

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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in Newark, Ohio 43055.

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

This periodical carries no subscription price; however, it is partially maintained through the gifts and offerings of its readers, with the balance of the expenses being paid by the local congregation.

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the 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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CONTENTS

The Setting Up of the Kingdom of God. 3
The Gospel That Paul Preached. 10
Radio Log. 14
The Assurance of Our Identity. 15
Keeping Your Eyes Pure. 22

Website: www.godsacres.org
Vol. 30 December 2000 No. 12

Quest
Editorial

The Gospel Day in Type

Part 1 of 2

Genesis 11:1-9 reads: "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and them left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. "

This Scripture passage is a very familiar Biblical and historical account, but let us view it in the light of the lesson in type that it portrays. As we study this Genesis account, we must first consider its greater context. The word *Genesis* is a Greek word that means "origin" or "beginning." This Book was given this title by the seventy elders who penned The Septuagint, which means "the seventy." Seventy writers were involved in that translation, and they were the first to ascribe the Greek name *Genesis* to this account.

If you go back to Genesis 1:1 in the Hebrew, which was predominantly the original language of the Old Testament, you will find that the first word is *bereshith*, which means "in the beginning." This book reveals the origin of literal realities, portrays spiritual realities, and gives Biblical insight concerning the origin of many powers that we must contend with.

Our lesson text reveals the origin of many systems that we yet face in our labors for Truth. Some people may question, "Is there any real merit in study the Old Testament occurrences?" The Apostle

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 10:11, penned these words: "Now all these things [if you read the preceding verses, you will find that he was speaking of Old Testament occurrences] happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." These Scriptures were not preserved down throughout the annals of time for the benefit of those to which they occurred; they were keenly aware of the details. They were penned and preserved for our benefit.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Paul was talking about Scriptures penned aforetime. When the Apostle Paul penned this letter in approximately A.D. 56 to A.D. 59, there were no other New Testament writings other than those written by Paul, except the Gospel of Mark. Therefore, the Scriptures that he was speaking of were the Old Testament Scriptures.

Paul let us know they are for our learning. This teaches that the Old Testament plays a very vital part in our understanding of God's plan. There are sixty-six books in the Bible: thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New. There are more Old Testament books than New Testament books. When Paul said they are for our learning, we must ask, "What form does this learning take?" Are we merely to learn historical information? Certainly not, because once we have learned it at face value, we would glean little else from the text.

Again, Paul said, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples." In what manner do we learn from the Old Testament occurrences? He said "these things happened unto them for ensamples." The Amplified Bible says "by way of a figure." The Emphatic Greek Diaglott says, "These things occurred to them typically," or as a type. *Webster's Dictionary* tells us that the definition of type is "an event that represents or symbolizes another."

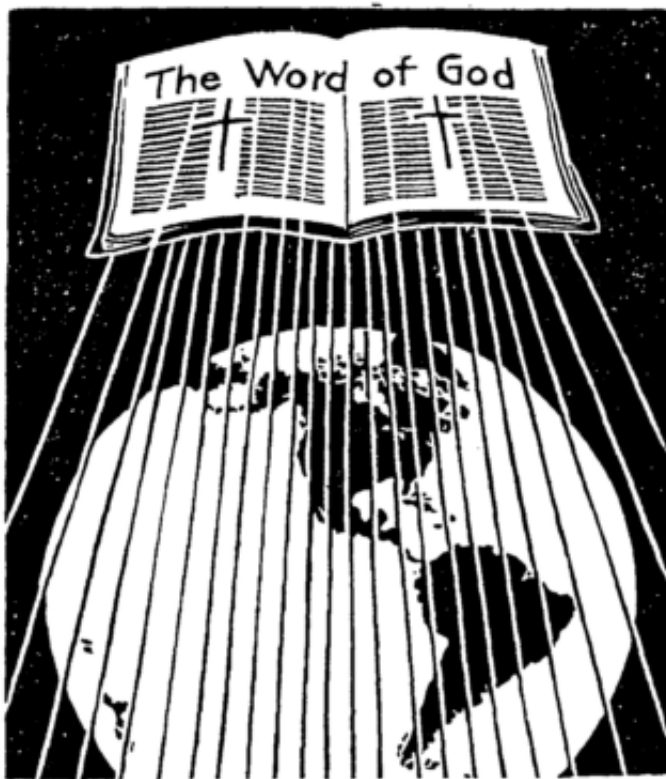
Our study of this text concerning what led to the construction of the tower in the city of Babel and its ultimate outcome would gender little good if we merely observed its historical merit. It serves as a lesson in type, or represents events that by a figure portray occurrences in this Gospel Day. Therefore, as we view this passage, we need to view it with an eye to the Gospel Day, or the Christian dispensation. We must remember that the Gospel Day is comprised of seven days, or seven periods of time, and that during this Gospel *(continued on page 26)*

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in

pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in

pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.



The Setting up of the Kingdom of God

Brother Roger L. Decker

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

There is much confusion and controversy about the Kingdom of God. Even millennialists cannot agree on the subject; they disagree concerning the time and the reign of the kingdom. Daniel prophesied about that which you and I are privileged to be a part of. We can enjoy that which, for many, has been put out into the future in a supposed "Golden Age."

In Daniel 2:44 we can definitely see when the kingdom was to be set up. He said that "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven setup a kingdom." According to this verse of Scripture, we know the time was in the days of those kings that God

was going to set up a kingdom. What kings were Daniel talking about? In Chapter 2 we find that verse 1 says, "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him." His spirit was troubled, so he commanded all the astrologers and sorcerers to show him his dream. However, they wanted to hear the dream first, and then they would give their phony interpretations.

The king was wise and told them that the dream had left him. Also, he said if they did not give both the dream and the interpretation of the dream, they would surely be put to death. The deep things of

God are not revealed to workers of deceit or Babylonians.

Daniel 2:19-22 says: "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

A companion text to that Scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, which states: "But as it is written,

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

God revealed to Daniel the dream and also the interpretation of it. In that dream was an image whose head was of fine gold, his breast and arms were of silver, his belly and his thighs were of brass, his legs were of iron, and his feet were part iron and part clay. Each of these parts describes a kingdom that would arise and overthrow the next one. The head of gold represents Babylon, over which Nebuchadnezzar was king. Also represented were the Medo-Persians, the Grecian Empire, and the Roman Empire.

Daniel 2:34-35 reads: "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." This stone was a type of Jesus Christ. He was born of virgin birth, and He was the Stone, or the Rock, that was cut out of the mountain; in other words, He was born under the Law.

Galatians 4:4-5 states: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Right during the time of those earthly kingdoms, at the time of their reign, God was going to set up a kingdom. Jesus Christ was born of virgin birth during the reign of Caesar Augustus, who reigned from B.C. 31 to A.D. 14, which was during the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain Without Hands

Luke 2:1-6 says: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed [all the world was under the domain of Caesar Augustus]. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered."

During the reign of the Roman Empire under Caesar Augustus, Jesus Christ was that stone cut out of the mountain. Rome ruled the then-known world and had the same spirits working as the previous kingdoms before her. All the other kingdoms before her were tied in with Rome. The spirits that were in the Medio-Persian, the Grecian, and the Babylonian empires were in the pagan Roman Empire. Daniel said that in the days of those kings, God was going to do something. During that time, when things looked bad, a stone was going to be cut out of the mountain, speaking of Jesus Christ being born under the Law. How did that stone become a great mountain? That stone was Jesus Christ; it was not some pebble somewhere, or Peter.

Acts 4:10-11 states: "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought [or rejected] of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." When Rome ruled the then-known world, a baby was born in a manger,

because there was no room at the inn, and that baby was the Son of God. Right in the midst of political and religious rule, God set up His kingdom.

This Stone (Christ) smote the image upon his feet and became a great mountain. Why did it smite the feet of the image? The feet carry around the message of deceit. That is the reason the Bible says to "make straight paths for your feet" (Hebrews 12:13). In other words, your walk should back up your talk. The feet are necessary to carry the message. Romans 10:15 says, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

The Good News of the Gospel

How could the Stone bring down this image? The Stone brought it down through the preaching of the good news of the Gospel, not through deceit. When God set up the kingdom, they had good news for a change. Instead of the old pagan Roman Empire with its bowing down to idols, the message of one God, one Lord, one Savior, and one Spirit came, and that brought down the image.

Revelation, Chapter 12, lets us know that a little war broke out. Unlike the wars that you have read about, this tells of a spiritual warfare. Revelation 12:7-9 reads: "And there was war in heaven [this is not referring to the Heaven where God dwells; this is speaking of the exalted position in men's minds, the exalted place that the pagan Roman Empire held over the lives of men]: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not [in other words, the dragon and his angels were unable to destroy the Kingdom of God]; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, [He was not the devil, but

he was called the devil. The pagan Roman Empire was devilish and full of deceit, but it was not the devil. It was a system used by the devil. The pagan Roman Empire was not the only devilish thing. Once Jesus rebuked Peter. He said, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.' Peter was not Satan, but the devil was using him.] and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out [or prevailed no more] with him."

Through the preaching of the Gospel, the disciples went out and started many congregations of the Church of God. They let people know the good news from on high, and that was the setting up of the Kingdom of God, the Church of God. She is the only church that came down from God out of Heaven. Every other church came out or came up. She is the new Jerusalem, and she takes in every blood washed one. We are new Jews, or the new Israel. One gets into this kingdom when he is born again. Second Corinthians 5:17 states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." He is a new creature, and he belongs in the new Jerusalem.

Does God have something for the literal Jew? He certainly does, and it is found in Jesus Christ. If the literal Jew gets in, he must come through the Door just as everyone else does. God is no more concerned about the literal Jew than He is any other nationality of people. If He were, He would be a respecter of persons, but God is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34 says, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

The Church of God is not a church among churches; she does not have brother or sister churches. There is only one church, and I am glad I am a member. I know what God saved me from, and I know what He has kept me from, and I am not going to lay it down. I know when He placed me in the body of

Christ and made me a member of the Church of the Living God. It was not because I signed a paper or was baptized in water. I got in the church when I was born again. All those who are baptized need to be saved first. Literal water will not save you, but it is the washing of the water by the Word. Ephesians 5:26 reads, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

A Kingdom That Shall Never Be Destroyed

The terms "church" and "kingdom" are used interchangeably. When we talk about the kingdom, we are talking about the rule of God. Many people run around and claim to be the church, and some take the name "Church of God," but they are a long way from allowing God to rule in their hearts. The kingdom comes when the King comes in and rules; that is when you become a part of the Kingdom of God.

Again, our Scripture lesson reads in verse 44, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Daniel could not have been talking about one of those literal kingdoms, because each of them was overthrown.

The Kingdom of God has great attributes. We read in Matthew 16:18, "And I say also unto thee [Jesus was speaking], That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The Bible says in the days of those kings, the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed. To destroy or overthrow a kingdom, one had to get to the king of the kingdom; he could not continue to rule. That was what happened with all those earthly kingdoms. The overthrowing kingdom removed a king from his throne and

placed its king there.

Church, we have a kingdom that will never be destroyed. Why is that? No one can get to our King. He is all powerful and all skillful. No mind can match His, and there are no works in the dark that He cannot see. God sees it all. The pagan Roman Empire could have gathered all the pagans around and said, "How are we going to overthrow the Christians?" but God could see every thought before it even became a thought. No one can outmaneuver, outwit, outsmart, or trick our King. In Psalm 139:1-12 David wrote: "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 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."

How could anyone overthrow a king like our King? The Jews did their best to overthrow Him when they hung Him on the Cross. When He died on the Cross, He purchased the Church of the Living God.

A Spiritual Kingdom

Some saints were tarrying at Jerusalem when God spoke, and they were praying. They were not tarrying around an altar saying,

"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." They were sitting in a house. Suddenly, there came a noise, and tongues of fire sat upon each of them, and they spoke in a language that people could understand. Peter stood up, and he spoke, and those different nationalities heard the Word of God. Why was the gift of tongues given? It was given to preach the Word of God. God wants everyone to understand the Gospel message. Peter spoke, and God translated his language into all those different languages, and everyone heard him speak the message of God.

There were Galileans, and many other nationalities there, but they all understood the message. The people said, "Men and brethren, what must we do to be saved?" Peter told them to repent and call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why did he say "the Lord Jesus Christ"? They had a problem with Jesus Christ being Lord.

The Kingdom of God will never be destroyed or moved. Hebrews 12:28 states, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

Daniel went on to say this kingdom "shall not be left to other people." No one dwells in this kingdom except holy people. It is not left to the unholy. God's requirements are still the same: you must be born again to see the Kingdom of God, because it is a spiritual kingdom. The reason people fail to decipher the Revelation and fail to figure out all the prophecies is that they have not been born again. They have not received real salvation and quit the sin business, cleaned up their lives, and received a new heart, a new spirit, and a new mind. God can reveal the kingdom to an uneducated man who cannot read or write if he loves God and has truly gotten hold of Him. God can show him things in the Bible that theologians who have spent years in seminaries cannot see. You can only see the kingdom down on your knees when

the King comes.

This kingdom is not going to change in dynasty. It has an unchangeable priesthood and unchanging laws and principles. All the previous kingdoms swallowed up each other, but God's kingdom shall stand forever. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:24, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." No kingdom can swallow up the Kingdom of God. Why is that? This kingdom did not start from some trickery of man or in the minds of men. It is not operated by man, it is not comforted by man, it is not guided by man, and it does not lean on man.

Truth Is Unchanging

Daniel continued in verse 44 of our Scripture text, ". . . it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Psalm 72:4 says, "He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor." How did He break the other kingdoms into pieces? Did He put men on the battlefield? How was He going to break in pieces the pagan Roman Empire that had outstandingly large armies. Was He going to teach the disciples to engage in a literal war? No, He did it with Truth. The Bible says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The Truth will sweep away falsehoods. That which is false cannot stand where Truth is.

Today many congregations have compromised and given up. Why? They have let down on Truth. Had they stayed with Truth, nothing could have overthrown them. Oh, some people may leave occasionally, but that cannot shake the Truth. If those who have left ever return, they must face the same Truth they faced when they left. The message is not going to change because someone

gets upset and leaves. The Truth will sweep away lies. You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free.

In the Old Testament you can read of a man named Naaman who was a great warrior, but he had leprosy. He had heard that a prophet of God lived in Israel and was told that he could heal him of his leprosy. So Naaman went with his horses and chariot and stood at the door of the Prophet Elisha. Elisha sent a servant out to him, who told him to go down to the Jordan River and wash seven times. Naaman wondered why Elisha did not choose a cleaner river such as the Abana or the Pharpar, but no other river could have taken care of his pride like the Jordan could.

Naaman became very angry and went away, but 2 Kings 5:13-14 tells us: "And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." I want you to notice something. The message to Naaman was to dip seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman had some clout. He was a captain, but nothing could have worked on his pride more than having to dip in the dirty Jordan River. Also, that was the enemy's river.

Though Naaman became angry, the message did not change. The Prophet did not say, "Well, because you got upset, try Abana. I understand how you feel. We'll compromise that much." No, only when Naaman obeyed the words of the Prophet did his skin become as clean as a little child's.

I have learned over the years that when people get upset and march out and do not have the decency to discuss it with the pastor, it is not because of the pastor; it is

because of the Truth that is preached. One of these days, if they ever get back by the mercy of God, they must line up with the same Truth that they left. God is not going to change the message. I do not want to change it or rearrange it; I like it just as it is.

Some people get upset and leave congregations because of the standard, so they go out and find compromisers where they can do what they want to do, dress the way they want to dress, and act the way they want to act. However, when they compromise on the standard, they find that the flesh is strong, and the flesh wants more than that, so they have to find another compromiser. The only way they will ever get straightened out with God is to get back to "Thus saith the Lord." There are too many whiners running around, and they always blame their problems on someone else and try to justify themselves.

When you get to the Judgment, you cannot point your finger at anyone else. You must give an account for the deeds done in your body, whether they were good or bad. If your deeds have been evil, you will go to hell. If your deeds have been good, you will go to Heaven. It is just that simple. When Jesus came, He did not come to bring peace on the earth; He came to bring peace in the heart. Truth will separate families. Salvation is not on the family plan. Salvation is an individual matter.

Truth Brings Freedom, If Obeyed

The Kingdom of God will never be destroyed. The church has endured the darkness of Roman Catholicism and the Protestant Age, and she is still going strong in the evening time. In Jesus' day the Truth is what stirred people and upset their traditions. The Jews elevated their traditions above the Truth. He did not physically fight them to make them accept the Truth. You see, God is a real gentleman. You can sit in a Church of God congrega-

tion for forty years and still go to hell. God will not force you to serve Him.

The Truth still sets people free. When the Truth sets a person free, he is free indeed. After one has been set free, the chains and the fetters will fall off and the bad habits will be gone. The drunkard will not drink anymore, the tobacco smoker will not smoke anymore, and the drug addict will not take drugs anymore. Why? Because the Truth has set him free. If obeyed, Truth brings freedom, but it will damn your soul if you do not walk in it.

In the morning time Truth went forth and brought down the pagan Roman Empire, not on a literal battlefield but by telling people the Truth. Many times the disciples were cast into prison, beaten, stoned, and whipped. They went through many other perils, but Truth continued to go forth. Sometimes they were cast into prison, and once a jailer got saved. Sometimes they were thrown out of cities, yet they got up and went back into those same cities. Why? They preached Truth at any cost, and they loved not their lives even unto death.

The morning-time church began well, but they fell away from Truth. People began to recant and burn incense to the Pope. The Pope did not care if people went on with their religious practices as long as they offered up a little incense to the Roman Catholic Church.

Next, the Dark Ages came in, and Truth was no longer being openly proclaimed, but there were still men of God who would not bow or give in, and many gave up their lives because they would not yield. You can read about some of this in *Foxes' Book of Martyrs*. Many families were separated when they took away the wife or the children and killed them to try to make the husband recant. Many people did recant, but many others did not give in.

Approximately 1530, God got hold of a man named Martin Luther.

He did not know much Truth, but he stood for what God revealed to him. God showed him a simple truth, yet it is scattered throughout the Bible: "The just shall live by faith." Martin Luther took hold of that truth, and they went after him like ants go after sugar.

The Protestant Age came next. All kinds of Protestant churches were set up during this era of time, but remember that God had already set up the true church. The Protestant religion is just as deceptive as Roman Catholicism, and that is where Protestantism got its power. Roman Catholicism goes all the way back to old pagan Rome. There is no way that a person can get saved in Roman Catholicism. Someone may say, "I know a Catholic individual who got saved." He had to have gone outside the realms and the teachings of Catholicism to do it, because they do not teach salvation. All these are linked together in darkness. I have some good friends in Protestantism, and I pray that God will deliver them out of it.

A Separate, Distinct People

Approximately 1880, a man by the name of Daniel Sydney Warner began to herald the truth taught in the morning time. Another reformer of that day was Brother E. E. Byrum. They heralded what truth they had—truths such as the unity of God's people and the one church. The church is not just a church among churches. God's people are a separate, distinct people. God did not choose them because they were large in number, but because they were a holy, peculiar people. There was great power in the camp of the saints. There were divine healings, sinners were saved, and devils were cast out. However, they soon began to put education ahead of God. They had found a "better" way, so they thought. You see, man's way is always different from God's way. Next, they formed a headquarters, but that is not the way the Kingdom of God was set up. His kingdom was

set up with the King being in the headquarters; the King is Jesus Christ, and He lives in Heaven.

Revelation, Chapter 8, says when the seventh seal was opened, there was silence in heaven. What was that silence? The silence came on the message. The ministry that God called silenced on the message. Remember, the Truth will set people free. When people do not hear the Truth, they are going to be in bondage. God got sick of that, so He said, "I am going to give Babylon a second cup." Therefore, He called a seventh-seal ministry, a new ministry. The message is the same yet today. If you are in Babylon, the message is "Come out of her, my people."

Some brethren refuse to walk in the Truth, and they are going out and giving allegiance to Protestant organizations. I repeat, the Truth will set you free, but if you do not walk in it, it will damn your soul. If you fail to walk in the light, you will go into darkness, but in Him is no darkness at all.

There are other churches who call themselves the Church of God, but they are not truly Church of God. They have the name, but they stole it. They knew no one would do business with them if they did not have the right name, but they do not have the experience. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 13:8, "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."

Isaiah 54:17 says, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." Other kingdoms have come and gone, but His kingdom was established and founded on Truth, and it is still standing. In some areas it might be a small nucleus of people, but if it continues to stand for Truth, it will prosper while other kingdoms around it come and go.

Many people are so confused

about the Kingdom of God, but the kingdom is really very simple. You are in the Kingdom of God when the King reigns in your heart. If He is not reigning in your heart, then you cannot see the kingdom. Is that not simple?

Christ's First Advent

Another Scripture pertaining to setting up the kingdom is found in Isaiah 9:6-7, which states: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

When was all that Isaiah prophesied about going to take place? It was going to happen when the Child was born, when the Son was given. During the establishing of this kingdom, something else was going to happen. He was to be upon the throne of David. When did it happen? Luke 1:31-33 tells us: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end [just as Daniel's prophecy states]."

We read in Acts 2:29-31: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you [you can freely speak when the Spirit of God is in it; before Pentecost Peter could not speak freely] of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with

an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." Jesus Christ is on the throne of David now, and it is a throne of mercy. When He comes off that throne, time will be no more and mercy will be no more. You can get in the kingdom today because Jesus is on the throne of mercy.

What is going to happen in the Kingdom of Jesus, or the Kingdom of God? Isaiah 11:1-9 reads: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fading together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

This text is talking about the first advent of Jesus Christ. He was born of the lineage of David, and in these

Scriptures are the millennialists' strong holds. The millennialists say that God is dealing with the natures of animals. On the contrary, these verses were written in symbolic language. This is a divine language, or a prophetic language. The use of symbolic language is common in the Bible. Jesus told His disciples to be "harmless as doves." He told Peter to "feed his lambs." He called Herod a "fox." False teachers are compared to "ravenous beasts" and "grievous wolves." Paul told the Philippians to "beware of dogs." He was letting them know that dogs were going to attack the Church of God, but he was not talking about literal dogs. God's people are called "sheep," and the unsaved are called "goats." All that are going to be at the Judgment are sheep and goats. So, you see, symbolic language was used throughout the Bible.

Whose Nature Is Changed?

Isaiah, Chapter 11, is not dealing with literal animals. The animals do not need to be changed. They have never committed sin, so why would Jesus have to come and change the nature of something that has the same nature God that gave it? Animals do not have souls. There is no such place as a "doggy heaven" or a "kitty-cat heaven." I realize that people can become very attached to their pets; nevertheless, when animals die, they go back to the dust and that is it. Now, the fleshly part of each of us is like that, but there is something more on the inside that goes back to God who gave it: the spirit goes back to a just God who gave it.

God, through the Prophet Isaiah, said, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain." His holy mountain is Mount Zion, the Church of the Living God. This is where all the changing takes place, not in the world. Why? The world is doomed. Jesus said, "Love not the world." The change takes place in the church, and animals are not in the church. There is no conversion

for that little dog of yours. It may be pleasant, and when you pet it, it will wag its tail, but it is not going to bow and repent and get saved. Animals are not in the church. The church is comprised of saved individuals who have been called out of sin. Some people want to fool around and argue over frivolous things because they are not saved, and they try to make a mockery of God's people.

Animals cannot get in the church; they are not on the highway of holiness. The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 35:8-9: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there."

What is Isaiah, Chapter 11, talking about? It is speaking of men and women having their natures changed. Their beastly natures are changed through the new birth. Saint, before you were converted, you might have been as a wolf or as a roaring lion. When you came to Jesus Christ, He changed your nature. Verse 9 says, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." That does not say the world would be righteous in a "Golden Age," but that the earth would be full of the knowledge of the Lord. You would be surprised at how many people know better than what they are doing. Jesus said in John 15:22, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin."

Christ's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. You need to keep that in mind. You will get way off track if you try to literalize the Kingdom of God, especially when you get into the Revelation. Luke 17:20-21 says: "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of

God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, to there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." The Kingdom of God does not come with observation. When a person comes to Jesus Christ and bows at an altar of prayer, you cannot see a bad spirit go out and a new spirit go in, but you can tell that it happened. How? His nature is changed, and he acts differently, walks differently, and talks differently.

Where is the kingdom? The kingdom is within each saved individual. If the kingdom were a literal kingdom, you could see it without being born again. Contrariwise, it takes the new birth to see it and to enter it. Entrance to the Kingdom of God became immediate when God set it up. John the Baptist's first message recorded in Matthew 3:1-2 says: "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus also said the kingdom was at hand and told us how to get into it in Mark 1:15 when He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

What time was at hand? The time when God was going to set up His kingdom. Men and women who believed the Gospel and repented had access to the kingdom, for it was at hand. Again, the Kingdom of God and the Church of God are terms that can be used interchangeably. However, to be in the kingdom, you must allow the King to come in. He has to reign and rule, and His throne is your heart.

Are you in the Kingdom of God? Does Christ reign over all in your life? If He is truly in your heart, then He is reigning, and His territory is the temple that He gave you. If Jesus is not really reigning in your heart, then you need to pray.

(Cassette C-4148M)

Galatians 1:6 marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto

you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the

servant of Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel That Paul Preached



Brother Esau Brooks

The Lack of Preaching the Certified Gospel

Paul wrote to the Galatians in verse 11, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man." That was quite a mouthful back in his day, and so much more today. I am quite aware that the moment I begin to talk about the Gospel, no doubt some folks will question, "Which one?" There are so many, and they are so different. It seems that you can find a gospel for every taste that people have. Nevertheless, the only Gospel worth hearing is the certified

Gospel.

Paul, in his writing to the Galatian brethren, was clearing up some doubts from their minds. He said in verse 8, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

As the closing of time approaches, it is needful to take another look at what many are regarding as the gospel. I am convinced that the Gospel can and will produce the same results today that it produced in Paul's time. The reason it seems that Christianity is receding

or being relegated to the back burner is due to the lack of preaching the certified Gospel. Paul said, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man." He did not mean that statement in the sense that it is not to straighten out man, but that it is not fashioned of man or by man. Today it appears that about all we are hearing is that which caters to pleasing the whims of mankind. This Scripture is a declaration that deserves some attention, and I hope you will give it proper consideration. Paul was declaring the certification of the message that he preached.

Why did the great Apostle Paul take the time to write a letter to stress the quality of the message that he bore? He did it because there was a need. He stated in verse 6, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him" If you will examine today's conditions carefully, you will note one outstanding thing about the modern-day gospels: people are being moved away from God instead of closer to Him. Any message that takes you away from God is not worth listening to. Furthermore, whatever message takes you away from the people of God is not the true Gospel. God did not intend the Gospel to divide and confuse His people. That is the reason Paul went on to say in verse 7, "There be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." We have more perverted gospels now than this world has ever seen. As a result, people are more confused than they have ever been. Saints who have been serving God and walking faithfully for years are being confused today, and the cause is what they are listening to. The true Gospel does not separate God's people. It does not put you in one camp and me in another and cause us to war against each other. God does not have a dozen or more different kinds of Gospels.

A Gospel Not Fashioned After Man

The certified Gospel is what the world needs. Paul said, in essence, "I certify you that the Gospel that I preach is not of man. I neither received it from man nor was I taught it by man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." The only way you can get the certified Gospel is by the revelation of Jesus Christ. The kind of preaching that people have today, where they have to consult a council or a group concerning whether they can preach it, needs to be reexamined.

Notice that Paul said this Gospel was not fashioned after man, meaning that it was not approved by

man. Nowadays people think you have to get permission to go where the Lord sends you and to preach what the Lord has given you. Paul said, "I neither received it from man, neither was I taught it by man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." I feel so good about this Scripture because that is the same way I received the Gospel. I did not go to some religious seminary to learn it. I learned the Gospel out on a hill, down on my knees in prayer. I will never forget when I came to Newark in the sixties and heard the pastor preach. The same God who was teaching him in America was teaching me in Honduras, though we did not know each other at the time. I still believe in that certified message. Many are turning it down and walking away from it, claiming to be receiving greater light. However, light that does not bring you closer to each other and closer to God is not light at all.

Paul's message was divine, and it had but one aim, and that was to bring man up to God's expectations. Today that certified Gospel will still do the same. It will bring you up to the expectations of God. Church, we have to get away from this business of needing men's approval in everything. I realize there is a place where we need to consider one another to provoke unto good works; nonetheless, when a man takes the authority to tell you, "Don't go there unless I say so," it is time to stop and find out what you are listening to.

In our Scripture text, Paul's message was under attack from the devil, and it is under attack yet today. Some folks may not regard it as so, because they think that if the message mentions God and Heaven and talks a little about sin, it is all right. They believe that despite the warnings in God's sacred Word. We read in Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves." He said they will come to you as wolves, but in sheep's clothing. You may ask, "How can I tell the difference?" You

will know them by their fruits. There is only one way to tell a wolf from a sheep, and that is by his tracks. Wolves cannot make sheep's tracks. If someone tries to pervert your mind and influence your understanding contrary to that which has brought you out of nature's darkness into the marvelous light of God's eternal Word, you need to watch that person.

Beware of Offenses Contrary to the Gospel

Paul said in Romans 16:17, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." If there is one outstanding doctrine of the Bible, it is the doctrine of unity, or oneness. No matter what takes place, when the Gospel is preached, it will keep God's people together until God gets a chance to straighten out the mess. I have found it so. Some want to try to build on someone else's foundation, but that is not of God. Some people run around stealing sheep. They are unable to build anything for God, so they try to rob what other pastors have built and apply that to their advantage.

You need to be sure that you have the certified Gospel. There are too many so-called gospels, and it is having an adverse effect upon people. It is confusing sinners and even people who should be spiritually established. Friend, you cannot be established and yet be moved by every wind and doctrine. If you are established, you will know there is no other way to go. I am glad that I did not come to America many years ago to see the church. Thankfully, I saw her before I came to America, or I, too, would have been a very confused man. In some cities there are about six churches on a block, and none of them have anything to do with one another; that is pathetic.

The great Apostle Paul was one who labored. I have heard people say that Paul established many dif-

ferent churches, but that is not true. He established many congregations, but they all were of the one church. God still has only one church, and if you leave it to go somewhere else, you have left the church.

When Paul said "I certify," he was saying "I guarantee"; and a guarantee means quality. It works, and I have seen it work, so why do people feel they need to change it? We have a guaranteed message, guaranteed by God. How does God guarantee His message? He does it by signs. The Bible tells us in Mark 16:20, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

Someone may say, "I don't see miracles happening today." Many sinners have come into the church services and walked out transformed. People who once were drug pushers and drug consumers are now going out to witness of the delivering power of Almighty God. What greater sign do you need than that? With all that Jesus did—He raised Lazarus, He raised the widow's son, He fed five thousand with just five loaves of bread and two fish—yet some people were still crying for signs. Jesus told them there were not going to be any more signs given than what had already been given. He said in Matthew 12:40, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." That was their sign, and it is yet today, but are people receiving it? No. The devil is bringing out every plan he can hatch in hell, and he is finding people to advocate it.

I thank God for the knowledge of the Truth. Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The Truth will not entangle you; it will set you free and keep you free. We need people today who promote holiness of life, the closeness of living with God, and the melting and flowing of believers' hearts one with another. That is what this message

did in the morning time, and that is what it will do today if people will allow it to do so.

The Certification of the Message

Paul said, "But I certify you, brethren." This was Paul's way of helping the people of his day to understand the difference between the genuine and the counterfeit, the difference between his message and the message that others were talking about. Friend, you can go around and find many groups across the country who are preaching about the same thing that we are preaching and promoting the same things we are promoting; however, they still cannot worship with us. Why is that? What, in the name of reason, would keep God's people from worshiping together? It has to be the devil. You do not have to accept this message; you can hold on to your opinion if you care to, but I am still persuaded that the message of God will work and is working today.

It became necessary for Paul to say, "But I certify you, brethren . . ." because of what this message contained, where it came from, and where he came from. Galatians 1:15-17 states: "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia."

Paul had been educated and trained in the Jewish religion, and his zeal had caused him to persecute the Church of God and endeavor to waste it. However, after he met God on the road to Damascus and found out what God had called him for, it was necessary for Paul to unlearn what he had learned, and to learn what he had not learned. To do so, he had to get away from all other environments and all other influences. That is necessary today too.

Verses 18-23 read: "Then after

three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed."

Notice that after Paul's conversion, he went into this varied country (as far as the Gospel was concerned) and spent three years; yet, he did not decide to build a work there for himself or by himself. Why did he not stay in Arabia? He could have easily said, "God directed me to Arabia to build a church," but he did not. After three years, he went back to Jerusalem. This may seem strange to us because we do not see things working that way today. The attitude of many is, "If we are going to Samaria, it will be to start a work of our own in opposition to whatever else is going on."

Standing the Test Against False Brethren

We read in Galatians 2:1-9: "Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

"But of these who seemed to be

somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship."

You may think that he had to go to Jerusalem to be accepted, but that is not what the Bible says. He went to Jerusalem to see what they were preaching compared to what he was preaching. When he got there, he found that the message was the same, and it produced one church. It will do the same today.

Paul went on to show that his message stood the test against false brethren. That is what he was disclosing in this second chapter of Galatians. Only the false brethren did not receive him; the Apostles received him. Although they did not perceive whether he believed what they preached, the Bible says they "perceived the grace that was given unto me." Sad to say, to many people, that does not make any difference. They say, "You can have as much grace as God can give you, but you still are not with us until you do as we say." Now, do not get me wrong, the Gospel has a standard. The Gospel has some demands that we all have to meet, but the demands it makes on us are according to the Scriptures, not according to one's own interpretation of the Scriptures. How do we know it is according to the Scriptures? It is going to work the same as it worked with the congregations mentioned in the Scriptures.

You need to beware of the kind of message you are accepting, for they all are not guaranteed, nor have

they all stood the test. People are deciding to go with this group without waiting to see if their message is going to stand. Today they are together, but by tomorrow they all will be scattered again.

Today about three-quarters of the churchgoers are confused about the things of God. God ordained the Gospel to bring light, knowledge, and understanding to mankind's mind. When the devil succeeds in perverting people's actions, it depletes the Gospel of the power that rightly belongs to it. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). What kind of love was Jesus talking about? The one that suffers long. How long is long? Love, or charity, suffers long, and it is kind while it is suffering. For example, you may treat me mean, but I am still going to treat you kindly. That is how this love works. God is calling for these kinds of actions, and I sincerely hope that by the help of God you will see the need to measure to these things if you have not already.

A Message Aimed Against All Sin

In looking over Paul's message, I discovered four great facts concerning the message he preached. Fact number one: his message was aimed against all sin, not just some kinds of sin. Sin is sin, no matter whether religious people or criminals commit it. Salvation saves a person from sin. Fact number two: Paul's message contained God's provision for sin. Fact number three: His message also elevated the perfect life. Often you hear people say, "No one is perfect." Well, you had better become perfect, because it is required of the Christian. Paul said to leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ and go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1). Fact number four: His message revealed that there is a God-given power to live the perfect life. No matter what comes up against you in the course of time, you can have power to live

right, power to do right, power to talk right, and power to be right.

Division, or separation from one another, is sin; and the Gospel does not uphold it. If a brother and I should have some kind of falling out, the Gospel does not give us the liberty to separate. To Paul, sin was no mere inconvenience. It had, and yet has, a tragic death grip, not only upon the race of man in general but also upon the entirety of man. Sin has affected all men, but thank God, the grace of God can undo all the harm and all the damage that sin has done.

Church, we do not have to live in disagreement. We can live in love and unity. Of course, I am not advocating that if some of my people decide to walk away that I should go from house to house and plead with them to come back. I might be better off without them. That would be one less peril I would have—the peril of false brethren. One enemy within a camp can cause more damage than a thousand on the outside. Often when people leave the church, it is nothing more than God sweeping the floor. John the Baptist told the people of his day in Matthew 3:12, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Paul never minimized sin, but he treated it as the vile thing that it is, something that pollutes the entire man and merits the wrath of a holy God. The Gospel will help people to understand that sin merits the wrath of a holy God. You need to beware of anything less than this. There is too much softness when it comes to sin, and it often depends on who the person is who sinned. You see, as a pastor, there could be a mess in my congregation, and I am going to try to clean up the mess in another congregation? The best way I could show others how to clean up their mess would be for me to get my own mess cleared up. God is not going to hold me responsible for another man's congregation. Now, a

pastor and I could get together and talk and counsel. He might show me some points in which I could deal with a matter, and then I could go before God and find out if I should follow his advice. Then, if God should say no, I could not do it, not because I said so but because God said so.

Humanity's Standing Regarding Sin

The divine message Paul preached reveals sin to be a plague affecting every man. In the first three chapters of Romans, you will find that Paul had a key phrase comprised of three words: "all under sin." So, if all are under sin, all must get up out and on top of sin. Paul, writing to the Roman brethren concerning sin, said in Romans 3:9, "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin."

The devil is trying to hoodwink people by causing them to call only honky-tonking, drinking, and sniffing cocaine sin. All these things are sin; nevertheless, it is also sin to sow discord among brethren. The Bible says so. Therefore, this sin must be cleared up as well, because the Gospel will cause you to see that sowing

discord is just as wrong as drinking liquor. You may ask, "What am I supposed to do?" You must take it to the Lord in prayer. If people would do more talking to God and less talking to people about people, things would be in better shape.

Paul said all were under sin. He reviewed and pronounced the Gentile world guilty before God. The Jew, though he had the Law, was also pronounced guilty before God. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it. What people need is a Gospel that will straighten them out along that line. Too often people think they have a license to do about anything they want. No! Friend, all the grace of God gives license to do is to live right, do right, and be right. Paul left no room for doubt concerning humanity's standing regarding sin. He said they all were guilty.

In Romans 3:9-11 we read, "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none [inherently] righteous [in other words, no one is of himself righteous; we each must get it from God] no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Today the majority of the efforts being put forth by many people are to seek

individuals' approval instead of God's approval. At one time, about all that mattered was what God said, and what this one and that one said did not matter. Too many are taking what this one and that one says as Bible and taking what God says as nothing. This is ruining conditions and destroying men's and women's chances of making Heaven their home.

Paul said, "I certify you the Gospel which I preach." That is the message I represent—the message that would make all men right with God and in the end enable them to make Heaven their home. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Dear one, there is more to serving God than getting religion or joining a church. The Bible says, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. If we are going to get any results in our spiritual lives, it is going to take the certified Gospel to produce it. If the Gospel is starting to repel you, you need to find out why, for it is intended to draw you closer to God.

(Cassette C-4253E)

Radio Log



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	7:15 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
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Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The Assurance of Our Identity



Brother C. H. Dickerson

Having Full Assurance of Faith

The storehouse of God is full of provisions; it has everything you stand in need of. However, you cannot get into it unless you have the key. The key to whatever God has is faith: you must have faith in God to unlock the storehouse so that you can receive what He has for you. In many instances, instead of people's faith increasing, it is decreasing. Faith is being lost because people are not standing for divine

healing and depending on God as they once did. Verse 17 of our Scripture lesson speaks of God's inheritance. Many people claim to be religious, but the only ones who can receive God's inheritance are the saints of God, and that is because they have faith in God.

You cannot have faith in God unless you do things God's way. A mechanic cannot successfully repair a motor unless he abides by the laws that govern that motor. Likewise, an electrician has to work according to

the laws of electricity. If you do not do things God's way, you cannot have the faith to believe that it is going to work. God has made many provisions for us. However, His storehouse cannot be opened to you unless you do things His way. Several years ago a very wealthy man named Howard Hughes died. When he died, many people claimed to be related to him but could not prove their identity; therefore, they could not receive any of the inheritance.

As you look into the Scripture

text, I want you to see that you need one quality above all others to live for Christ acceptably, and that is being fully persuaded concerning your identity. To lay hold of divine healing, salvation, sanctification, and all the blessings that God has for you, you must know beyond any doubt that you are a child of God. You cannot claim the inheritance unless you are His child.

Paul said in verse 17 of our Scripture text, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." The only way to be an heir of God is to be a child of God. If you do not know that you are His child, your faith will be hindered and you cannot effectively live for Him. The Scripture states plainly that you must have faith in God to believe Him. Once you have faith, then you can come to Him boldly and ask what you will, and He will give it to you. How do you get that boldness? It comes by knowing that you are a child of God. However, you cannot have boldness unless you are doing things God's way.

God has made it possible to know what His will is. Hebrews 10:22 says, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Today people often travel all over town to find the cheapest price on things. Trying to get the best deal is fine. However, if you are not careful, a spirit will cause you to do as little as possible when it comes to the things of God. God wants you to put everything you have into serving Him. He said to draw near with a true heart in full assurance. If you are true to God, doing everything He wants you to do, then you can have full assurance that He will hear and answer your prayers.

Friend, I want you to realize that when you try to skimp on God and get by with doing as little as you possibly can, doubts will rise in your mind in the tests and trials of life and cause you to wonder if God will answer your prayers. Often those

doubts come because you have tried to hedge on the things of God, doing just enough to get by. When the Truth goes forth, you may try to get by with not praising God. Perhaps you try to get by without reading God's Word and praying as you should. Maybe you try to get by without attending the services at the house of God as you ought. When you let down on these things and the testing times come, then the question will come into your mind, "Will God do this for me?"

If you will draw near to God with a true heart and full assurance of faith, knowing that your heart is in tune with God and that you are doing everything that He lays upon your heart, then God will be right there to help you. Friend, you can know that you are a child of God. You may ask, "What is this identity?" Well, sometimes you really do not know yourself until you have been tested and tried. You may think that you are on fire for God, but it is through tests and trials that you see who you really are.

Some people may seem very meek and mild, but when they are tried, they do not act as saints of God should. Some are unable to control themselves and stand for what is right. Friend, to serve God as you ought to serve Him, you must love Him with all your heart and stand for His eternal Truth, even if it costs you your head.

Placing Your Confidence in God

Today many people are afraid to stand for Truth and say, "You can count on me." The reason is that they really do not know who they are. They think they are saints of God, but they are not. Friend, if you have God's Spirit in you, He will give you the backbone to stand for Truth. Fifty-five to sixty million of God's people stood against Roman Catholicism. When Roman Catholicism tried to force their doctrine on God's people, they stood for Truth even though it meant death. However, today many people do not

really know themselves, and the reason is that they have failed to take the stand that God has ordained that they take. When the testing times come, they back away because they are afraid to stand for Truth. You need to have this evidence of true identity so that you will know who you are.

Child of God, your belief and faith in God are the very foundation of your experience. To believe is to have confidence in or to trust. John 1:12 reads, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." From the very beginning, Jesus let people know that it would take power to be His disciple. He will give power to those who believe on His name and trust in Him.

Too often people do not trust God with their needs. They trust the doctor, the lawyer, the businessman, and the dentist, but they fail to trust God. Often people order things from catalogs and believe they will receive their orders. Although they have never seen those people, they expect to receive their orders because they trust the companies. When it comes to the things of God, they fail to trust Him. Friend, you need to place your confidence in God, and the only way to have confidence in Him is to do everything exactly as He says. If a mechanic takes apart a motor to repair it and has parts left after he has completed the work, he should not expect that motor to run, because he did not put it together as he should have. On the other hand, when everything has been done as it was supposed to have been, the mechanic can expect it to operate properly. That is the same way your faith is in God. When you do everything as the Word of God tells you to do to the best of your knowledge, you can unlock God's storehouse. However, you have to do things God's way.

People do not have a problem putting their trust in the world, but when it comes to God, many people limit His wisdom to their own hu-

man thinking. They say, "Well, God, You do what You want to do just as long as You do it my way." In John 1:12 we read, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." It takes power to defend the Truth. If you have read *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* and Josephus' writings, you know that many of God's people suffered much torture and torment. Now, that was a hard thing. Yet, if you will serve God with all your heart and do everything you know to do, when the tests come, God will give you the grace and the power to stand for Him. Today you may not be physically tortured for your faith, but you will be severely tried in other ways. The enemy has the same power today that he had many years ago, and he is still trying to kill people spiritually. If you have done things according to God's blueprint, you can withstand all the enemy's fiery darts and stand for God.

Walking in Newness of Life

We read in Galatians 3:26-27: "For ye [Paul was talking to the saints of God] are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Saint, you need to hold to that thought, because this, in turn, causes you to be baptized or married to Christ. The definition of being baptized is to be "subject to an ordeal that purifies or cleanses." In Romans 6:3-5 Paul said: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

What does the Scripture mean by "baptized into his death"? Death means "to come to an end." When

Christ died, He came to the end of His will. Had Christ had His own will, He would not have died, but He said, "Father, not My will but Thine be done." That is what God expects of you. When He raises you up, He expects you to die to your will; then you can walk in newness of life. You become a new creature from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When you get saved, you become new all the way through. You are resurrected from a dead state in sin to newness of life. Your thinking is new, and the conversations that you carry on are new. All things become new; you become a different person.

If you carry on conversations that are not conducive to Christianity, that ought to tell you that you do not have the assurance of your identity. If you did, you would have a new tongue and new friends. Also, you would not be looking around for someone to sympathize with you. Often this happens when people start to cool off in their souls. When they go to the house of God, instead of associating with those who are on fire for God, they find others who have cooled off. Soon they become great friends. Why? They have the same spirit. When God raises you up and makes you a new creature, you need to look for others who love the Truth and have the power of God in their lives. You will want to be around people who have the same spirit you have.

When you are born again, you will be subject to Christ, and He cleanses you. This is a continual cleansing that takes place every time you hear the Word of God. If you will listen to the messages and put them into practice, they will change you.

In Ephesians 5:26 we read, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." In other words, every time you hear the Word of God, you will get a

spiritual bath. God will bathe you with the Word of God. When you physically get in the shower, you wash off dirt and perspiration and come out feeling refreshed; so it is in the spiritual. When you go to the house of God and hear the Word of God, it cleans you up from that old scum that you get from being out in the world.

Serving God in Newness of Spirit

One reason that some people are not growing spiritually is that they are not at the house of God as they ought to be. You need to go to the house of God and hear the Word of God. It is one thing to go to the house of God, and it is something else to hear the Word of God. If you will hear the Word of God and put it into practice in your life, it will uplift you. If you go to church depressed, you do not have to leave depressed. As you listen to the Word of God, you may be physically tired, but you will be refreshed spiritually. If you go to the house of God to hear the Word of God, you will leave feeling better.

In the Christian life, you will receive a continual cleansing. The teaching that people receive only one cleansing and that is all is far from being right. Literally speaking, if you took only one shower during your lifetime, would that be all that you would ever need? No! When you go out in the world, some things will affect you. You need to get to the house of God as often as possible to get a spiritual bath. You should receive a continual cleansing, not only of the flesh but also of the spirit. Paul said in Romans 7:4, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; [Many people still hold to the Law, but Paul said you become dead to it. The Book of Revelation portrays the woman (the church) standing on the moon. In other words, God did not do away with the whole Law, but we have something greater than that.] that ye should be

married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." It takes time to develop fruit. It does not develop overnight, and this is also true concerning the things of God. It takes time to bring forth the fruit of God. Verses 5-6 say: "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

The people in the Old Testament could not help themselves under the Law because they had no power or grace, but Jesus brought Truth and grace so that we could walk in the light that God sheds across our pathway. Speaking of this Gospel Day, God, through the Prophet Ezekiel, said in Ezekiel 36:26-27: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause [meaning to lead] you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." In essence, God was saying, "I will lead you and cause you to do My will." This is no strain. If you do God's will, His Spirit will cause you to want to do what God tells you to do. You do not have to grit your teeth and strain to do it. All you have to do is obey what God tells you and have His Spirit within you.

When the Truth goes forth, you should not have to go home and pray about it and talk it over with the family. When the Truth goes forth, you should stand up and say, "You can count on me!" If it is against your wife or your husband, your children, your father and mother, or anyone else, you should be determined to stand for the Truth. God said, "I will cause you to do it. I will lead you to keep My Truth." When you get saved, you

become a member of body of Christ. The Apostle Paul made this quite clear in Galatians 3:27, which says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Being baptized into Christ is what makes you a member of His body.

The Mystery of Salvation

Ephesians 5:30 states, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." Jesus said in Matthew 19:6, "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one [with His] flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:17, "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." God's people are entitled to all the benefits that the union with Christ confirms. For example, when a couple gets married, things are no longer his or hers. After a couple is married, the two of them become one. So it is with God. When you are married to Christ, you become an heir to all that God has; you are a joint heir with Jesus Christ. It is no longer only Christ's, but it is yours. That is what the Word of God says. You are a joint heir. When did you get married to Christ? When you got saved, you became a bride of Christ. He is the husband, and the church is the bride; therefore, you are entitled to everything to which He is entitled. That is what the Scripture is saying. When it comes to a physical marriage, even the courts recognize this principle. When you get saved, you are married to Christ. You are an heir to divine healing and an heir to salvation. As long as you stay true to God, you are an heir to all that God has because you are married to His Son.

In Romans 6:17-18 Paul said: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Child of God, when you were a servant of sin, you had to do

things that you did not want to do, because you could not help yourself. However, when God saved your soul, you put the old devil in his place and became a servant of righteousness. When you get saved, God gives you the power to do what is right. You no longer have to do what is wrong. God changes you completely. It is the power of the Spirit on the inside that enables you to control the body instead of your body controlling you.

We read in Romans 16:26, "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." Paul was talking about the mystery of salvation. It is by the Scriptures and by the prophets that this mystery is revealed. I thank God that I found out about it. Friend, you can be a child of God and be what God would have you to be. In the light of these Scriptures, you can see that unbelief is what causes uncertainty or doubt.

God's Spirit Bears Witness With Our Spirit

In our Scripture text the Spirit's testimony is quite clear. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God [when we are obedient]." Friend, you can know that you are a child of God when you are obedient to the Word of God. His Spirit bears witness that you are doing what God wants you to do. When more light comes, God's Spirit will bear witness to you that it is right.

I remember a time in my life when more light on the Word of God came along. As I listened to the message from a man who was anointed by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God was right there, saying, "That is right." I got up, held up my hand, and said, "I see it. You can count on me." When I heard God's eternal Truth, the Spirit of God bore witness with it and took away all

doubt. God has not changed, friend. Whenever a man of God preaches God's eternal Truth, you should not close your ears to the message. You ought to take heed and listen. No matter what others say, the Spirit of God will teach you what is right, and you ought to walk in that light. If you do not, you are going to end up in trouble with God. He will not put up with disobedience.

Our Scripture text states that God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are obedient to the Word of God. First John 5:10 says, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself." In Galatians 4:6-7 we read: "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." When God puts His Spirit in you, it will cause you to do as God tells you to do.

The Scripture speaks with assured identification that we can know. Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." In other words, Paul was saying, "I am alive and victorious, and this is the assurance by the power of God that I am His child, because I am alive." He said, "I have been crucified with Christ, but I am still alive."

Paul said he had power, and this was his assurance. Christian friend, it is your assurance yet today. When you get saved, you are dead to sin and dead to the world, and you are alive to the things of God. When you are dead, you are not subject to those things anymore. However, when you are alive, you are subject to them. God said, "I will give you power." This power is not so that you can be a big wheel, but it is so that you can have victory over sin. You can have power over the devil and power to do God's will. Whenever God tells you to do something,

you can have the power to do it. You do not have to pray about it; you already have the power. When the Truth comes, you can stand for it. You can say, "I'm going to stand for what is true. You can count on me," and mean it from the depths of your heart. God will give you the power.

Today very few have had to give their blood for the cause of Christ. Most saints have not suffered physically as the saints of old. Now, you might have to suffer spiritually, but you need to roll up your sleeves and get into the battle. The battle is not yours; it belongs to God. Your part is to take a stand for the Truth. You should not try to pick a fight with the devil, but you should stand against him. If he wants to fight, let him come over on your territory and God will put him to flight.

Power to Keep the Flesh Under Control

Paul assured us that he was once under the law of sin. He said in Romans 7:14-25: "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I [though Paul was a religious man, he was still in sin]. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from

the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

Paul let us know that what he wanted to do, he could not do; then he found the answer. God set Paul free from sin, and the difference was that he had power to bring the flesh under subjection. The teaching that when you get saved, your flesh is changed and you are not going to be tempted any more is false. Child of God, you are going to be tempted. Each of us is tempted in some way. The only thing that can keep you from doing wrong is the power of God. The Spirit of God keeps you under control. That is exactly what Paul was talking about. God gave him the power to keep the flesh under control, and that is what He will do for you.

In Romans 8:1 Paul said, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." When you walk after the Spirit of God, there is no condemnation. Condemnation comes when people love spiritual darkness rather than light. When they will not walk in the light, they are condemned. When God shows you light, He may put you under conviction, and you may feel a little angry until you walk in that light. However, if you refuse it, condemnation will come.

Paul said in Romans 8:2-5: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit [these verses are a perfect example of how you can know where you are]. For they that are after the flesh do mind

the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Paul let us know that we can be assured of our spiritual identity. If you are walking after the flesh, then no matter what you claim to be, you are still fleshly. On the other hand, if you walk after the Spirit, then you will mind the things of the Spirit.

John taught the same thing in 1 John 5:19-20: "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." You can understand what He wants you to do by doing what the Word of God tells you. John 17:3 states, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

God's Unlimited Power

The required confidence is to know that Christ was raised from the dead. You may talk about it and sing about it, but until you have been made alive and raised by Him, you do not have this required confidence. In Ephesians 2:1 Paul said, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." He wrote in verses 4-6: "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."

Ephesians 1:19-23 states: "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every

name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

We know that Christ has risen. He was seen of Cephas, He walked with two men to the village of Emmaus, and He also was seen of five hundred people. We know beyond any doubt that He was resurrected, and His resurrection is what brings us eternal life. Christ said in John 14:19, "Because I live, ye shall live also." God raised Him up so that we could have eternal life. He has risen. There is no doubt! Now, when we, as His children, are raised from the dead, it is undeniable. People cannot deny that one has been raised from sin when he has power to live above sin. The devil likes to try to cause people to backslide. He will say, "If you were a child of God, this wouldn't happen to you. These temptations wouldn't bother you." I want you to realize that temptation is not sin. Everyone is tempted along some line, but temptation does not become sin unless one yields to it. Sin presents itself every day to the Christian; nevertheless, he has power to live above sin. God is all-sufficient for anything the Christian needs.

God is omnipotent. He has unlimited power to help the Christian to keep the right spirit and the right attitude. Today it takes much of the power of God to keep the right spirit and the right attitude. Someone may ask, "Why is it any different from any other time?" It is because we are right down to the end of time.

I well remember when World War II was almost over. The Germans seemingly were whipped, and we thought things would go easy. However, one night the Germans pulled out everything they had. They had guns and tanks hidden in the forest, and they took everything they had and threw it into the battle. They called it "The Battle of the Bulge," and more people were killed

and wounded there than on the shores of Normandy the day of the invasion. I said that because the time in which we are living is just preceding the end of time, and the devil is throwing everything he can at you and me to try to defeat us. There has never been a time before when the Christian's attitude has been tested as it is today. The devil is trying God's people on every side to cause them to have wrong attitudes. Saint, by the power of God, you can keep the right attitude. When you live above sin, you will be able to flush undesirable thoughts out of your mind.

Be Steadfast in the Faith

Just as there are undeniable evidences that Christ arose, there are undeniable evidences when you are saved. You do not have to merely think you are saved; you can know you are saved, not because God is sitting on your shoulder, whispering in your ear, "You are a child of God." No, you know you are a child of God because when the devil throws temptations your way, you have power over them. When he tempts you with bad attitudes or bad spirits, you can have power over them. Friend, you can be victorious over these things.

God has given you the power to be a son of God. The only way to overcome your adversary is to use a counterattack by steadfastness in the faith. Peter talked about this in 1 Peter 5:8-9 when he said: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [The devil is real. He is as a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour. He is trying to devour every one of God's people, but how can you offset that? Verse 9 tells you how to overcome that.] Whom resist steadfast [that means to continue to be firm; in other words, continue to resist the devil] in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

How can the child of God be steadfast in the faith? By the grace and the power of God. The more the devil throws at you, the more you must rely upon God and submit to Him. Through God's power, you can remain steadfast and resist the enemy. Ephesians tells you that you need to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 states, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Luke 10:19 reads, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." What a promise God has made to us! Christ, by His death, destroyed the evil one's strength. Thus, by your spiritual consciousness of your union with Christ, you can put Satan to flight in his attacks against you.

We read in Hebrews 11:32-34: "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Throughout the Bible, God did not keep His people from trials, but He gave them victory. He did not keep the three Hebrew children and many others free from temptations, but He did give them victory. God is not going to keep you from temptations and trials, but He will give you victory if you so desire it. Just as God delivered the Hebrew boys, He will do the same thing for you.

God is not going to stop the devil from being your adversary, but He is going to give you power over the devil. Why? He wants His army, the Church of God, to move on. The Revelation tells you that you are the army of God, and He wants you to move forward. When the

trials come, your personal and congregational developments are at stake. Saint, you are defending yourself and the church. When you stand for the Truth, you are defending the body of Christ. This performance of the kingdom's work comes by a keen sense of oneness in Christ.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." In other words, he was letting you know that you are going to have to depend more on God all the time and less on yourself. You cannot do anything in yourself, but God can help you. He has power to shut the lions' mouths, quench the fire of the furnace, and give victory over sin.

Your Sufficiency Is of God

The church is God's army. Revelation 19:11-14 says: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he cloth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

God has an army clothed in fine linen; they are clean and white, or without sin. They are pure before God, and He will deliver them. Moreover, they are a winning army. God has never lost a battle yet, and He will not lose any in the future. If you will follow the Captain of the army, Jesus Christ, you will put the

enemy to flight and be victorious.

God has promised that He is going to take His army through. Your sufficiency is of God. Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Then in Romans 8:37 he said, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." The fact is, you must have faith in Christ. The work of God is to believe on Him who has sent you. Two things can overcome doubt: belief from the heart and sincere obedience to God's Word. The devil is trying God's people in these last days of time. Today people who have lived for God for years are being affected and knocked out of the race. Why? They did not depend on God to take them through.

The devil is real. We are living in the last days of time. The signs of time show it, and the devil is using everything he has to work on you. The Scripture plainly teaches that the remnant of the remnant is going to be brought through the fire. He was not talking about a literal fire, but about the preaching of God's eternal fire, a fiery message that will either burn you or render you pure gold. The saints who stay true to God are going to have the fire put on them. They are going to go through the fire of false accusations. If you will just hold on, you will come out pure gold. That is what God wants.

My friend, do you have that assurance of your identity? If you do not, you cannot claim to be an heir; you cannot claim what God has for you. God has laid up the storehouse, and His storehouse is full. He has everything in it that you need. The only thing that can unlock it is faith in God. He wants you to have faith in Him so that you can claim the promises; then you can look back and see what He brought you through when you relied on His promises.

(Cassette C-4201E)

Psalm 101:1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that

turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off, him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with

me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

Keeping Your Eyes Pure



Brother Bob Mikesell

Set No Wicked Thing Before Your Eyes

This Psalm of David is a good testimony for every child of God. Verse 1 says, "I will sing of mercy and judgment." Saint, you need to thank God for the mercy that He had upon you when He saved your soul. We were unworthy of the blood of Jesus Christ and unworthy for Him to come down to this world and hang upon the cruel Cross of Calvary; yet He did it for us. The Bible says He loved us before we ever loved Him.

I want to focus on verse 3 in this

message: "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." As we look out upon the vast billions of people in this world, do you know what is wrong with them? The problem is, they take no thought about the things they set before their eyes. Many things taking place today would not have happened fifty or sixty years ago. People have grown accustomed to wickedness. Little by little, they look at sinful things as something that they see every day; sinful things no longer have the same shocking effect that they used to have. Friend,

the more you let these things come before your eyes, the duller your senses become to them. Eventually the time will come when you can put things in front of your eyes and not even realize that they are harming your soul.

The world gives no thought about what they set before their eyes. Man, in his intellect, thinks that he can behold something and filter out the evil. He says, "I can push the bad stuff aside and receive the good stuff." That is the reason the Church of God preaches against television. It is not that television in itself is bad, but when you sit down

to watch it, you have no control over what flashes before your eyes.

When most people get home, they walk into the house and turn on the television. Sometimes they do not even stay in the room to watch it. Some people feel they have to have something on; that is part of their lifestyle. When I visit people who have television, while we are trying to talk, the television is blaring in the corner of the room. People say, "Well, these are good shows." Some older shows may not have vile language and sexually explicit material incorporated in them, but the advertising during the programs has become so corrupt. Many advertisements have sexual themes to them, and people have become so accustomed to this.

I have heard Church of God ministers preach against television ever since I have been saved. That is a staple in the message of the Church of God. Although as time goes on, the devil keeps trying to push television on the people of God as new generations come up. God's people need to get the televisions out of their houses, because it not only corrupts their minds but also steals their time. Television will take away time you should be spending on the things of God. You cannot sit in front of a television for hours and then get down on your knees and pray to the Lord God Almighty, who is holy and without spot or blemish. Your mind becomes corrupt when you view those things.

When the devil saw that the Church of God was not going to fold on the television issue, he tried to bring something else into the picture. He tells people, "You don't have to watch television; just bring movies into your home." Well, if you do not go to the movie theaters, why would you bring a movie theater into your home? That is just as bad. You are partaking of the same thing. You are just trying to do it in secret, but God still sees.

Many computer games are full of nothing but immorality, murder, and mayhem. Most video games on

the market today focus on shooting and killing people. I am not preaching against computers, but I am saying that as a parent, you need to watch and control what your children are playing. You need to watch what your kids are placing before their eyes.

Another issue is the Internet. I am not preaching against the Internet. I have Internet access, and I have an e-mail address. However, no words can describe the corruptness of some websites on the Internet. Too many parents treat the Internet as they do the television. They use the television as a babysitter, and they have no control. Parent, you need to make sure that you are on top of what is going on and watch what your children are setting before their eyes. Also, you need to be careful of what you are setting before your own eyes.

One attribute of the human spirit is curiosity. Curiosity is something everyone has, and the devil will tempt you along that line. If you are not where you need to be, there is a chance that you will fall to that temptation. David said, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." He was speaking from experience. David found out what would happen when he allowed his eyes to look upon that which he should not have looked upon. Friend, if you allow yourself to look upon things that you should not, then you are going to fall.

"Love Not the World"

In 1 John 2:15 we read, "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." When I was out in sin, I loved the world and the things the world had to offer. I worked fifty to sixty hours a week, and all my money went to the things of the world. I was willing to give my whole paycheck over to the saloon keeper and the drug dealer on the street corner. However, when God moved in and cleansed my vessel,

He removed that love for the world. In place of that love, He put a love for the things of God and a hatred for sin.

Friend, you will not get saved until you are sick of sin and have a hatred for sin, the devil, and the things the devil does. The Spirit of God has no fellowship with darkness, and if you love the world and the darkness that this world has to offer, then the Bible says the love of the Father cannot be in you. The Bible says, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Verses 16-17 say: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." Verse 16 tells us there are three ways that the child of God is tempted: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

I want you to look at the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis, Chapter 3, because that is the beginning of all things for mankind. Verse 6 states, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." The devil tempted Eve in three ways: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. That is how the devil came to Eve, and that is how he comes to us today.

"The Error of Balaam"

You can read the story of Balaam in Numbers, Chapters 22 and 23. The children of Israel had come into the land, and when Balak saw how the Israelites had defeated many armies before, he was afraid of the people of God. At one time when a child of God would come around, worldly people would say, "There is a child of God. We need to watch what we say and watch how

we conduct ourselves. That person goes to church. We need to control ourselves when we are in the presence of that person." Today you do not see that. If you let some people know that you go to church, they will be just as foul, if not more so, than they were before.

When Balak saw the children of God come into his land, he trembled because he knew they had power with God, that God was for them, and that God was fighting their battles. Therefore, he sent for Balaam and said, in essence, "Balaam, I know that whomsoever you bless is blessed and whomever you curse is cursed. I want you to come and curse these people who have come into my land." Balaam said, "Well, I will not curse or bless just anyone. I will talk to God to see what He has to say." The Bible says God told him not to curse His people and to tell Balak that he could not do it. Balaam sent word back to Balak and said, "Though you give me all your silver and gold, I can't go against the Word of the Lord."

Balak was upset, so he sent his servants back to Balaam with more treasures and said, "Won't you please come and curse these people?" Again, Balaam said, "I will talk to the Lord about it." The Lord was not going to change His mind, but Balaam saw the riches. However, when he asked God what he should do, God told him not to curse the people, so Balaam could not curse them. Then Balak sent servants a third time with even more riches, and this caught Balaam's eye. He told Balak, "I am not allowed to curse them, but I will tell you how you can defeat them. Send your women down to mix with them, and they will lead them away from God," and that is what happened.

We read in 2 Peter 2:14-15: "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam

the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness." Jude 11 says, "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." Jude said woe to them who have run greedily after the error of Balaam for reward. Balaam let his eyes behold the things that Balak had to offer, and he fell to temptation and caused his soul to be lost. The children of Israel later came and killed Balaam for what he had done.

Being Tempted of the Devil

In Matthew, Chapter 4, we can read of the baptism of Jesus. God put His blessing upon Him. Matthew 3:17 says, "And to a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Don't we all desire that kind of testimony from God? Don't we all want God to look down upon us and say, "This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased"? However, when you feel the Spirit of God upon you in that way, the devil is not going to rest.

Matthew 4:1-4 states: "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." How did Jesus answer the devil? He answered him with three words: "It is written." This is the reason that reading the Bible is so important.

In one place the Prophet was told to eat the Word and let it become a part of him. When you eat something, it becomes a part of you. The more you eat of it, the more it becomes a part of you, and it is the same way spiritually. The more you eat of the Word of God, the more it

becomes a part of you. If you do not know the Word of God when the devil comes to tempt you, you cannot say, "It is written . . ." Too many people do not open their Bibles. They take their Bibles home on Sunday and do not pick them up until the next time they attend the services.

The Bible says to read the Word of God, study it, and let it become a part of you. Then when the devil comes around (and he will, because he tempts every one of us), you can say, "I know what the Bible says, old devil." That is what Jesus did, and we should use Him as our example. If Jesus resisted the devil by saying, "It is written, . . ." you can do the same. Therefore, you should know what the Bible says so that you can resist him.

The devil tempted Jesus through the lust of the flesh. Jesus was hungry; He had fasted forty days and forty nights. (Think about not eating for forty days. Some cannot go without eating for four hours.) The devil knew that Jesus had been fasting, so he no doubt thought, "Though He is the Son of God, He is still flesh." The devil said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, turn these stones to bread; I know you are hungry." In Matthew 4:4 Jesus replied, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Verses 5-6 read: "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written [the devil is sly; when the devil tempted Him the second time, he decided to use Scripture to tempt Jesus], He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

You should never underestimate the devil. That is the reason the Bible lets you know you should exercise the power of discernment. The Bible tells us that the devil and his angels

can appear as angels of light. Child of God, unless you are where you need to be in your prayer life, your Bible reading, and your church attendance, your powers of discernment will diminish. Then, when the devil appears to you as an angel of light, you will be deceived. The devil quoted Scripture to Jesus. The Scripture he used is found in Psalm 91:11-12. In Matthew 4:7 Jesus said, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." The devil was tempting Jesus with the pride of life. He said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down." In essence, the devil was saying, "If You are who You say You are, cast Yourself down, because You know that God will swoop You up before You hit the ground." However, Jesus knew that one cannot tempt God and expect to be protected; again, the devil was foiled.

In verse 8 the devil tried a third time: "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them." That is how the devil tries to get young people yet today. He shows them the world and the glory of it. Then he tells them, "All of this can be yours." Of course, at age sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen, many young people think they know it all. So, when they get the opportunity to gain everything, many jump on it. They say, "If I can gain the whole world and all that glory, that is where I want to be. I am sick and tired of not being allowed to have fun. I'm not allowed to do what other kids are doing. Now I have an opportunity to go my own way and show people that I can really make something of myself."

Power to Resist Temptation

The devil works and works on young people. It is a shame to see young people leave the church and go after the things of this world. Too often God has blessed young people with talents, and they turn around and use their talents for the things of

this world. Young person, just because you are tempted along that line does not mean you have to fall. The Bible says in Matthew 4:10, "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." The devil tempted countless other people in the Bible through the lust of the eyes. We all are subject to this temptation, but God will give us the power and the grace to resist those temptations. When things fall before your eyes, God can give you the power, the grace, and the ability to turn your head and say, "No, I don't want to look upon that. I don't want to set that before my eyes." The problem comes when you set things before your eyes. David used the word "set" for a reason. Again, verse 3 of the Scripture text reads, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." When you set something before your eyes, it is a mental thought process of taking something and placing it before your eyes. There is a difference between driving down the road and seeing someone indecently dressed and setting something ungodly before your eyes.

God can give you power to resist when you cannot help what comes before your eyes. However, when you set something before your eyes, then you are putting yourself in a position where you are no longer accessible to God's grace and power. A man once said, "I can go into a bar and not drink liquor." Well, he could go into a bar, but God would not go with him. Once he would step inside a barroom, he would be on his own, and the devil would be waiting to ensnare him. He might not be overcome the first time, the second time, or even the third time; however, in time, he would fall.

If you set wicked things before your eyes, you no longer make yourself accessible to the power and the grace of God so that you can resist the devil. Romans 6:13 states, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto

sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." You may only think of your hands and your arms as being members, but your eyes are members as well. The Bible says, "Yield not your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Christian friend, God saved you because He wants you to praise Him. That is one way you can be a light unto this lost and dying world. When the trials of life press you down or when afflictions come upon your body and the load feels so heavy, people can see that. What a witness when a child of God, in the midst of all the trials and sufferings, can say, "I praise God for what He has done for me. Life may be hard on me now, but I am saved. My name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life." When you praise God in the midst of the trials, that is when you are a light to the lost and dying world. That is what the world is looking for today.

The world can find trouble and sorrow anywhere. When God's people still praise God in the hard places, that will cause people to say, "Where does that person go to church? He has something different. I am going to investigate this a little further." That is what God wants us to do.

Again, in Philippians 4:8 Paul said to think on these things: whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure. When you set something vile before your eyes, you cannot think on something pure. When your mind is consumed with lust, purity goes right out the window.

Paul continued, ". . . if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise . . ." To have genuine praise for God, you must get your mind on the things of God and off the things of the world. There was a time when

more people were so full of God that they would shout and praise God. People need to get back to where they are not afraid to stand up and praise God. God wants praise from His people. Praise only comes when you heed Philippians 4:8 and get your mind on the things that are true, things that are pure, things that are just, things that are honest, and things that are of a good report. When you get your mind on these things, then you will have praise for God. Paul said, "Think on these things."

Saint of God, do not put yourself in a position where you fill your mind with that which is sinful. There are only two ways things get into your mind: through your eyes and your ears. You need to guard these two avenues as you guard your bank account, your checkbook, or your new car.

In Psalm 101:3 David said, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." This is a Scripture each of us should heed. The devil tempts the child of God every day along some line. He is always there, yet that lets me know now that I am still fighting in the Lord's army. Saint, when the devil stops tempting you, you should check yourself. When the devil comes and tempts me along this line, this Scripture is the first thing that comes to my mind: "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." When I say that Scripture verse to myself, pushing aside that temptation is easy. If every time the devil tempts you that way, you will say, "I will set no wicked thing before my eyes," then you will find it much easier to close your eyes to the things of this world. The only way you are going to get to Heaven is to be a holy child of God and walk in

all the light that God has shown you. Some people do not have as much spiritual light as others. God brings each person along at a different speed. We all are individuals. God takes into account that some people do not have as much light as others. If you are walking in all the light that God has shown you, then you are saved. However, if you have let down on anything, that will bar your soul from Heaven. Just one sin will keep you out of Heaven.

Saint of God, being saved does not release you from the temptations of the devil. If you fall to that temptation, it will bar you from Heaven. You need to get it made right today. Do not put it off. I pray that today will be the day that you get your need met.

(Cassette C-4364E)

(Guest Editorial-continued from page 2)
Day, many things have transpired.

In Luke 17:22 Jesus said, "The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man" In Isaiah 30:26 the prophetic expression declares, "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." Again, this Gospel Day, or Christian dispensation, is comprised of seven days.

In Revelation, Chapter 5, when John received a vision of Christ as the Lamb, in verse 6 he said, "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb [Christ is this Lamb] as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." Ephesians 4:4 tells us there is "one Spirit," but John said there are

"seven Spirits of God." This is a figurative expression of the Spirit of God working through the seven periods that comprise this Christian dispensation. That is the only way the Spirit could go forth into all the earth, because all the earth took all the remaining periods of time that make up the Gospel Day. As we view our text, we need to be mindful that it did not take place in one day, but over a process of time; so it is with the Gospel Day.

Why should we study these Old Testament writings? First Chronicles 12:32 speaks of "men that had understanding of the times, [If there were ever a time when we needed understanding, it is in this very time. What did it enable them to do?] to know what Israel ought to do." By understanding the times, they knew what they ought to do; it gave them guidance. As the New Testament Israel of God, if we are to know what we are to do, we need a clear understanding of the times. This is not possible unless we know

the prophetic scheme of events that occurred.

Genesis 11:1 says, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." Notice that our text begins with "And," which reverts us back to the previous chapter. The most outstanding event of Chapter 10 that correlates with our text is in verse 10, which says, "And the beginning of his [Nimrod's] kingdom was Babel" Bear in mind that this was the very morning of human history. In this verse is the first king and kingdom mentioned in the Bible. Verse 9 introduces us to Nimrod, who was a grandson to Ham, a son of Noah. The morning time of civilization parallels as a type of the morning time of this Gospel Day

Notice that Genesis 11:1 states that the whole earth was of "one language and one speech." This, in type, is a picture of the early morning-time unity that the church enjoyed in the morning of the Gospel Day. Jesus prayed for oneness, and

there was oneness.

In John 17:21-23, Jesus, in His high priestly prayer, prayed: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one" It is easy to see that Christ's burden was that they might be in unity; and in the morning time of the Christian dispensation, they were one.

In Philippians 1:27 Paul penned, "Only let your conversation [or conduct] be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Again, we see unity, or harmony. I want you to notice the exclusiveness of it. They preached the Gospel in one Spirit and one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel. In Philippians 2:2 Paul said, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

We read in Acts 2:1, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." Can you see the antitype, the reality of the type that the Genesis account is speaking of? Genesis 11:1 portrays the morning time of this Gospel Day, or the first period of time from A.D. 33 to A.D. 270.

Sad to say, they did not hold that spiritual position. Genesis 11:2 says, "And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east" Notice that they moved. We are not to move from Truth. First Corinthians 15:58 instructs you to "be ye stedfast, unmoveable." I want you to see that something started to take place.

The East is the source of light; the sun rises in the East. Malachi 4:2 tells us that Christ is the "Sun of righteousness." We are told repeatedly in the Scriptures to "walk in the light." Therefore, this move signified

a move away from Christ, and away from light. This portrays the morning-time apostasy. As they journeyed from the East, they turned their backs on light.

What are the results of apostasy? Verse 2 says, "They found a plain in the land of Shinar." According to Genesis 8:4, when the ark stopped, it "rested upon the mountains of Ararat." Notice that the people moved from a mountain to a plain. The outgrowth of apostasy is that it takes one down from a high, holy place to a low place, or "a plain," which signifies a level of low living with no victory. This is what occurred in the morning-time apostasy.

Isaiah 2:2 says, "And it shall come to pass in the last days [a prophetic expression of this Gospel Day], that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains" Hebrews 12:22 states very plainly, "Ye are come unto mount Sion." The morning-time church was going forth in her pristine glory, or in an exalted position. Revelation 8:8 talks about the church as "a great mountain burning with fire." Those who apostatized moved to a lower level where they lived on the low plain of ungodly lust and sensuality.

Jude 17-19 says: "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." This was what occurred in the morning time of this Gospel Day. When the people journey from the east, away from the source of light, that move produced darkness, and men became "sensual, having not the Spirit."

Our text in verse 2 says that "they found a plain in the land of Shinar." What does Shinar portray? In Daniel's prophecy, when God's people were carried away captive by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, Daniel 1:2 says, "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into

his [Nebuchadnezzar's] hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god"

Shinar was where Daniel and the three Hebrew children were being kept in captivity, or bondage. Thus, the outgrowth of turning from light and journeying from the east was that a dark age ensued and men became captive to their own passions and bound in captivity. Therefore, Shinar depicts captivity, or bondage, telling us that apostatizing will bind you, as it did people in the morning time. Shinar portrays the second period of the Gospel Day, or that period from A.D. 270 to A.D. 530.

Our text tells us here in verse 3, "And they said one to another" When men turn their backs on light, or Truth, and go into darkness, they follow human passions and sensualities: then they become enslaved to those passions. When men's minds are devoid of the Spirit of God and they get their heads together, something is going to arise. When this occurred, we read in Revelation 13:1 where John wrote, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea"

That sea represents the minds of those same men who had gone into darkness and become enslaved to their own human passions and thinking. Up out of that sea rose a religious system that dominated the landscape, just as the tower of Babel dominated the landscape for a period of time.

The word in the Hebrew for *Babel* and the word for *Babylon* are exactly the same Hebrew word. Therefore, when we speak of Babel or Babylon, we are speaking of the selfsame reality. So here we see what gave rise to Babylon.

In the next article we will consider the actual events and what they represent as types in the Gospel Day.

Brother Earl R. Borders

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