

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound,
who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

Spring 2000 Camp Meeting Report

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the
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world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal
the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war
against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding traditions of
men that have no biblical foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

A personal God (John 4:24)
A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)
Unity of God's people (John 17:21, Eph. 4)
Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13;
1 Cor. 11:23, 34)
Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)
Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)
Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)
Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28;
Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

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Psalms 126:1-3 states: "When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; And our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad: Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. These words of the inspired penman could well express the recent Spring Camp Meeting at God's Acres. Certainly "our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing." The presence of God was such a sweet spirit permeating our midst that the singing was indeed joyous and glorious. There was such a freedom in the services that laughter, tears of joy, and rejoicing filled the services. Greater even than that, "The Lord hath done great things for us."

The meeting began Sunday morning, June 18, 2000, with a message by Brother David Stegmeier of Canby, Oregon. Brother Esau Brooks from the Republic of Honduras served as the evening evangelist and was mightily used of God to bring powerful, Spirit-filled messages that brought each one face to face with sobering spiritual realities.

The camp meeting was well attended with several visiting God's Acres for the first time. Several missionary brethren were in attendance as well. Brother and Sister Joseph Mbui from Kenya, East Africa, Brother and Sister Jesus Granil from the Philippines, Brother Mordecai Arphaxad from Tanzania, East Africa; and Brother and Sister Brooks from Honduras were here for this gathering.

Certainly we can concur with the Revelator when he penned "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty . . ." (Revelation 15:3). Wednesday evening Brother Brooks preached a message entitled "The Bondage of Love." This service was anointed in a great manner and our brother had glorious liberty as never before here in the States. Friday morning Brother Stegmeier unburdened his heart to see bodies healed when he dealt with the question, "Can I Expect to Be Healed in This Day?" The message was so inspiring with its positive answer that many lined the altars to be healed. Before the meeting was over, saints were testifying of their healing.

Various brethren spoke in the afternoon services. Brother Jesus Granil preached during the Wednesday afternoon missionary service on "God Has His Way of Protecting His Own." We enjoyed a special privilege when Brother Robert Mullen, who is 92 years old and has been in the ministry for nearly seventy-years, preached two afternoons. Saturday afternoon the children sang for the song service and the young people conducted the general service. Brother J. C. Carr from Newark brought a challenging message concerning, "Settle It Therefore in Your Heart."

In the young people's services, Brother and Sister Corder were inspired to bring the voices of experience and wisdom into the services. They hail such speakers as Brother Jesus Granil, Sister Brooks, and Sister Mullen from Montana. These youth meetings greatly enriched our young people.

The meeting closed Sunday night with a glorious capsheaf service. The Spirit of God moved in such a marvelous way with sinners weeping their way to an altar of prayer. Some were saved who had never been saved before. There were backsliders reclaimed and situations were remedied where ones humbled themselves and asked forgiveness and made restitutions. No wonder the Psalmist said, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The meeting indeed closed on a high note with much rejoicing for the souls saved and the moves made. We are now anxiously looking toward our Fall Camp Meeting, which will be August 6-13. We trust that you will start making plans now to be in this meeting. We are already laboring and praying so that we may see more great and marvelous works. Come and enjoy the blessings with us. We hope to see you in the fall meeting.

Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.

10 It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

11 Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth

speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood:

12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:

13 That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and

ten thousands in our streets:

14 That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets.

15 Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

Having a Happy Home



Brother Roger L. Decker

Materialism Cannot Replace Genuine Love

God's people are a happy people. They do not have to be entertained by rock concerts or by visiting barrooms to be happy. They are happy because their God is the Lord. In those few verses the Psalmist briefly explained the benefits of serving God, and then he ended the Psalm by saying, "Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord."

Our homes are under attack. Raising children the Bible way is considered harsh and outdated today. As a nation, we are overwhelmed with divorce, cheating in marriages, separation, and misery in the homes. These things should not be, and they would not beat people would allow the Word and the Spirit to have their rightful place in our

homes. I am not saying that a husband and wife will never disagree or become displeased with each other, but it does not have to be a way of life in the home. The husband and the wife have different personalities. For example, one could be an extrovert and the other an introvert. Nevertheless, a warring spirit does not have to be present in the home. God wants homes to be better than that.

God does not want Church of God homes to be like the world. Church of God individuals should strive to get along and enjoy their lives together. The Psalmist said in Psalm 90:10, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." This earthly life will soon be past, so you should

try to make the best of it and work as never before to get along with each other. Some people live as though they will never die, but the time will come when they each must lay down this earthly tabernacle and move on to the realm of eternity.

Proverbs 17:1 says, "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife." The Proverb writer was saying that those who live in unity and quietness and who strive to get along live in more comfort than those who have plenty but have strife. Though a couple struggles to make ends meet and does not have much of this world's goods, when God is in their midst, they have peace and quietness.

The same Scripture from another translation reads, "Better is a dry crust with peace and quiet than a

houseful of feasting with strife." This Scripture points out that a family may go through hard times and still have peace and quietness if they have the Lord. Peace and quietness are far better than fighting, bickering, pouting, hollering, yelling, and insulting each other. That would be a good trade for anyone. Holy love may be found in a cottage, tent, or even in a house that is run down as long as God is present. You do not have to own an abundance of this earth's goods to be happy.

Those who have plenty but argue and have contention live very uncomfortably. You cannot buy love. You can get caught up in having so much that you become greedy and covetous. Read the words of Jesus in Luke 12:15: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Godly Poverty Is Better Than Troubled Wealth

You need to be careful of the desire to be better than everyone else and to have more than anyone else. People used to call it, "Keeping up with the Jones." For example, if one family gets a new car, you decide to purchase a larger car. Or if someone gets a nicer house, you get a bigger house. You should not try to be in competition with anyone or try to outdo others. Some people want to do everything they do bigger and better, as if to say, "Look who we are. We are the elite." Remember, love will sweeten a dry morsel, but strife will make a house where there is plenty sour and bitter. Proverbs 15:17 says, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."

If God is not pleased with your home life, how can you expect Him to be pleased with your worship? You cannot serve two gods. If He is not pleased with you at home, He is not going to change His mind when you get to the church building and begin to worship. You cannot and dare not shrug this off, because it is

serious. You ought to be concerned if God is displeased with some things. It can make the difference where you spend eternity. You are no more spiritual at church than you are in the walls of your home.

Just going to church does not make you spiritual if you are not living right in the home. Some people act as though the only time God sees them is when they are in a worship service. Away from church, they live the way they want, do what they want, and act any way they want; but that is not what the Bible says to do. The Bible says in Psalm 139:8-12: "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." The walls of your home do not restrict the all-seeing eye of God. He is not kept out by wood, plaster, or insulation.

Marriage is a wonderful part of God's plan. Even in a world that has rejected the thought of marriage, it is still honorable and it is the right thing to do. Just like everything else in God's plan, the devil is out to destroy marriage and put strife where peace should abound. He knows that he can do more damage to a home that is supposed to have Christ than, a home out in the world.

Set Your Affection on Things Above

If you are dating a boy or a girl just because he or she attends a Church of God congregation, you are dating that person for the wrong reason. If you make a religious move just because you want to date someone, you are doing it for the wrong reason. You should get saved be-

cause you are lost in sin and sick of sin. Salvation is an individual matter.

A couple's marriage has a much better chance of surviving if they start correctly. You are affected by those with whom you keep company. You may say that you are trying to win that person, but often it does not work that way.

Ephesians 4:27 says, "Neither give place to the devil." This simply means do not give the devil a foothold. Christian friend, when it comes to dating or marrying one who is unsaved, you are trying to mix a worldly god with the God of Heaven, and they just do not mix. God will keep you in the Kingdom and keep you doing right. He will not lead you astray or contrary to His Word. The unsaved worship the god of this world. Second Corinthians 4:3-4 says: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." How can you mix the two gods together when God's Word says distinctly in 1 John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

The mind of one who is worldly is much different from the mind of one who is a child of God. The mind of the Christian is focused on what Paul said in Colossians 3:1-2: "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." The Christian mind is on the Word of God, which directs his or her life. When you date someone who is worldly, there is a pull toward the world. That unsaved person does not want to go to the house of God all the time like you do. Also, that unsaved person will want to go places where the Christian should not go and will want to do things

that are definitely against your conscience to do.

You need to allow the Word of God to direct you. You dare not lean to your own understanding. His Word will help you. Proverbs 3:5-7 says: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Young people become future leaders, and one requirement of a leader in the church is to have his house in order; that order is the order that God has arranged.

God's Plan for Godly Homes

All marriages have to be worked at. You cannot relax to the degree that you feel your marriage is so solid that nothing can separate you. No matter how long you have been married or how much you say you love each other, you still have to work at your marriage. Some things about us change as we get older, and some experience difficulty getting through those changes in life. That is another reason you have to work at marriage.

Let us see what the Word of God says about the husband and the wife's attitudes toward each other. Ephesians 5:25 states, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Husband, when you find out how Christ loved the church, then you will know how you are to love your wife. He loved the church so much that He purchased her and gave Himself for her.

The wife is not a slave. She is a person just as you are, and she can be hurt physically and by harsh words. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:28-29: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." Husbands feed and clothe their own bodies, and they should make sure

the wife has nice clothes to wear also.

Two big problems in homes are discipline and finance. Parents should be together when it comes to disciplining their children. The discipline should be for the children and not for each other. One parent may be stricter than the other, and it does not take the children long to find out which one is. Often they try to use that one to their own advantage. The husband or the wife should not embarrass each other in front of the children. One parent should not stand up for a child and call the other parent down in front of the children; that is not right.

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." You should begin training a child when you hold him on your lap. It does not start after he is seven or eight years of age; then he is already bent in the wrong direction. It starts when the child is in diapers. Also, you should be consistent in your training. You do not have to lose your temper. You would not have to get so worked up if you would be more consistent when the matter is a smaller thing. Do not keep letting the child do something until you lose your temper and then try to take care of it. When you tell the child not to do something, do not keep letting him do it; be consistent. You can work out finances. You do not have to have strife. You do not have to be a miser and a skinflint. You are running a real danger of getting greedy when you do that. Remember, Proverbs 17:1 reads, "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife." Families should always tithe and not argue concerning it. The tithe is not yours to argue about. Why are you arguing about the Lord's money? It is not yours to argue or complain about.

Some couples cut back on the Lord and say, "We don't have enough money to pay our bills." Next, they wind up buying more,

and then they get in real financial trouble. You should never cut your tithe. The tithe should be the first thing you pay. Do not plan to put off paying your tithe for two or three weeks. Meanwhile, you could die. Tithing should be automatic. You should not have strife over it. Tithing is in the Bible, and God will bless your home if you put Him first. You cannot out give God.

Colossians 3:18 states, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." That is not speaking of submitting to a tyrant, but "as it is fit in the Lord." A husband who truly loves his wife will not have problems if his wife is a Christian. Too many wives are out of harmony with that Scripture.

The husband and the wife should treat each other with respect, be kind to each other, and love each other. If you do that, you will find that God will bless you more and more. If you put this into practice in your home, your worship will improve. You will not have to feel condemned because you and the wife had a falling out on the way to church. Husband, you should take her out to dinner instead of hollering at her because dinner is not ready.

The Harmony of a Christian Home

The Scripture says in Psalm 144:15, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord." Happy is that people who puts these things into practice. There is no sense of battling each other, because one of these days time will be no more, and you will wish that you had spent more time treating your family right. There is nothing like the harmony of a Christian home. Sometimes the parents have to discipline the children, but there does not have to be strife.

Having a happy home has to be worked at. You should not stop working at it and say, "What's the Use?" The husband should take his rightful place, the wife should take

her rightful place, and the children need to be in their right place. When children start speaking disrespectfully of their parents, then they are going to start disrespecting God. That is a terrible spirit.

There is nothing like a Christian family. Son, daughter, you ought to treat your parents with respect, because there is going to come a time when they will be gone, and unpleasant memories will trouble you. If your parents are not serving God, you ought to pray for them. If they

do not handle things correctly in the home, pray for them. Do not try to correct them, because it is not your place to correct them. God will correct them. You should never run them down; pray for them. If Jesus tarries, you may become a parent, and you might have to deal with the things in your own children's lives that caused your mother and father grief.

God wants you to have a happy home. Again, there are going to be disagreements, misunderstandings,

and things that have to be worked out. Nevertheless, you do not have to allow strife to take over. Material things cannot replace the Spirit of God and the Word of God. You may sit town at the table with only a crust of bread and water to dip it in, but if you have God in your heart, you are much happier than the family across the street who has everything and servants serving them, but with strife therein.

(Cassette C-4242F)



WHAT SOME OF OUR PRESIDENTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE BIBLE

GEORGE WASHINGTON:

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE RIGHTLY TO GOVERN THE WORLD WITHOUT GOD AND THE BIBLE."

THOMAS JEFFERSON:

"I ALWAYS SAID, I ALWAYS WILL SAY, THAT THE STUDIOUS PERUSAL OF THE SACRED VOLUME WILL MAKE BETTER CITIZENS, BETTER FATHERS, AND BETTER HUSBANDS."

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS:

"IN WHAT LIGHT SOEVER WE REGARD THE BIBLE, WHETHER WITH REFERENCE TO REVELATION, TO HISTORY, OR TO MORALITY, IT IS AN INVALUABLE AND INEXHAUSTIBLE MINE OF KNOWLEDGE AND VIRTUE."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

"ALL OF THE GOOD FROM THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE BOOK; BUT FOR THIS BOOK, WE COULD NOT KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG. ALL OF THE THINGS DESIRABLE TO MAN ARE CONTAINED IN IT."

ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT:

"HOLD FAST TO THE BIBLE AS THE SHEET ANCHOR OF YOUR LIBERTIES; WRITE ITS PRECEPTS IN YOUR HEARTS, AND PRACTICE THEM IN YOUR LIVES. TO THE INFLUENCE OF THIS BOOK WE ARE INDEBTED FOR ALL THE PROGRESS MADE IN TRUE CIVILIZATION, AND TO THIS WE MUST LOOK AS OUR GUIDE IN THE FUTURE."

CALVIN COOLIDGE:

"THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY AND OF OUR GOVERNMENT RESTS SO MUCH ON THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT THEM IF FAITH IN THESE TEACHINGS SHOULD CEASE TO BE PRACTICALLY UNIVERSAL IN OUR COUNTRY."



SELECTED

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart

ARE YOU A FAULT FINDER OR A SOLUTION SEEKER?



Brother Irwin Sesher

The Wrecking Crew

We are living in a world where so many are trying to find the wrong instead of the right. Even if all facts point to the innocence of an individual or a group of people, that does not satisfy some people. Many seek avenues and loopholes to justify their moves rather than to pray, but the Lord will not honor that. Then, when things do not go their way, they start pointing fingers, criticizing, and finding fault with others. They try to shift the blame to others instead of looking at the true culprit-self.

Christian friend, you need to be careful, because the devil is doing his best to take you down. He will work on the weakest area of your life. If your weakness is finding fault with others, he will tempt you with that at every opportunity. That is the reason you need to gain strength and confidence in the Lord. If you should hear something about a brother or a sister, and if what you hear does not uplift you spiritually, then it is none of your business.

Friend, you need to let the Lord be in control. Many think that the Lord has lost control, but He has not. Let the Lord work out situations

and trials. He had seen your type of situation before. Don't you think He knows how to handle it? The Lord is the same yesterday, today; and forever. He is in control. He is the pilot, not the copilot. No other gods are before Him. You need to let Him direct you and lead you.

Are you a faultfinder or a solution seeker? Are you one who criticizes or seeks God's face to know what the Lord would have you to do? One song says, "Are you building it up or tearing down the Church of God?" Are you on the construction crew or the wrecking crew? You are on one or the other. Many say, "I'm in the right way," but in reality, they are standing in the way.

Some people comment that they are praying for certain individuals and act concerned; however, often their goal is to find out more about those individuals. Faultfinding will not uplift you spiritually, and it is not of God. It will deflate you spiritually as fast as a needle would a balloon. As brothers and sisters in the Lord, we need to encourage one another, not become deflation devices. The Christian should never try to knock the spiritual props out from under anyone. We each should

be a help. If people should come to you about burdens or problems, you ought to have a genuine concern. You should not try to find out all you can and then run here and there to let others know what you found out; that is not of God.

Faultfinding is nothing new. The children of Israel constantly complained and murmured and found fault with the man of God, Moses. Dear one, that spirit has not changed over the years. Today people still find fault with men of God. Finding fault with others has a rippling effect. Some people murmur among themselves, and then they find others who are as disgruntled as they are.

Exodus 15:23-27 states: "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice

of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters."

Though the Hebrew people murmured and complained, the Lord had mercy on them and provided for them. Dear one, He still reaches out in mercy today. He loved and cared for each of us even when we should have been cast into a devil's hell. Why would you want to do anything to bruise Him? Why would you entertain the thought of murmuring, complaining, and finding fault?

Perilous Times

You may say, "I can't do anything for the Lord." Well, you are right. Without Him you can do nothing. You need the Lord to help you. The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We get our strength through Christ Jesus. He is the One on Whom we depend. We are living in perilous times. Troubled waters are upon us as never before. Sometimes you may not know what to do, but you can turn to Jesus Christ. You can trust the unknown future to the All-knowing God. We have no idea what will happen in the future, but we do know that we have a God in Heaven who cares for us.

Many people are unsure of their job status, their banking decisions, and many other things, but we know One who is sure. We can be sure with Jesus Christ. He will be with you in your darkest hour. He knows all. If you are insecure or do not know which way to turn, He is your right move. You should not make one move without Him.

The Lord can place something down in your heart that will cause you to be full of joy. One songwriter described salvation as "joy unspeakable and full of glory." You

cannot fully describe it, but you know you have joy in your soul. This is a know-so salvation. You do not have to check with an agency to see if you have salvation. You can know beyond any doubt that you are saved.

The Lord will always have a people, and He will always be in control of the church. What church? The Church of the Living God.

Faultfinders generally will befriend someone who is spiritually weak. They also seek those who agree with them. They will say things such as: "Don't you think the services are too long?" or "Can you believe he is having him again for a revival?" or "Don't you think the singing was too loud?" More often than not, faultfinders do not have all the facts. If they were to admit it, they do not really want all the correct information, because then they would not have anything to talk about. They just want enough information to get something started. Faultfinding breeds discontentment. It will not lift you up spiritually. Instead of going to church to worship the Lord and to rejoice in the services, faultfinders go to church and try to find fault with the services.

This poem entitled "Horse Sense" goes well with this message:

*A horse can't pull while kicking,
This fact we merely mention.
And he can't kick while pulling,
Which is our chief intention.
Let us imitate the good horse
And lead a life that's fitting.
Just pull an honest load,
And there'll be no time for kicking.*

Are you guilty of going to church and finding fault with others? The Lord will not bless you over that, and He will not answer your prayers. Faultfinding leads to more serious things such as gossiping, slandering, and bitterness. Dear one, do not be guilty of faultfinding. Above all, you should never find fault with your pastor. He is the watchman on the wall. A true man of God gets the messages from God. He does not bring forth his own ideas.

Do you pray for your pastor or

do you find fault with him? Rather than finding fault with the man of God, you ought to pray for him. Instead of spending time finding fault, why not generate your energy into prayer? You should pray that the Lord will give him the wisdom and the guidance he needs.

Do not think that your dear Savior was immune to faultfinders? No, the Pharisees were constantly trying to find fault with Him. They were always trying to catch Him doing things that were questionable. The same spirit is working today. Just remember, dear one, as long as you are in your fleshly body, people will try to be critical and find fault with others. Are you one who is a faultfinder or are you seeking God's face for an answer? When you seek God's face, it is just you and God. No one else is around; it is one on one. Now, the solution or the answer may not come when you want it to come, but you need to let the Lord lead you. You should not try to rush the Lord. God is trustworthy. It is one thing to believe that God can provide, but it is a whole different matter to believe that God will provide for you.

Are You Victorious?

Ephesians 2:1-6 says: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

The Lord has raised us up to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. How can you find fault with that? If you are saved, consider where you

were, where you were going, and where you are today. Sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus is the most wonderful thing that could happen to you. Do you know where you were heading had you not turned your life over to Jesus Christ? You need to stop and think about that. The love and the mercy of the Lord are simply amazing. If you have the love of God in your heart, you have something to give to others. He has given you eternal life and eternal blessings. He has given you something worth shouting about and something to share with others. You should want to share the love of God and how He saved you from sin with others.

Surely you are going to have problems and rough spots to go through in life, but you have something that the world does not have. Problems will come and go, but for someone who is not serving God, those problems are magnified. You have Someone to help you through your problems. Every problem has a crossroad, and it will cause you to become either a better person or a bitter person. You can go through the battle victoriously.

Philippians 4:4-7 says: "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

When you see the Lord moving and answering prayer, how does that make you feel? It makes you feel good that the Lord is working things out. It makes you feel extremely happy, and when you are happy, you want to spread that happiness elsewhere. I read a quote once that said this: "In order to be happy, you must take time to do positive things that make you happy. . . . Do things because you want to and because they can have a positive impact on the lives of others around you." When you serve the Lord wholeheartedly, you are happy; then people around you will

feel your happiness and will be affected by it.

Stay Spiritual

As a Christian, you should want to please the Lord. You should not want to do anything that would hurt Him. Why? Because you love Him. How can people turn their backs on God? When one becomes spiritually weak, that person tends to pick out the faults in others because he does not see the needs in his own life. Faultfinding also leads to anger, hostility, rage, and hatred. Remember, when you think of the word anger, it is only one letter short of danger. As a saint of God, you need to uplift, not put down.

I cannot imagine what would have happened had certain individuals in the Bible given up on God. What would have happened to Job? Giving up would have been easy for Job, but he stayed right there with God. He did not want to displease the Lord. He was a righteous individual in the sight of God. He remained true to God to the very end, and the Lord looked down on him with favor and blessed him. Job 42:15-17 reads: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died; being old and full of days." God honored Job.

Faultfinding leads to a defeatist attitude. Nothing appears to be going right to the faultfinder. When one becomes weak spiritually, often that is when a faultfinding spirit surfaces. That is the reason you need to stay spiritual. When things go wrong, just PUSH. When the job gets you down, just PUSH. When people do not react the way you think they should, just PUSH. When the money is scarce and the bills are due, just PUSH. When you want to find fault for whatever reason, do not give place to the devil, just PUSH. When you ask the question, "When is my ship coming in?" just PUSH. When people do not understand you, just PUSH. What

does PUSH mean? Pray until something happens.

Consider Paul and Silas, Acts 16:22-25 states: "And the multitude [the disgruntled and the faultfinders have always been around] rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed [they did not sit there and complain or find fault], and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."

Dear one, when you offer praise to God, people will be affected around you. If you offer nothing but faultfinding, how will that influence others? People around you will know whether you are happy by listening to your conversation.

Christian friend, the Lord saved you from sin; that is something to get excited about! Staying spiritual will keep you from getting a fault-finding spirit.

Edify One Another

First Thessalonians 5:11-15 reads: "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

When the Lord is in the center of your life and you are in the center of His will, you do not have the time or the desire to start picking out faults in others. Allowing the Lord to direct you in your path is enough to keep you busy. When you get so interested and critical about what

goes on in other people's lives, what about your own salvation? Are you doing all that you can to please the Lord or are you more concerned about picking out faults in others? Psalm 106:1-5 says: "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can show forth all his praise? Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance."

Reading the Bible, fervent prayer, and attending church and Sunday school will take away the desire to find fault. If you stay in the work of God, you will not have time to be a faultfinder. Staying spiritual will alleviate many problems. However, when individuals start to let down on these things, they seek

other avenues and start finding fault with others to justify their own lack of spirituality. Dear one, it is going to be just you and God on the Judgment Day, not you, God, and someone else. You will not be able to offer excuses to God on that day. You will have to give an account to God for the deeds that you have done. You will not say, "But, God, you just don't know what I had to go through." What about what Jesus went through? He died on the Cross for our sins.

Are you guilty of having a faultfinding spirit? Life is too short: There is a Heaven to gain and a hell to shun. The devil will use any snare to get you to stop serving God. As a churchgoer, he knows that you will not commit vile sins. Satan is too clever for that. The devil works on your mind to plant seeds of being critical, and then he waters those seeds so they will grow. The devil wants you to dwell on such thoughts all the time. Then he will get you to devote your time to faultfinding.

Let us be solution seekers and build up the Kingdom of God. You need to pray that the Lord will direct you to witness to someone. If you put your energy and efforts into praying and soul winning, that will do away with the faultfinding. The Lord will keep you, if you are willing to be kept. However, you must be in complete obedience with Him and His Word. You should want to do His will.

Romans 6:16-18 reads: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey-, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart [it starts in the heart] that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Are you a faultfinder or a solution seeker?

(Cassette C-4248E)

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Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Salvation Is Reasonable



Brother Silvestre J. Calauan

Present Your Body a Living Sacrifice

Every soul is going into eternity, but some will be unprepared. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people of God. If you want to go to Heaven, you have to prepare for it. On the other hand, you do not have to do anything to go to hell. If you do not prepare for Heaven, hell is where you are going to go.

Salvation is reasonable service. You should serve God, for God is the Creator of all things in this world. Ezekiel 18:4 says, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Sin separates you from God; that is why salvation is so reasonable. The word *salvation* means "deliverance from the power and the penalty of sin." My friend, salvation has power in it. Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." There is power in salva-

tion to deliver you from the life of sin. God can deliver you from the power of sin, the bondage of sin, and the penalty of sin. The penalty of sin is eternal destruction. Sin is never right; it is always destructive, never constructive.

The writer in Romans 12:1 said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice [not a dead sacrifice, but a living sacrifice], holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service [unto God]." He said that you should present your body a living sacrifice in the sight of God. It is only common sense, or good, logical thinking, that you should serve God.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." God reasoned with His people through His promise. He let them know that if they would cease to do evil, then He would announce

the fulness of pardon to them. God does not separate Himself from His people. If a separation takes place, people choose to separate themselves from God. The blood of Jesus can cleanse you from all iniquity if you believe in Him.

Almost Persuaded

As we look into the New Testament, we find that the Apostle Paul reasoned with the Jews in their synagogue, to persuade both the Jews and the Greeks to believe in Christ. Paul was a great reasoner; he was a great man of God. We read in Acts 17:2-3: "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ."

Paul was trying to persuade them that salvation was reasonable. Friend, if you receive Christ, He will save you from a life of sin. Paul was

a mighty reasoner. He reasoned with Felix about righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Acts 24:25 states, "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." The governor, Felix, trembled in his seat as Paul spoke to him about living right and the Judgment to come. That is what the Bible is all about: living right. You ought to live right in the sight of God and present your body a living sacrifice. Dear one, that is what salvation will do for you, if you accept it.

Felix began to tremble because he began to get under conviction by the power of the Holy Spirit. In essence, he cried out to Paul, "Go away, and I will call for you at a convenient season." The Bible does not say that Felix ever called for Paul. Like Felix, some people turn their backs away from the Lord, because they do not want to serve the Living God. Many people have trembled under the power of the Holy Spirit, yet they walked away unprepared to meet the Lord. My friend, salvation is reasonable, and God is reasonable. He will deal with your soul and offer you an opportunity to serve Him.

Paul related the story of his conversion before another proud ruler, King Agrippa. He, too, was convinced of the reasonableness of this charity; nevertheless, he said to Paul in Acts 26:28, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." When it comes to one's salvation, to be "almost" persuaded is the same as being completely lost in the sight of God. The Bible does not hint that Agrippa ever got saved. Why? Because he did not want to accept the Word of God in his heart.

There is power in the Gospel of Christ. If you believe, God will open the way for you to live right in His sight. If you will give your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, He will guide you into all Truth. That is what the Bible says. The Bible is solid. He-

brews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Friend, you cannot go to Heaven unless you get saved and live right in the sight of God. You can receive the salvation of the Lord if you believe through the Word of God. If you have an open heart and will heed the Word of God, He will bless your heart.

We are living in perilous times, and we need God to live right in this present world. King Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Many millions have been shown the way of salvation and have been almost persuaded, yet they have gone away lost.

"Love Not the World"

First John 2:15 states, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." James 4:4 says, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." If any man loves the world, he is the enemy of God. You should not want to be an enemy of God, but a friend of God. Your soul is valuable in the sight of God.

My friend, God is saying to you, "If you will come and reason with Me, I will wipe the slate clean for you. I will abolish your sins and make you over anew. I will give you a new heart."

Once someone made this remark after one man got saved: "Even his old dog knew he was saved, because he didn't kick him anymore." When he got saved, a great change took place inside him. Philippians 1:21 reads, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Salvation is reasonable, from every viewpoint of the soul. One reason is that as a Christian, you can have peace and joy in the Lord consistently. Yes, you will have problems along the way, but deep down in your heart, you can have peace in your soul that passes all understand-

ing. If God is not in your heart, He will not bless you. You can serve a true and living God.

Whatever persecutions or trials you may experience in this world, as long as you stand on the Word, God will not forsake or leave YOU. I got saved when I was twelve years old. I thank the Lord, because He saved me from the power of sin, the penalty of sin, and the bondage of sin. I am using my life for the glory of God.

Salvation is not reasonable to the flesh, because the flesh wants to pursue its own way. That is the reason many people are not saved. They reason, "Oh. I don't like to go to that church, because they prohibit too many things" or "I don't want to go in the church where the women have long hair and wear long skirts. Friend, God can use you in a wonderful way. You do not have to give up anything that is good, but you should give up anything that would destroy your soul. Alan, you must renounce those things that are abominable in the sight of God. If you want to go to Heaven, you have to live right in God's sight and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. God will bless your soul if He is living inside your heart.

Are You on the Winning Side?

Another reason that salvation is reasonable is that if you come to the Truth, your soul will be happy and contented. As a Christian, one is contented because the soul is satisfied. When you are in the Spirit, you realize that you are in the position that you were created to be in; therefore, you are happy and free.

If you are saved, you will experience persecutions and trials, but thank God you can always be on the winning side. Why? Because God has everything under control. He is directing your path. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to Timothy and stated in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." I thank the Lord that though many persecutions

come into our lives, as long as we live in faith in God, He will help us and lift us up.

Do not give up your faith in God. Keep your heart in tune with Him. The Bible lets us know that we will experience some persecution in this world, but we thank God that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We are serving a living God, and we are always on the winning side. As long as we serve the Lord, He will bless us. Persecution for Christ's sake only adds to the glory of the Christian experience.

The Christian often meets with trials and tests of his faith and loyalty to God. You must stand loyal and have faith in God. The Holy Spirit will lead you into all Truth. The Bible says if you believe in Him, He will guide you into all Truth. The just shall live by faith.

Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." When you give your heart to Jesus, He will bring you through whatever trials, afflictions, or temptations you face. Absolutely nothing in the world can bring joy and contentment to the soul that salvation can. You cannot find joy, peace, and contentment in the Lord if you are away from Him. I thank and praise the Lord that He called me to the true Church of God. We serve a living God, not a dead god.

Full salvation is a restoration to the original state of the soul's happiness and purity. To obtain it, you must forsake all that is contrary to the will of God. God will help, direct, and guide you as long as you yield yourself a living sacrifice in perfect consecration to Him. Again, our Scripture text says in Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

God is saying to you today: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your

sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool . . . But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it" (Isaiah 1:18, 20). Salvation is reasonable. Do you want to accept Christ in your heart? God has given you understanding so that you can know the way.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). My friend, won't you humble yourself and say, "Lord, I am willing to serve You. I am willing to accept You and do what You want me to do." May the Lord bless your heart.

(Cassette C-4196A)

Time

*Time is not measured
by the years that you live
But by the deeds that you do
and the joy that you give*

*And from birthday to birthday
the good Lord above
Bestows on His children
the gifts Of His love.*

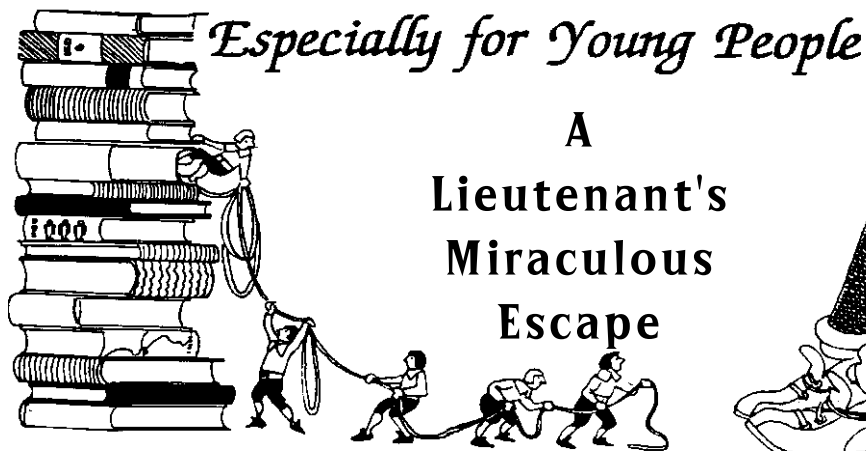
*Asking us only
to share it with others
By treating all people
not as strangers but brothers*

*And each day as it comes
brings a chance to each one
To love to the fullest
leaving nothing undone*

*That would brighten the life
or lighten the load
Of some weary traveler
lost On Life's Road—*

*So what does it matter
how long we may live
If as long as we live
we unselfishly give.*

Eleanor Berchtold



Especially for Young People

A
Lieutenant's
Miraculous
Escape



(Note: Herewith is presented a letter from a Lieutenant in the United States Army in some far-off battle front to his sister in Pennsylvania.)

A Letter From a Soldier

*The Wilds of Nowhere
The Land of Death
and Destruction
Received September 3, 1942*

Dear Sis:

In writing this letter to you, I do not know where to start first. So many things have happened since last I wrote. Well, to begin with, I have escaped death at the hand of an enemy in a way so amazing I am still in a daze. You remember I told you when I knew I was going over, I was armed with the Bible? That Bible is the reason I am still here and able to write this letter to all America.

Here is my story: My buddy and I were sent out on duty with our equipment in the work I told you before was our job. We had just received information—the most important for weeks—when we were discovered by the enemy. I gave my buddy the information we had collected, told him to go with it, and prepared myself to face them. It was the first time I'd been faced with the necessity of pointing my gun at a man and blasting the life from his miserable body. I thought fast, then I said, "Lord, it's Your

responsibility now." My buddy had not obeyed my order. He had no such scruples. As I reached for my carbine, a shot from the enemy struck me in the breast and blasted me down.

Thinking I was dead, my pal jumped for me, grabbed my carbine as well as his own, and stood astride my body, blasting away with both guns. He was blasted too, his knees had three bullet wounds, but when he finished, there was not one of the enemy left. He was amazed when I rolled over and tried to get up. The force of that bullet had only stunned me. Dazedly, I wondered why. I pulled that little Bible out of my pocket and in utter muteness looked at the ugly hole in the cover. It had ripped through Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, on through the Pentateuch, on through the other books, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, and kept going. Where do you think it stopped? In the middle of Psalm, Chapter 91, pointing like a finger at this verse: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at the right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked."

Sis, when I read that verse, it raised me three feet off the ground. I did not know there was such a verse in the Bible. I'd been reading mostly in the New Testament. I read the rest of that chapter—the first part was ripped apart. In utter humility I said, "Thank You, precious God," and felt like a little boy that had

escaped the mouth of an enemy of prey. When I got my buddy back to the post, he said, "Luke, I've had enough. This convinces me. Come on—I want to get right with God, starting right now." He wouldn't let them tend his wounds. He said, "Nothing matters now but this." He stayed on his knees for sixteen hours with three wounds. His body became so numb he could not move it. However, he would not give up. When the Lord finally came in, he moved! That soldier went crazy for God. He jumped over boxes; he jumped over bunks. He even ran outside and shouted to the whole camp.

Since I've given my heart to God, I now talk with the boys, hold meetings, and pray with them. God has given me 25 souls. Twenty-five of my buddies have prayed through and come out for God. God even gave me my general. It took a long time. He was so dignified, but God told me to go after him. I stuck on his trail until he was grounded and came through.

The Spirit of God hovered over that tent with a sort of a glimmering golden haze. I tell you, Sis, prayer is going to win this war—not guns alone—fervent, agonizing prayer. God is bringing them in one by one. The whole company will be a company of praying men. God has promised them to me. He has given me the assurance. Think of it, 120 praying men and one general in one regiment! When that happens, this unit will be unconquerable. Pray,

Sis, pray as you have never prayed before.

Tell everyone to pray. Tell all of America to go to its knees.

Before each decisive victory anywhere over here, sometimes for hours, sometimes for days, there has been a feeling of people praying far away. The feeling is so strong, you can almost hear it. One of the men, the most stubborn of them, said in the stillness of the night, "God, did You hear anything? Sounded like people praying from some distant place. I must be hearing things in this dead place."

So pray, everyone. It will have to come from afar. No one prays in this land of utter desolation. God has turned His face away from the horror and destruction man has brought on himself.

Again, I plead, tell America to

pray! This war will not end until nations and people have paid in blood and tears for thrusting God out of their hearts, out of their nations, out of their land. And tell them for God's sake to send Bibles. A Bible will give a soldier the confidence that God is with him. I'd like to have this letter broadcast from every radio station in America. Try to get it on the air, in the papers, in anything that is printed. Make copies of it. Send it from coast to coast. Tell them that the Army wants prayers and Bibles.

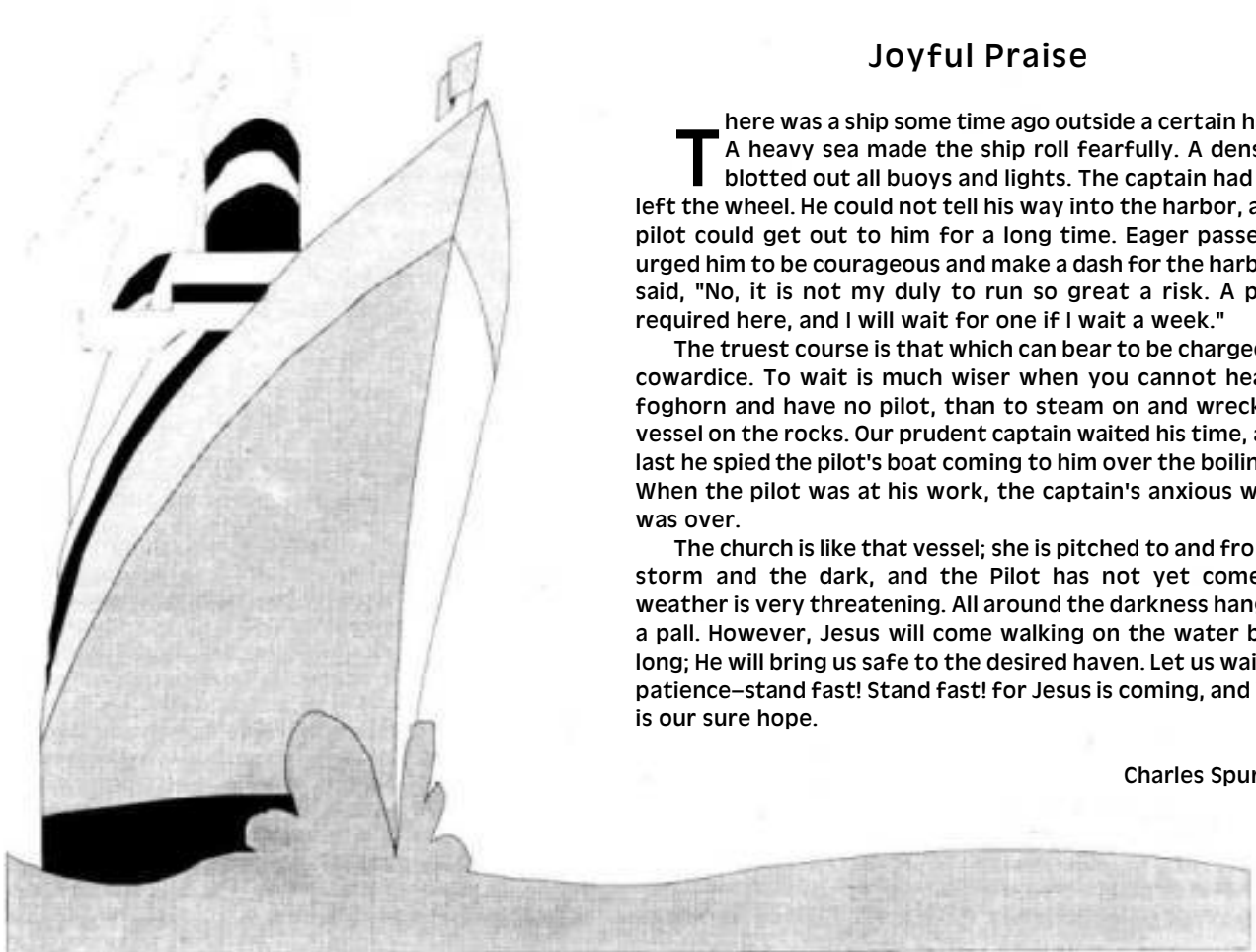
And you complacent, bridge-trotting, cocktail-drinking mothers, why didn't you teach your sons about God instead of handing him a cigarette, a cocktail glass, and a dance program? Get on your knees and ask God to forgive your sins. Then pray for the Army—pray, pray,

pray! And you great dignified preachers, why didn't you teach your people to pray? To follow God instead of standing before them in your silken robes and reading them a ritual?

Only atonement for sin can stop the shelling, the killing, the murdering. Even the shells that come whizzing through the air seem to scream only one word—atonement!

I could go on, but I am so tired, so weary. Yet, in all I am so happy to see them coming to God one by one. So tell them to pray, forsake sin, and keep praying. Also, when you send things to your boys, send Bibles. They want Bibles.

Your loving brother,
Bruno M.



Joyful Praise

There was a ship some time ago outside a certain harbor. A heavy sea made the ship roll fearfully. A dense fog blotted out all buoys and lights. The captain had never left the wheel. He could not tell his way into the harbor, and no pilot could get out to him for a long time. Eager passengers urged him to be courageous and make a dash for the harbor. He said, "No, it is not my duty to run so great a risk. A pilot is required here, and I will wait for one if I wait a week."

The truest course is that which can bear to be charged with cowardice. To wait is much wiser when you cannot hear the foghorn and have no pilot, than to steam on and wreck your vessel on the rocks. Our prudent captain waited his time, and at last he spied the pilot's boat coming to him over the boiling sea. When the pilot was at his work, the captain's anxious waiting was over.

The church is like that vessel; she is pitched to and fro in the storm and the dark, and the Pilot has not yet come. The weather is very threatening. All around the darkness hangs like a pall. However, Jesus will come walking on the water before long; He will bring us safe to the desired haven. Let us wait with patience—stand fast! Stand fast! for Jesus is coming, and in Him is our sure hope.

Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 18:29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry,

and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye front your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Man's Part in God's Mercy



Brother Daniel Webster

Having Compassion on Others

These Scripture verses contain a powerful lesson. Jesus said in verses 3-7 of the same chapter: "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that

offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

You are going to be offended from time to time. You cannot expect some great utopia with worldwide peace. Jesus said people would fight and war against one another. Sometimes God allows you to be tested to see how you will react to offences. People offended Jesus many times. When He did good things for people, others spoke evil of Him; yet He did not retaliate. He went on His way and recognized that offences would come. The Scripture text lets you know that when one offends you, you must be willing to forgive that one.

Earlier in that parable, one man owed ten thousand talents. One talent

was worth approximately five thousand dollars. This servant owed his lord ten thousand talents, or about fifty million dollars. On the other hand, his fellow servant owed him only one hundred pence. One pence was worth around fifteen dollars. That debt was very small compared with the debt that the other servant owed. When someone offends you, you need to consider the debt you owed to God that He has forgiven. No matter what a person does to you, that person's offense will never be as great as your offence toward God.

Paul and the other Apostles (except John) suffered and died for the cause of Christ. Yet they always forgave their offenders. Consider Stephen, who was stoned by those to whom he preached.

What were his last words? Acts 7:60 tells us, "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" He had compassion on them. The lesson is still the same. You must have compassion on those who offend you.

The devil wants to get you upset about what people say and do so that you focus your mind on that instead of God. He wants your mind off what God has for you. He will do anything he can to accomplish that goal. You will never get away from the tricks of the devil. That is part of the battle as you live every day. God said that you would go through trials. Though people offend and upset you, God can help you not to wish evil on them. You need to always watch your spirit along these lines, lest bitterness get into your heart.

You may be tempted to become hateful, so you have to guard yourself. The enemy of souls would love to see God's people scattered abroad. That is Satan's desire. I thank God that He has established men on the wall to warn us of spirits trying to destroy us. The devil is working to cause us to give up on the things of God. He wants us to have ill will and hatred toward one another, to distrust one another, and to no longer have confidence in one another. Thank God, we can overcome these things by the power and wonderful love of God. He loves us and will help each of us if we are willing to accept His help.

In Luke, Chapter 15, you can read about the parable of the prodigal son. There are two sons in that parable. The elder son was much affected by the backsliding of the prodigal son. Luke 15:25-32 reads: "Now his elder son was in the field [he was out doing what he was supposed to be doing]: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at

any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."

The father was trying to teach his elder son to have compassion on his brother. He was saying, in so many words, "You have been here all along. You know what it is to work in the fields and receive blessings. You ought to have compassion on your brother and be glad that he has returned." I like the father's response. He did not scold his son by saying, "You are so inconsiderate." I picture the father sitting down beside him and having a father to son chat with him. The son poured out his heart to his father and let him know he was really upset and troubled. The father had great compassion and listened to him and gave him the instruction he, needed. He let him know that he needed to have compassion and to show forgiveness and love toward his brother.

Respecting Authority

God would like to help you grow stronger and gain better understanding of the things of God. A spirit is working today to destroy all respect for authority. This spirit that works in the world tries to work on God's people to destroy the channels of authority that God has established. God has a body, and as saints, we are members of that body and subject to the Head, Jesus Christ.

God has also established other positions of authority within His body. Being a child of God is a high calling, but being called as a pastor of the Church of God is a higher calling. God still calls men to be pastors of the Church of God, and that is the highest authority on earth. No man is over a pastor to tell him what to do. Many sectarian churches have boards and presidents at the top of their organiza-

tions telling people what to do. However, biblically, between the pastor and God, there is no other authority.

The man whom God calls to be the pastor over a local congregation is the man to whom the local members are to be in subjection. A spirit is working to try to destroy pastoral authority and tell people that they do not need to listen to what their pastor has to say. If a brother has been ordained and anointed of God and proven by the works and the life he lives as a man anointed of God, then he is not just another man. He is God's anointed. Every congregation of God's church has a pastor whom God has placed there. Some people try to chase a pastor off, buy him off, starve him out, or do other things to get rid of him. Yet when God puts a call on a man's heart to be somewhere, he cannot be run off.

David was a man who was anointed of God to be the next king of Israel. Before his anointing, another king named Saul was anointed, but he lost out with God, yet David respected his position.

First Chronicles 16:21-22 states: "He suffered no man to do them wrong; yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes, Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." David wrote this, and it is what God told these kings. In 1 Samuel, Chapter 26, you can read that David had an opportunity to take Saul's life. Saul was pursuing David and trying to take his life; yet, in essence, David said, "I know what I could do, but he is still God's anointed. I know that I have received the kingdom from him, yet God still has his hand on him."

First Samuel 26:8-9 says: "Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?" Once God anoints someone to be a man of God, it does not matter what you think, God's Word lets you know that man is His anointed.

David said in verse 16, "This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master [he was talking to Abner, who was supposed to be watching over Saul], the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster."

Going back to verse 10, David said, "As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish." In other words, he was saying, "I do not have to do anything about it; the Lord will take care of the problem." The point is, some people get themselves in the way by trying to help God. God can take care of things. You do not have to raise a fuss about things; you will only create more problems if you do. If you do things God's way, it will work for good. If you really have the faith in God that you claim to have, then you will leave things in His hands. David was saying, "If I lay my mouth or my hands on God's anointed, no matter what the reason is, then I am guilty."

God's Anointed

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:7 that love "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." When God's love is working in one's heart, that person will hope and pray and always look toward the good in something, no matter how bad it may look. Each of us sees things in different ways. Ten people could witness an accident, and each would probably tell a slightly different version of what happened. The four Gospels record many of the same accounts of what Jesus did, yet each is worded differently. God anointed each of them, and their writings together worked to produce His Word. The point is that each of us sees things a little differently, so you cannot judge things with your eyes. You must let God take care of things in His own time.

We read in 1 Samuel 24:4-6: "And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to

him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt [all David did was cut off Saul's skirt, and it troubled his heart terribly]. And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

God has established certain men as His anointed, and we are not to touch them. They are ordained of God for His purpose. If you feel they are out of order, you are to pray to God. If something needs to be taken care of, God will take care of it. We serve a living God, and He can do all things.

David said, in so many words, "God forbid that I should touch His anointed or do anything to hurt this man, though he is pursuing me and I fear for my life. Although I have the opportunity to slay him, I cannot do it because he is God's anointed." You need to get this principle fixed in your heart, because the devil wants to get you upset over the authority that God has placed over you.

The devil works hard to get at pastors. To be the pastor of a Church of God congregation is an awesome responsibility. Often a godly pastor gets little sleep at night because he is thinking about burdens and praying for souls. God places a pastor upon the wall as a watchman, and he can see much more than you and I can see. Because of that, you may not understand everything he does. He has a greater vision of what God wants to happen with His people.

Hebrews 13:7 says, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." As long as God's witness is still on a man of God who has been called to be your pastor, you are to follow him. Today many people have no respect for the law or any other authority. Even some children have the attitude, "You can't tell me what to do." Some people today would rather shoot you than to listen to what you have to say because they do

not want to be told what to do or be in subjection to anyone.

Submit Yourself to Those Who Watch for Your Soul

Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you [if you will not obey those who have the rule over you, you will not obey God either], and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls . . ." A godly pastor watches for your soul. God can witness and reveal things to a man of God. He lets him know just what to preach. Many times the saints have burdens and God gives the man of God just the right message to bring help. If you rebel and say, "I'm not going to listen to that man," then from where is your help going to come.

Again, Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." If your pastor has to give an account to God for you with grief, then may God help your soul, because it is not going to be well with you. The pastor has to give an account of every soul in his congregation. That is the reason the responsibility of a pastor is far greater than you or I can comprehend. He must stand before God and give an account not only for his own life but also for all souls for whom he is responsible.

In the Army, if a general says to do such-and-such, then one lower in authority cannot say, "I think we should do it this way instead." Whatever the general says is the way the soldiers must carry out the orders. There is no question about it. Some people argue with the man of God and make all kinds of accusations against him falsely. We must go God's way. God's way says to obey them that have the rule over you, even though you may disagree.

In the public schools they are teaching young people to question all authority, not to believe or trust in anything, to have no respect for authority, and to do whatever they think is right. Nevertheless, God's way is certain, and

we have to obey what He has established. We are in troublesome times throughout the world because men have refused to listen to and obey authority and receive it as God has ordained.

God wants you to wait on Him. Do not be like the man who tried to help God when the ark was falling. A man reached out to steady the ark, and it cost him his life. God had ordained a certain way for the ark to be moved, and no one was to touch it unless he was anointed. As the ark was falling, it certainly looked like a good reason to touch it, but it was not God's way. We must stay in the center of God's will if we are going to make Heaven our home. Our own thinking, our own reasoning, no matter how good it sounds, will not get us there. We must stay within the confines of His Word. Ezekiel 3:17 states, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." It still works that way today. God has established men as watchmen on the wall who watch for our souls. How foolish we would be if we were living in times when the cities had men on the wall who cried out, "The enemy is coming," and we stood there and said, "I don't believe it." The watchmen were respected men. If they sounded the alarm, everyone fled for safety. People heeded the alarm because they knew when they heard the watchman cry out that something terrible was happening. Today when the watchman cries out, too many want to fuss and buck up against the things of God and say, "I don't see it that way. I think it should be done some other way." Often they cause great problems among God's people.

Paul wrote in Titus 3:1, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work." The word magistrate means "an official entrusted in the administration of law." That is what God's man is. He is an official who has been entrusted by God, not to establish laws but to lay out the way God has established. One brother once said, "I am just the mailman delivering

the mail. God sends me the message, and I deliver it." The Scripture says to obey those who have been entrusted to deliver the law of God.

There is no compromise with that word obey. When you tell your child to obey, there is no conference about the matter. You tell him the way you want him to do it, and that is the way you expect it to be done. There is no arguing or discussing it. That is what God is telling us. He said to obey those who have the rule over you, because God has put them in a special place to help and direct you in the way you need to go.

Following God's Ordained Plan

First Timothy 5:1 says, "Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren." You should not rebuke an elder, even if you feel that you have a good reason. James 5:14 says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him" In other words, anointed men of God can pray the prayer of faith and you will be healed. The Bible says to rebuke not an elder. Should people try to tell you otherwise, do not do it.

James 5:13-15 tells us: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? 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 the sick" God has ordained that by calling the elders, you can be healed, not by calling your friend but the elders. If you want to be healed of an affliction in your body, do not wait for the elders to call you. You are to call the elders. The preacher is not a mind reader. When you do as the Word says, then you will receive the help you need, because you have done it the way the Bible says to do it.

You can stand on God's Word: If you do something exactly as the Bible says to do it, you can have confidence that it will work. That is what is so wonderful about the Word of God. Unfortunately, many people read the directions after they complete a project

to see if they did it right or if it does not work. However, you cannot afford to do that spiritually. You must make sure that you follow the Book to the letter. God, with His sweet Holy Spirit, will direct you in the way you need to go.

First Peter 5:1-3 says: "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." A good pastor will always be an example to the flock. He will not be as a lord over the people and say, "This is exactly the way you have to do it. If you don't do it exactly the way I say, then you can't do this or that." No, God's man will not do that. He shows people the right example and leads them in the way God would have them to go. He does this willingly, not for filthy lucre.

First Peter 5:4-7 states: "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder [people have problems because they will not submit themselves to what God has established, Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." If you have problems with someone, if you humble yourself and ask God to work it out, He will work it out.

Paul wrote in Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." You may be in the same position some day, and you will need someone to encourage you, not press you down. He says to be subject one to another. In other words, we should be willing to help one another. Be willing to take the blame, even when you are not really at fault.

God can give you the grace for that. The whole point is to keep the body together. Let God work things out the way He wants them worked out.

God resists the proud. People who will not obey and submit become proud. They start thinking, "I know better and no one is going to tell me any different." That is not God's way. It does not matter whether you know better. He said to submit to one another. First Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." He wants to take you down somehow. If he can get you by causing you to become a fault-finder and have a picky spirit, he will. It will cause you to focus on people's faults and cause all kinds of problems, and then you will become miserable. You will think, "Everyone has a problem except me." You ought to look in the mirror and realize that the real problem is you. The devil is an adversary, and he is seeking whom he may devour. He will devour every proud heart, because God resists the proud.

Verses 9-10 read: "Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." God will give you the ability to endure the storms of life if you will submit yourself to one another and let God have His way.

People will offend you from time to time, but God will help you to be merciful, kind, and loving toward them. He will help you to keep your spirit right. In doing so, God will be blessed with your life. He can carry you through.

The Authority of God's Man

Second Timothy 2:23-26 states: "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance

to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." The enemy is out to take you captive, And one way he tries to do that is to get you to question the authority of God's man. God has placed him there for a reason.

In 2 Corinthians 10:1-5 we read: "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [Though a man of God is a human being, he is not walking in the flesh. He is walking in the Spirit and being led by God's Spirit. You may not understand everything that God tells him to do, but you must be obedient to the things that God shows him.]

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh [why?]: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, [You may imagine, 'I think it ought to be this way.' It does not matter what you think; God's Word is what is important. You must cast down imaginations if you intend for God to work in your midst.] and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Someone may say, "God says this, but I think . . ." That is exalting your thoughts against the knowledge of God. His thoughts are far higher than your thoughts. You should not get to the place where you justify disobeying God. Some claim to be God's people, yet they override the principles of God's eternal Word.

Verses 6-8 read: "And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself

think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's. For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the LORD hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed." Paul said he was given authority for edification. He was given special authority to preach the Word. Not everyone has that; it is given to special men of God whom God has called for that purpose.

Verses 9-10 say: "That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible." People said that Paul wrote powerful letters, but that his bodily presence was weak. Paul said, in so many words, "You may think I am a weakling, but God gave me authority." I do not know what Paul's physical stature was, but some people looked down on him and talked badly about him.

Verse 13 says, "But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you." God gives the rule to certain ones, and you are to obey those who have the rule over you. That rule is the Book of rules to line up with and a rule of discipline. If you do not behave, you receive chastisement. God's Word will let you know just where you need to stand.

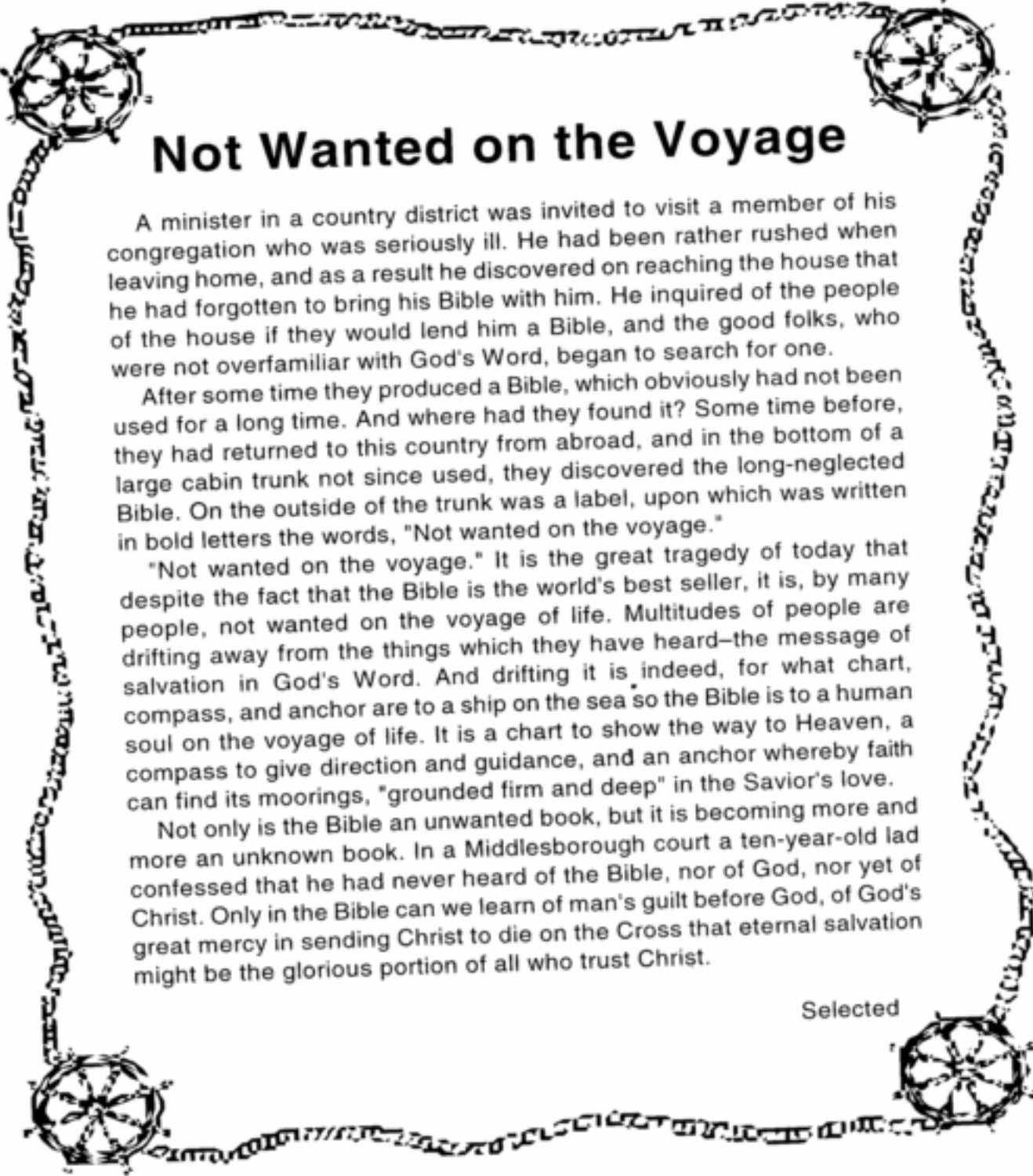
We read in Romans 13:1-2: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." There is nothing you can say to improve those words. Paul said if you resist the power, you are in trouble with God; that is all there is to it. You can argue all you want, but it still comes down to either obeying the Word of God and doing things the way God says or going your own way. If you do things your own way, then you may as well take down the sign that reads "Church of God," because you are no longer a part of God's church. God's church does things

the way God has established them. The enemy would like to put doubts in your mind about God's Word and God's man. What is the answer? The answer is simple: "Touch not the anointed." If something is wrong, God can fix it. Man

can do nothing to fix it. Once man gets involved, all that is left is a big mess, much trouble, and many broken hearts. All these problems come about when man does not wait on God. I God does not stay where He is unwelcome. If you

have a need in your heart, listen to the Lord.

(Cassette C-3962E)



Not Wanted on the Voyage

A minister in a country district was invited to visit a member of his congregation who was seriously ill. He had been rather rushed when leaving home, and as a result he discovered on reaching the house that he had forgotten to bring his Bible with him. He inquired of the people of the house if they would lend him a Bible, and the good folks, who were not overfamiliar with God's Word, began to search for one.

After some time they produced a Bible, which obviously had not been used for a long time. And where had they found it? Some time before, they had returned to this country from abroad, and in the bottom of a large cabin trunk not since used, they discovered the long-neglected Bible. On the outside of the trunk was a label, upon which was written in bold letters the words, "Not wanted on the voyage."

"Not wanted on the voyage." It is the great tragedy of today that despite the fact that the Bible is the world's best seller, it is, by many people, not wanted on the voyage of life. Multitudes of people are drifting away from the things which they have heard—the message of salvation in God's Word. And drifting it is indeed, for what chart, compass, and anchor are to a ship on the sea so the Bible is to a human soul on the voyage of life. It is a chart to show the way to Heaven, a compass to give direction and guidance, and an anchor whereby faith can find its moorings, "grounded firm and deep" in the Savior's love.

Not only is the Bible an unwanted book, but it is becoming more and more an unknown book. In a Middlesborough court a ten-year-old lad confessed that he had never heard of the Bible, nor of God, nor yet of Christ. Only in the Bible can we learn of man's guilt before God, of God's great mercy in sending Christ to die on the Cross that eternal salvation might be the glorious portion of all who trust Christ.

Selected



The Church of God Convention Honduras

May 14 – 21, 2000

On Friday, May 12, Brother Jeff Harris, Brother Silvio Serra, and Brother David Stegmeier traveled to the country of Honduras for the Church of God convention. The convention convened on Sunday, May 14, in Bonacco, a small city located on two very small islands off the coast of Guyana, one of the Bay Islands in the Gulf of Honduras. The beautiful Caribbean Sea surrounds these small islands, and access to Bonacco must be made by boat. Bonacco is called the "Venice" of Honduras because of the many waterways that run through the city. In the city many homes are built on stilts, and also around the edge of the islands. Considerable damage was sustained by the city of Bonacco when Hurricane Mitch struck the islands two years ago. Most of the rebuilding has been done, and the city is once again back to normal.

The Church of God has very nice facilities in Bonacco. Between four and five hundred people assembled in the house of worship. During most of the services, many worshipers were gathered around the outside of the church building. A few blocks away, the congregation has a dining hall with housing accommodations on the

second story. Several times a day the cooks served the convention crowd with delicious meals.

Many congregations, all under the able leadership of Brother Esau Brooks, were represented in the convention. Most of the congregations are located on Roatan, the largest of the Bay Islands; however, there is a church located in La Ceiba, a city on the mainland of Honduras, and two congregations in Guyana. Many of the services were led by the lay pastors from these various congregations, and several choirs from these congregations provided special music.

Services began at 6:30 a.m. with an early morning prayer service. After breakfast, services reconvened at 10:30 a.m. for morning worship. In the afternoon, services began at 2:30 p.m., and then the evening evangelistic service was held at 7:00 p.m. At least a half hour before each service, the saints gathered to begin singing the songs of the church. In the early morning hours, the voices of the saints could be heard throughout the city. For the convention, Brother Brooks chose the theme "Thou Hast Left Thy First Love," from Revelation 2:4. Many of the messages and much

exhortation centered around that thought. The following statements are some of those that Brother Brooks brought:

"This congregation was a dedicated and suffering church; however, they were doing their work without a real love for God. . . . People labor for many reasons: love of the praise of man, love for self (promoting themselves), but not for God only If you had true love for the church, you could not desert her Is God your first love? . . . Some only have time in their schedules to squeeze church into it We should set the interests of the church ahead of our own Today we want to avoid situations that put scars on us. Christ had many. Every veteran soldier can show you many battle scars If some one is being attacked by the devil, he must be doing something for God Would you be a Christian if you had to die a martyr's

death? . . . The devil has a plot to destroy the church. People plant doubts in the minds of others against the man of God—plotting, lying, etc. . . . The battle today is to keep ourselves from being influenced by the wrong spirit . . . The purpose of the Gospel is to get you measured up on the things where you are lacking. If you are feeling good when you are bad, you are deceived. . . ."

Brother Brooks expressed his deep concerns for the people of God in many of his exhortations. In one early morning prayer service, he expressed the need for unity. For prayer to be effective, the church must be of one accord. He said, "The early church had unity; now we have everything but unity."

Throughout the convention, much instruction was given concerning the relationship that the saints should have with their pastor. This teaching is certainly applicable to our day, and timely considering the conditions in our present age. The following warnings were given:

"It is necessary to manifest the right spirit when the pastor corrects you, even when he says that you cannot do something after you have already had plans. It is for your good. People believe things about the ministry because they want to believe them. You turn on the pastor because you have no love for him. It is serious to rebel against leadership. The Bible says, 'Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm!' Only the pastor (of God's choosing) will lead you into Canaan; a pastor of your own choosing will lead you to Egypt. God keeps a man of God around to keep sounding the alarm. If salvation is working in your life, you will live right no matter

where you are. Always govern your actions and practices by the Word of God. If your life is 'shabby,' your soul is 'shabby.' The more things we possess, the more careless we are about the things of God. Under Moses, the Israelites kept murmuring against his leadership; this was a contagious spirit. The spirit of rising up against leadership is with us today; spirits do not die. A minister is not an entertainer; he must make people as uncomfortable as he possibly can. False prophets are using people as merchandise. A true pastor watches for your soul."

On the last Sunday morning, Brother Brooks baptized twenty-six new converts. Among them was an elderly sister in her mid-eighties. This was a very precious sight to witness! Before baptizing these candidates, Brother Brooks taught them many very valuable truths about the Christian life. He said:

"Baptism is not merely a ceremony or a practice; it is of divine origin. Get baptized with an aim to serve God with all your heart. From baptism on, you are the prop-

erty of the church. She will tell you how to dress. You are to be an advertisement for the church, not advertising yourself. Dress to draw people to Christ. Baptism is a burial. Salvation is a type of death; you have died to self and the world. We have a law that is against burying someone who is yet alive, and there is also a law about not burying someone who is dead. Baptism also symbolizes a resurrection. You are now living a new life in Christ."

In the evening evangelistic services, Brother David Stegmeier preached messages to awaken the sinners in the audience of their need for salvation. Each evening there was a good response, and many souls came to the altar of prayer seeking help.

The Church of God convention for the year 2000 is now history; however, only eternity will truly reveal the good that was done in that meeting. Much time and effort was put into this effort for souls by Brother Brooks and the saints in Honduras. God will surely reward them abundantly, for He promised, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Bible Mathematics

**We are not to add to the Bible,
nor to subtract from it,
but to rightly divide it.**

Spring 2000 Camp Meeting



Tape List



TAPE NO.	DATE	MESSAGE TITLE	MINISTER	COST
C-4407M	6-18-00	Some Requisites for Christian Fathers	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4408A		Being a Christian Means the Best Is Yet to Come	Bro. Irwin Sesher	2.50
C-4409E		The Need of a Reawakening to What Righteousness Is	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4410M	6-19-00	The First and New Heaven and Earth, Part 1	Bro. C. H. Dickerson	2.50
C-4411A		God's Wonderful Care	Bro. Robert L. Mullen	2.50
C-4412E		Loved But Lacking	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4413M	6-20-00	Walking With God in Peace	Bro. Ula Bland	2.50
C-4414A		Preparing to Sound	Bro. Allen Polston	2.50
C-4415E		Dying Without a Cause	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4416M	6-21-00	The Storms of Slander, Accusation, Criticism, and Gossip	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4417A		God Has His Way of Protecting His Own	Bro. Jesus Granil	2.50
C-4418E		The Bondage of Love	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4419M	6-22-00	The First and New Heaven and Earth, Part 2	Bro. C. H. Dickerson	2.50
C-4420A		The Truth Concerning the Ninety and Nine	Bro. Earl R. Borders	2.50
C-4421 E		Has Your Ear Been Bored?	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4422M	6-23-00	Can I Expect to Be Healed in This Day?	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4423A		My Experiences as a Young Man and Through Life	Bro. Robert L. Mullen	2.50
C-4424E		The Great Deliverance God Is Offering	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4425M	6-24-00	God's Hatred for Man's Systems	Bro. C. H. Dickerson	2.50
C-4426A		Settle It Therefore in Your Heart	Bro. J. C. Carr	2.50
C-4427E		Getting the Windows of Heaven Opened	Bro. Esau Brooks	2.50
C-4428M	6-25-00	The Beauty of the Church	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4429A		Where's All the Gold Today?	Bro. Pete Bollinger	2.50
C-4400		Spring 2000 Camp Meeting Choir Songs		2.50
C-4411		2000 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #1		2.50
C-4402		2000 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #2		2.50
C-4403		2000 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #3		2.50
C-4404		2000 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #4		2.50
C-4405		2000 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #5		2.50

Tapes may be ordered by writing The Gospel Trumpeter, Tape Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling (740) 987-5905, Brother and Sister Roger Allen. If no answer, call (740) 345-1312, the Print Shop. Make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to The Gospel Trumpeter.

Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting

August 19 - 27

NOTE STARTING DATE CHANGE

FIRST SERVICE SATURDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

Canby Grove Conference Center

7501 Knight's Bridge Rd. - Canby, Oregon

Three Services Daily

10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

*We Welcome
Everyone*

Come and Worship With Us

DORMITORIES - CABINS - LODGE

TRAILER-TENT SITES

DINING ROOM-SNACK BAR

LAUNDRY FACILITY

Bring your own bedding.

NO PETS ALLOWED

For reservations contact:

Pastor E. David Stegmeier

103 Main St., Canby, OR 97013

Telephone (503) 266-9297

(Please make reservations
in advance, if possible)



Procrastination

Unto a youth the Gospel came,
Exhorting him in Jesus' name,
To turn from sin, embrace the Truth
And serve the Lord in the days of
youth.

The youth replied, I know that's
right,
But I won't turn from sin tonight;
A few more pleasures I will seek,
And then I'll turn, perhaps next
week.

But next week came, and still his
heart
Was not inclined from sin to part.
"A few more days in sin I'll live,
And then my heart to God I'll give."

Days passed by, and months rolled
on,
And still he sang the same old song:
"Not now, but after while I'll pray
For God to wash my sins away."

The months and years went by so
fast,
From youth and middle age he
passed;
And yet his sins were not forgiven,
Nor his name enrolled in Heaven.

From middle aged to old he went;
His body 'neath the years was bent;
His conscience once so keen to feel,
No more was stirred at God's
appeal.

Procrastination in its stealth
Had robbed his soul of Heaven's
wealth;
And so at last to sin a slave,
He died to fill a Christless grave.

Souls, behold, God says today
Turn now from all your sins away,
Lest you should reach your doleful
fate,
And cry at last, "Too late! Too
late!"

Ulysses Phillips



LABOR DAY *Fellowship* *Meeting*

September 4

TWO SERVICES
10:00 A.M. 2:30 P.M.

The Church of God

6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH

Meals provided by the local congregation.

Revival

September 11-17

Monday-Friday 7:00
Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
Pastor C. H. Dickerson
(330) 725-6853 or (330) 725-5993

Let me be a little kinder, let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me;
let me praise a little more.
Let me be a little meeker with the brother who is
weaker;
Let me think more of my neighbor and a little less of
me.



IT'S THAT TIME
Again

Fall Camp Meeting

August 6-13

Three Services Daily
10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
The first service begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

*Holy Ghost Preaching * Inspirational Singing*
*Children's Services * Divine Healing*

Come and worship the Lord with us!

MEALS reasonably priced (full-time evangelists and pastors [with spouses] half-price). **LODGING** free-will offering basis. Heated dormitories available. Bring your own bedding, if possible. **NO PETS.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Date Needed _____

____ No. in family ____ No. for boys' dorm
____ No. rooms needed ____ No. for women's dorm
____ No. beds needed ____ No. for girls' dorm

Send Reservations to: David L. Bush
725 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055
Call (740) 345-1213 for reservations

GOD'S ACRES • NEWARK, OHIO

