the extent of destruction done to the church premises. In fact, it was saddening to see all doors maliciously broken down and damage done to the roof of the residential house of the Church. Most of our belongings have been stolen. It is indeed a pathetic sight, but we are very thankful to our heavenly Father because the destruction done to His own Church premises is not beyond repair, quite unlike many houses that were burned down.

As a shepherd of Christ, I have decided to return to Tombia with my family before the end of this year to gather again the sheep the war scattered. For this reason we are appealing to you brethren to please help us in the reconstruction work on the Tombia Church of God premises and for our rehabilitation.

Yours for Christ, —Bro. O. B. Alalibo

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From India...

October 5, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you all dear ones in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated September 13. We are very anxious to know of the Katrina and Rita hurricanes and their terrible consequences in the USA very recently. We pray for the relief of the suffering people in those areas. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." (Psalm 24:1-2) His finger controls everything. Let all nations humble their hearts and look to the Lord for mercy.

Our youth camp meetings in the north and south were real good with good results. We also are going through some difficult situations as we face some urgent needs. We need your urgent prayers and support for our work here. With prayers and thanks.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

AFRICA MISSION REPORT

We thank God for His love and mercy that extends to all people regardless of race, nationality or background. God is continuing to bless the work in Africa. I communicate regularly with the native ministers in Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique and Nigeria. They are encouraged and motivated to continue to spread the gospel. At the time of this reading, the national camp meeting in Nigeria will have concluded.

I received a plea from Malawi this last month with the ministers desiring more Biblical teaching that they might know better how to serve God and reach the lost with the gospel. My heart is heavy as this need has not been met this year due to my physical inability to travel at present. Is there a spiritual, qualified person who hears God calling?

Word was also received that there are famine conditions in Malawi and Mozambique due to a lack of rain since January. Funds are being sent to Africa for the purchase of maize as the Lord provides. If you desire to financially support this need, your tax-deductible contribution can be sent to the Lawrence and Ruthe Taylor Foundation. Mailing Address: LARTFO; 7298 Park Terrace Dr. N.E., Keizer, OR 97303

The work is great and there is need for consecrated workers to devote themselves to the service of God. In the United States, we live in an age of convenience and prosperity. There is nothing wrong with that in and of itself, but Lord help us not to allow material things and the demand on our time to keep us from giving ourselves fully to the service of God. The Lord has a place for each of us to work in the kingdom of God.

The gospel is still reaching the lost and saving sinners from their sins. May we sacrifice ourselves that the gospel would be spread in anointing and power. Let us do as the Savior instructed and "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:38.

In the Lord, —Bro. Michael Smith
www.africamission.com

SPECIAL NOTICE

www.churchofgodeveninglight.com

You are invited to visit and explore the new Church of God website. This is a growing project with updates regularly.

This site features:

Gospel messages and inspirational singing online.

- Doctrines of the Church of God.
- A new devotional updated every Tuesday.
- Challenging articles updated monthly.
- Questions and Answers updated monthly.
- A growing library of tracts and books.
- Dates for upcoming revivals and camp meetings.
- Past Q&A's by Bro. Ostis Wilson.
- Links to missionary efforts.

Our prayer is that this site will be a blessing and challenge to both saint and sinner and that the gospel message be sounded with clarity and distinction. —Website Editor: Bro. Michael Smith
brothermichael@churchofgodeveninglight.com

Hidden Truth

(Continued from page 3.)

giving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32. What causes bitterness? Wrath? Anger? Are these not feelings and sins that come when a human is hurt and done wrong? Yes, these are natural reactions to mistreatment that must not be allowed to dwell in the heart.

Let's look upon Christ crucified. He was abused and mistreated, yet His final words on the cross were not ones of revenge or of self-pity. He forgave. As the Son of God, He could have called for revenge on those taking His physical life. Instead He chose to forgive and ask God to forgive them also. By the power of His blood, we can forgive also. It is not human; it is Divine. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:14. The Jews stumbled on this truth. The Greeks called this truth foolishness. Intellectual philosophers foolishly stumble over this truth today.

If the Holy Spirit convicts your heart of unforgiveness, there is hope for you. **First**, seek forgiveness from your sins of anger, bitterness, revenge, etc. and find rest for your soul. **Second**, release and forgive from the heart the one(s) who did you wrong. That does not mean that what they did isn't sin anymore. It means that you will let God deal with them concerning their sins. "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." Colossians 3:25. The peace of God will bless you and sweet healing will come in time. **Third**, pray for them

that despitefully use you. Jesus wasn't just saying words when He said, "...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:..." Matthew 5:44-45. Jesus set the example before us. Remember, He is the Truth and the Way that leads us to God and eternal life. When we forgive others, God forgives us. The only way into heaven is through forgiveness of sins.

Jesus Christ did not remain crucified but He arose. We too will arise when we follow His example and are like Him. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew,...bond *nor* free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*." Colossians. 3:1, 8-13.

The forgiveness of Christ is wiser than the foolishness of men. It is simple, without explanation. His power of forgiveness changes lives. This hidden truth, so sought after by the wise of this world, comes only to the humble in heart who seek Him. He was born in a stable, nailed to a cross and forgives all sins. What a Redeemer!



"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her

husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." Proverbs 31: 10-12.

Wilma Parrish was born to the union of Troy and Jeannette Phillips on October 24, 1934. She received her education in Fresno and attended Conejo Elementary School and Edison High School. Wilma married Charles Ray Parrish Sr. on April 21, 1952. To this union 14 children were born. She will be remembered for her life and her modest behavior. She was a precious example to her husband, to her children and to the many who knew her.

She was saved at about 18 years of age and lived a faithful life, taking time to teach and train her children in the fear of the Lord. She was a woman of strong Godly conviction and in her affliction she trusted her God until her death. Her favorite song, which brought her much encouragement and which she said God gave her in her affliction, was "The Faithfulness of God." The Lord was faithful to her to make her bed in her affliction; there was no murmuring or complaining, just complete trust and reliance in her God. She welcomed the angel in death to transport her to heaven. It can be said of her testimony, by those who beheld her life, that she fought the good fight of faith and obtained her crown! She loved her God and fully trusted in Him. She is greatly missed.

Wilma went from earth to glory in her home on August 18, 2005, at the age of seventy, surrounded by her husband and family. She leaves to celebrate her memory, her husband of 53 years, Charles R. Parrish, Sr.; three daughters, Deborah Yates (Willard) of San Antonio, TX, Arlene Scott (Kenneth) of East Point, GA, and Charlene Parish of Pacoima, CA; nine sons, Chester (Wanda) of Newark, NJ; Ellington (Bridget) of San Antonio, TX, Anthony (Dolores) of Fresno, CA, Carnell (Sandy) of Merced, CA, Murphy (Debra) of Anaheim Hill, CA, Arnold (Latish) of Fresno, CA, Charles, Jr. (Rene) of Fresno, CA and Timothy (Tracey) Fresno, CA; three sisters, Erma Williams and Gloria Adams (Andrew), both of Fresno, CA and Mildred Rosemond of Sacramento, CA; two brothers, Aaron Phillips of Los Angeles, CA and L. K. Phillips (Beverly) of Hollywood, CA; thirty-two grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and church family who loved her dearly. Family members who preceded her in death: her parents, Troy

and Jeannette Phillips; five brothers, Ted, John, Bill, J. B. and Lloyd; two sisters, Thelma and Thressa; and two loving sons, Vernon and Charles I.

She was eulogized August 27, 2005 at the Church of God Fresno, CA; Bro. Paul Phillips officiating.

Note of Thanks

The Parrish family extends sincere appreciation to each and everyone who participated in the service or simply sent expressions of condolences through your cards, flowers, phone calls and other ways. May you be richly blessed!

Virginia May Harmon was born May 17, 1917 in Okmulgee, OK to Ole O. and Ina Lowe. She entered into rest at 3:55 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at her home in Pea Ridge, AR following a six-week illness.

Her age was 88 years, 3 months and 27 days. She was a devoted homemaker and mother and enjoyed all crafts, including needlework, leatherwork, ceramics, oil painting, woodwork and was very creative.

She married Roy D. Harmon in Springfield, MO, August 22, 1935. To this union, three daughters and one son were born.

She and Bro. Roy were born into the Church Of God, February 28, 1937, and remained true to the end. She stood by him as he ministered for many years.

They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary shortly before her home going.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, Hellen Burdick, Pauline Brown, Violet Harmon and Dorothy Hanson and one brother, Harry Lowe.

She is survived by her husband, Roy D. Harmon of Pea Ridge, AR; three daughters, Alta Mae Harmon of Cassville, MO; Dorothy Jean Montoya of Anaheim, CA; Carol Ann Blair and husband Fred of Bentonville, AR; one son, Robert D. Harmon and wife Norene of Bentonville, AR; twelve grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren, one sister, Mary Cooksey of Shawnee, KS; one half-sister, Ruby Davison of Willard, MO, one half-brother, Gary Lowe of Willard, MO.

Memorial services were held at Clark Funeral Home in Neosho, MO with Bro. Ed Wilson officiating. Burial was in IOOF Cemetery, Neosho, MO with Bro. Vada McMillian officiating.

Mother's Wondrous Home Going

Mother had been in constant pain for several years but never complained about it. She fell six weeks before her passing and broke a bone in her lower leg. She then required constant care as she was bedfast. Even during the last few weeks, when her internal pain was severe and with the pain from broken, brittle bones as she was cared for, she didn't make a sound. We could see it on her face but no sound of complaint.

Daddy felt what he said were "presences" in the room with Mother. At one time he felt a host of angels with her and other times he felt an angel at the head and one at the foot of her bed.

The day of her passing, her son Bob, his wife Norene, and two daughters, Alta and Carol, sang songs to her. Her breathing was labored and she was so weak she couldn't make any kind of movement. Daddy was by her side, in grief, knowing the end was close. He had a hard time releasing her after being with her for 70 years. They were so close and loving to each other all those years.

Alta said that when she closed her eyes, she could see an angel at the head of the bed and one at the foot. She said the angels were whiter than anything she had ever seen, even snow. She said later in the day that she could see the

angels bending over Mother like they were ready to take her.

Mother was totally unresponsive and breathing heavily. As she was being sung to, we could sometimes see her eyes moving, but there was no other movement other than her breathing.

We sang *Heavenly Sunlight* to her. As we finished the song, we saw her stop breathing. Then her face lit up and a big smile came to her face, almost a laugh. She took two more breaths and was gone.

Daddy was on one side of her and Bob was on the other side holding her hands. Alta, Carol and Norene were at the foot of the bed. We all looked on in amazement. Daddy stood up and started shouting and praising the Lord. Our grief was gone and we are now rejoicing for Mother, for she saw something wondrous that we could not see.

Note of Thanks

We desire to express our appreciation and gratitude to those who have shown their love during her illness and passing. Your prayers, cards, flowers, meals and phone calls have been a great blessing. They received 63 wedding anniversary cards from 15 states. That outpouring of love meant a lot to us. We especially thank the Lord for Mother's gift of a smile at the end, for that has sustained us through this difficult time.

—The family of Sis. Virginia Harmon



Heart-Garden

Below The Surface

By Bro. Carlos Doolittle

Ever think of your heart as a garden? Sometimes, I do. I was struggling recently to chop through some old roots to install a drainage line in our backyard. As I chopped and hacked, I was thinking of the axe being "laid to the root of the tree." Those particular roots were inconveniently placed under the low branches of a large shrub, but the large roots were not from that shrub. They were from the other direction. These roots were dead and had begun to decay...begun, I say, because they still offered plenty of resistance. I have been told that a very large oak tree once stood in that area of our backyard. There is no stump to prove it, but I believe. This and other experiences make me think of what is below the surface in my heart-garden.

"Above the ground" is where we fight our daily battles: in our minds, through our actions, and in spite of our emotions. Of course, we have very little control over emotions. They are like the weather. Just remember that the sun is shining and we are still receiving its influence even when we cannot see its rays. Now, we have much more control over our thoughts and we are completely responsible for our actions. When I think of my heart as a garden, I picture the thoughts and actions—good or bad—as plants growing in it.

But what about below the surface? Half of each plant is growing there. Yet it is hard to work down there without major upheaval. Spiritually, there are things down in our hearts that we are completely helpless to change on our

own. Perhaps I know it is there but how do I get to it? Remember that the type of plants that will grow in a garden are directly affected by soil type.

What is soil? How is it formed? The soil in your backyard has a history to tell. Probably it was pushed around, added to, compacted and trampled when your home was built. Before that it was the result of many years of slow accumulation.

A good gardening soil consists of both organic and inorganic particles. The inorganic particles are the result of rock and mineral structures eroding into sand, silt and clay particles. These layers run deep. When I think of my heart-garden, I realize that much of the "soil" in my plot has accumulated long before my lifetime. We are all gardening in the soil of Adam and Eve's choice. My ancestry contributes to who I am, not just genetically, but in other ways too. My personality is partly inherited, partly environmental.

Another part of a good soil is organic in nature. It was living tissue. Now it is decomposing into humus. This is usually a shallow layer at the surface. Gardeners often add to this layer and till it in. I think of this organic layer as our own life experiences, the environmental factors that contribute to who we are. If we've been gardening there very long, we'll find the results of our myriad choices as we sift through this layer—tomatoes that got too ripe, last year's mulch layer and even leaves from the neighbor's oak tree.

Soil factors such as soil texture, drainage and pH determine which palette of plants will grow successfully in your garden. Soil texture might range from a spongy, muck soil to rock or gravel, from hard-packed clay to sharp sand. Good drainage keeps water flowing over and through the soil when it rains. Poor drainage lets water accumulate and stagnate below the surface. The roots of many plants will rot due to fungal or bacterial pathogens in soggy soil. Of course cacti will grow in the desert and swamp grasses will grow in a bog. What kind of garden do you want?

It is hard to perceive the pH of a soil without a soil test. An alkaline (sweet) soil or an acidic (sour) soil will support different types of plants. The pH can be amended with sulfur or lime, but

the process must be repeated many times to keep the pH in an acceptable range. Soil tends toward its natural pH.

In Jeremiah 4:3, God's people are exhorted, "...Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns." When we prepare for a garden, we remove any visible weeds, till in organic matter and soil amendments, rake it, pack it, plant and then watch to remove weeds that have been brought to the surface. Tilling soil is not a daily process in an established garden, but it is a critically necessary process. There will be some areas to till more often than others, but all must be subject to the Gardener's hand if the master plan is to be implemented.

I am thinking of the deep, life-altering experiences that God takes each one of us through if we will follow Him. Through these cultivation times we discover things about the soil of our souls that we could not perceive before. Best of all, He wants to amend and change in our lives things that may have been passed down for generations. Others can see our actions, maybe even perceive our motives, but they still may not understand. After all, even at best, we do not fully understand ourselves. But there is One who knows. He was watching and aware when heavy equipment was plowing over the soil where your heart-garden would be planted. He also knows the things decomposing in your life, discarded things...experiences past. Maybe you are still trying to break them down into their composing elements. "Why? What? How?"

The Master Gardener cares about your soul. In Luke 13:6-9, "He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

You have entrusted your soul to the Lord and intend to bear fruit, yet you feel that part of you is being deeply tilled—exposed and confused? Give Him permission to complete His plans. He may be more patient with us than we are with ourselves. In time, this ugly, disheveled experience may bloom and bear so that even others may benefit. Never settle for less.

How Are You Spending Your Life?

From *The Gospel Trumpet*, January 9, 1896

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:1-2.

You who have given your hearts to God and profess to be His followers, are you obeying this precious admonition, or are you casting it carelessly aside and allowing the things of this world, the cares and riches thereof to draw your heart and mind away from Christ and heavenly things? This is where the enemy ensnares so many souls in this evening of time. Some who are really desirous of living for God, but having naturally an avaricious disposition, the devil knowing this, attacks them accordingly. If they are not watchful and prayerful they soon become like unto the class Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13:22, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

The devil is really deceiving poor souls in this very way in these days; they start well, but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches doth hinder them and they are ensnared. Presently they awake to the fact that the grace of God is gone from their souls, but the devil calms their fears and tells them they are all right, and instead of coming to the Lord and getting saved, they go right on with their formal, empty profession, void of the Spirit of God. What a farce in the sight of God! God does not accept a half-hearted service for Jesus said so. We must either serve God or mammon. If we are not willing to forsake all we have and follow in the footsteps of Jesus who sacrificed all, even His life for our sake, God is not pleased with our consecration. Some, instead of living with an eye single to God's glory, are grasping for the things of this world with one hand and carrying an empty profession in the other. Instead of heeding this scripture, "...Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God," they are spending all their precious time planning and scheming to see how, or in what way, they can improve their property that they may heap to themselves riches. And what will it profit us if we gain the whole world and lose Christ's love out of our hearts?

Some will say, "All I have is the Lord's," yet God and His people never get any benefit from it. This ought not so to be; we ought to remember that God has power to give and take as He chooses, and if He prospers us with this world's goods it is not all for our benefit but that we may follow the blessed Savior who came not to be ministered unto but to minister to the people. To preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the sick, to liberate those who were held in bondage by the cruel power of satan. We are to follow Him. Are we doing it?

Let us consider our opportunities and see if we are making good use of them. Let us, each one, ask ourselves the question, "What am I doing to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ?" Many would willingly work for God if they could preach like such and such a one, or go to foreign fields and preach to the heathen and perhaps die a martyr's death for Jesus but are not at all willing to take a humble position which no one else thinks of taking and do the humiliating things which no one else would care to do. They are not willing to do the "little things" till God proves them sufficiently but are always aspiring to do some great thing, to be seen and praised of man.

Oftentimes we hear this expression; "I would love to give to God's ministers and workers, but I am just out of money and we are so badly in debt, and I do not know how we are to meet our creditors" and many other like expressions. If you will commit your way unto the Lord and let Him lead you and manage your business, He will soon get you out of satan's net. If He leads you to assist some of His poor saints or His cause in any way, do it fearlessly in the name of Jesus, trusting Him to help you and take care of the results. You will find Him to be a good financier and you will prosper, not only in your soul, but you have the promise in the first Psalm, "...Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

This is a great cause; a great work is to be done and we have a great God to lean upon and trust in; let us not be fearful or faint-hearted but be strong in faith, giving glory to God. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:15-17.... "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a

thief in the night." "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." I Thessalonians 5:2, 8. God's Word plainly teaches that we are in the end of time; why then need we be careful for the things of this world insomuch that we lose our souls? If we gain riches in this life by hard toiling and striving after them, we can at the longest only enjoy it a little while, for soon "...The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." II Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Can we consciously hoard up riches for our children to stumble down to hell over while God's cause is suffering in many places for means? In the name of Jesus we say, NO; it cannot be; God requires all of His people to measure to the same standard; we must each one make a perfect consecration, even so far as to "take joyfully the spoiling of our goods." It means so much, yea everything, to be truly consecrated and given up to God in every way, that He may work in and through us to will and to do of His own good pleasure. May God help each one of us to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, spending the time of our sojourning here in fear; for God, without respect of persons, judgeth according to every man's work.

Your sister in Christ,

—Nora Siens

THE WASP AND THE SPIDER

I was examining several wasp nests high up under the eaves of our log cabin in the mountains. Suddenly one of those fierce little beasts buzzed towards its nest. Swerving off the track, it got one foreleg snared in the long filament of a spider's web. With considerable anger at being caught in midair, he spread his powerful wings and knocked the cord free from its bottom anchorage. This swung him wildly from the top anchorage, like a man on a flying trapeze.

The wasp settled down to rest for a moment. Then came a small, light-brown spider from his lair at the top of the irregular web. He appeared helpless beside the sleek, jet-black wasp, which was three times his size, had powerful wings, fierce jaws and—most important—a deadly sting in his tail. As the spider approached, the wasp stabbed out at him viciously, but the spider kept a fraction of an inch beyond the tip of that deadly needle.

Quick as a flash the spider flung another of his cords around the one foot already caught, then he raced to the top of the net to attach the other end. There the spider waited to let the wasp tire himself out, buzzing angrily at the now strengthened cord. Then down again the spider came and glued another of those entangling threads to the wasp, this time to his left wing. Again the wasp stabbed wildly and excitedly and again the spider retreated up to the eaves.

On his next trip down, the spider attached the thread—much to my amazement—to the left hind leg of the wasp, within a fraction of an inch of that sting and its poison. If it had struck home, it could have meant death to the spider.

But I discovered that attaching the line to the hind foot was more clever than daring, since a wasp can sting only by "sitting down" forward. A wasp's stabs are not like a horse's kick, backward, but like a cow's kick, forward. The spider apparently knew all about that. The filament, once it was glued to the left hind foot of the wasp, was taken downward and fastened to a log of the cabin. Now the wasp was secured top and bottom and could not swing freely in the air. Next, the spider glued one of his ropes to the right hind leg of the wasp and then, in quick succession, to the left and right antenna. All this amid wild stabbing of the wasp.

The wasp bit hard at the web with his horizontal teeth, trying to cut his way out of this death trap. (By this time I was up a ladder for a ringside seat.) Now the spider threw a web around the three left feet of the wasp, handcuffing them together. Never once did he try to bite the wasp. He just kept lassoing one leg after another. After thirty minutes of violent twisting, fighting and stabbing, the wasp's only movement was a twitching of the left front foot and the right hind leg. Was it all over now? Had the spider won the fight as easily as that?

An hour and a half later I climbed the ladder again. The wasp, far from finished, was flexing its body, that part with which he stung, stabbing at his own mouth again and again with his sting. What! I thought, "Are you trying to kill yourself by stabbing yourself in the throat?" A closer look revealed his mouth tangled with filmy, cottony stuff from the web that he had tried to cut himself out of, and now he was picking his teeth with his stinger! The spider

was still making methodical trips up and down, on each trip ensnaring his victim with one more of those thin filaments. The wasp's end was now only a question of time.

From outward appearances, the wasp was far stronger than the spider and far more capable of taking care of himself, but he made one fatal mistake—he let one foot get into the web of that innocent looking spider.

How often young people are like that—it is the first sin that causes the trouble. The first cigarette, the first drink, the first dance, the first lie, the first swear-word, the first thing stolen that starts the walk to the death chamber. If there were not a first, there would never be a second.

The apostle Paul tells a young man to "flee youthful lusts" (II Timothy 2:22.) And to be doubly safe, Timothy is warned against a number of things he must "shun...depart from...purge himself from...avoid." Happy is the Christian young person who never puts his foot into the spider web of sin for the first time.

—Selected

Are You Of The Few?

To the tune of, The Holy Remnant.

Many called but few are chosen;
Brother, are you of the few?
Are your words, your thoughts and actions
Pure and holy through and through?
Yes, my soul is filled with glory,
And the burning love of God;
Oh! I love to tell the story
Of the all-atoning blood.

Have you found the oil of gladness,
And received the Holy Ghost?
Do you pray and weep with Jesus,
When you see that souls are lost?
Yes, I've found a precious kingdom,
Joy and peace in righteousness.
And I love to talk to Jesus,
And His perfect Holiness.

Are you free from doubts and fears,
Living for the Lord alone?
Do you know that all your prayers
Reach to Heaven's lofty throne?
Yes, I feel the Spirit witness,
While I to my Father pray,
For the love of God has driven
All my doubts and fears away.

When you're passing through the waters
Of afflictions sore and great.
Do you count it joy, my brother?
Is your trust in God complete?
Yes, all glory be to Jesus!
I can say, "His will be done,"
For I know that He is with me,
And I am not left alone.

Many called but few are chosen,
This the Lord has plainly told:
And we see it all around us,
As the world we do behold.
Oh! Thou God of love and mercy,
Send the light to every land,
Help the few who now are standing,
Keep us saved until the end.

—Thomas Nelson

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