

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

# Fall 2000 Camp Meeting Report

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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 13:1-34)
- 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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Website: [www.godsacres.org](http://www.godsacres.org)

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Psalms 147:1-3 states: "Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." These words of the inspired penman well describe the recent Fall Camp Meeting at God's Acres. The Lord did indeed "build up Jerusalem," that "heavenly Jerusalem," the church of which Hebrews 12:22-23 speaks. The church was built up as Jerusalem was in Nehemiah's day when "the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo" (Ezra 6:14). Just as the Lord was faithful in Nehemiah's day, so He was in the recent camp meeting.

The services began with Brother David Stegmeier of Canby, Oregon, preaching on "The Secret to Living a Victorious Life." The host pastor, Brother Roger Decker, felt the burden to serve as the evening evangelist. He dealt with several proverbial and prophetic subjects, such as, The Backslider, Wisdom Crieth, The Blessings That Came Upon Israel at Christ's First Advent, and The Birth of the Church. Certainly the Lord used these messages to heal the broken in heart and to bind up their wounds.

The meeting enjoyed the attendance of mission brethren from Spain and Kenya. Saints traveled from throughout the United States and Canada to be here. The Spirit of God was rich in the meeting. Souls were saved, backsliders were reclaimed, and bodies were healed as a result of the working of God in the midst. Various brethren brought messages in the morning and afternoon services.

Saturday afternoon the children and the young people had the service, and Sister Millie Stegmeier brought a very sound and instructional message to the youth on "Finding Favor in the Eyes of God." During the closing Sunday morning service, the Spirit of God moved on Sister Velma Stevens of Zanesville, Ohio, to sing "He Will Calm the Troubled Waters of Your Soul." The Lord moved in a glorious manner, and souls pressed their way to an altar of prayer. Afterward Brother Stegmeier preached "The Earmarks of the Church of God."

Certainly God was faithful to us and, as the Psalmist declared, is worthy of our praise. If you were unable to attend this meeting, we encourage you to order the tapes of the services.

We at God's Acres host three camp meetings annually. Our next meeting is in December. We trust that you will begin now to plan to come and be with us in this meeting. We can give you a brief report, but the best thing to do is as the Revelator said, "Come and see" (Revelation 6:1). We hope to see you in December!

### REVIVAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Where: Bible Standard Church of God, 9600 Woodlawn, Detroit, MI 48213  
Date: November 19-26, 2000  
Evangelist: Brother Earl R. Borders, Newark, OH  
Service times: Mon-Sat 7:00 p.m., Sun 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
For information contact: Pastor Samuel Oree, Sr., 18822 Buffalo, MI 48214.  
Telephone: (313) 891-5270 or 921-9741

*Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

*35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*

*36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

*37 He that loveth father or mother*

*more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

*38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

*39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

*Luke 14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned,*

*and said unto them,*

*26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

*27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

# The Conflict



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **Be Strong in the Lord**

We are in a conflict, and that conflict gets close to every one of us. Ephesians 6:10-12 reads: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Paul wrote that you need to be strong in the Lord,

not in your power but in His power. You need to put on the whole armor of God and stand against the wiles (or the craftiness) of the devil. The conflict is with spiritual wickedness in high places. Also, you ought to stand strongly against Babylon, worldliness, apostasy, and lukewarmness.

Another foe that Jesus mentioned is your own household. He was referring to those who are the closest to you in the flesh. How close is this conflict? As close as the sword can come. The sword is what God sent to this earth. What is the sword?

The sword is the Word of God, and that is just how close this conflict is going to come to you.

Psalm 7:11 says, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." Every day that you live a wicked life, you are facing God's anger. If you are unsaved, every morning that you wake up, you are awakening to the wrath of God, or God's anger. Verses 11-12 say: "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready."

The sword is what God sent to this earth. The sword and the bow are both weapons of war. One is for long range, and the other one is for close range. When the Word of God is used as a sword, then we are talking close combat. You cannot get much closer than those of your own household. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick [or alive], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

### **Stand Firmly Against Compromise**

To follow Jesus Christ, you cannot be a compromiser. You cannot give in to the husband or wife or the children. You have to serve God individually. Some wives have let down the standard to win their husbands, and then they both ended up lost. The hope you have of winning your spouse or your children is in your standing firm in the Lord, standing in the power of His might, uncompromisingly.

When Solomon was older, he compromised. He was the writer of Ecclesiastes and said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). He also wrote, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6). He was indeed a wise man, but when he got older, he gave in to the flesh and compromised.

We read in 1 Kings 11:1-2: "But king Solomon loved many strange [or foreign] women [in other words, they were foreign to the covenant of Israel], together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites [every one of them were enemies of God's people]; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely

they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love [not godly love]." The word love there means "sexual attraction." He allowed the lust of the flesh to override his knowledge of the Word of God and what he knew was right. Verses 4-8 state: "For it came to pass [Solomon made moves, but God did not just strike him dead], when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem [he set it up right before Jerusalem], and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives . . . ."

Solomon got so carried away that he built high places for all his wives. Who would have thought that Solomon would have done that? Solomon, the one who prayed for wisdom to come in and go out and to lead the people. God had blessed him abundantly, yet he turned away from God.

Verses 8-9 continue: "And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. [Solomon allowed other gods to come into his own household. The man ruled the house. The women did not overthrow him; he gave in to them. Why? Because of his love for those strange women.] And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice." Who turned Solomon? His wives, members of his own household, turned his heart away from the Lord. Today, we are in a conflict, but we dare not compromise our stand for Truth because

our own household wants to go another way.

### **The Latter End of Job and Solomon**

The Bible tells us about another man whose name was Job. Job 2:9-10 says: "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain throe integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job would not yield to his wife's counsel.

Both of these men had an end to their lives, just as all men do. We want to look at the end of each of the two men. We will look at Job first, and then Solomon. Job lost everything, his children and all that he had. He had been a very wealthy man, and in this trial it looked as if the best he could recover would be his health, and then live as a pauper for the rest of his life. However, you have to remember whom he was serving. He was serving the Giver of life, the One who sends the blessings down from above. Job 42:12-17 reads: "So the LORD blessed the latter end of job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days." This is the latter end of a man who would not compromise.

How about the latter end of Solomon? First Kings 11:9-12 tells us: "And the LORD was angry with Solo-

mon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son." In other words, because Solomon failed to keep God's commands, He had to bring judgment upon that kingdom. The end of Solomon and the end of Job were in accordance with how they stood before God: one compromised and the other remained faithful.

### **A Clashing of Spirits**

Why does the sword (the Word of God) separate families? You would think that the Word of God would cause everyone to get saved and that the household would be happy serving God, having fellowship together, and worshiping God; but it does not always happen that way. When the Word of God comes to a family, why does it separate? Serving God is an individual matter. Many refuse the call of God; therefore, there is a clashing of spirits in the household. If the husband is not saved and the wife is, remember that different spirits are working. The battle is not with flesh and blood, or with your family member. It is a spiritual conflict, because one has refused the call of God and the other has obeyed.

If your family and loved ones are not saved and you are, you must get direction from God concerning spiritual matters and stay true to those convictions of Truth. You cannot lay them aside to please someone or to try to get along with someone. I would rather have a conflict

with an unsaved companion than have a conflict with God, but people are trading off their convictions today. They are only living for the present day, and they are going to be eternally lost. Friend, do not be nearsighted. Do not trade off eternal things to try to have peace in the home. It is not the right kind of peace when it is not the peace of God.

No doubt, Solomon's wives hounded him and said, "We want an altar for our gods too. You have one for yours. We won't bother you." Finally, Solomon gave in to his wives. Many young people trade in their experiences to have friendship with the unsaved. Where are the Jobs who will stand true, those who will not bend, bow, or give in? Where are the Apostle Pauls? You cannot be mealymouthed and serve God. You must have a backbone to stand and not be moved, and you must have determination.

Where are the ones who will be like Jesus? Some people quit serving God over the slightest things. Job told his wife, "You talk like a foolish woman." If your companion is unsaved, you will never win him or her if you let down on Truth. The same is true of your children or anyone else in your household. You have to stand strong in the power of His might. When someone gets closer to you than the Word of God, that person is getting too close. If you are not sold out to God and the Word of God, you need to be, because you are going to be tried by members of your own household. People are making moves today as if God does not even see them. They do not talk to the pastor, but they talk to a friend or a member of their household, and then they lay down their armor. Friend, if you lay down your armor, you cannot stand in your own strength.

### **The Lust of the Flesh**

Solomon was a very wise man, and he got his wisdom from God. Nevertheless, he became strong in the

flesh. He allowed members of his own household (women whom he should never have brought in; he disobeyed God when he did that) to work on him. He gave up that closeness with God to love many strange (or foreign) women. To what were they foreign? Again, they were foreign to the covenant of Israel. No doubt, they were beautiful. The women in the land probably jumped at the chance to become a part of King Solomon's harem, with all of his wealth, splendor, and pomp.

Solomon was overcome by the lust of the flesh. What happened? He did those things that God had warned him about. Always remember this: you are going to meet the Word of God. Today some people are doing things that the pastor has stood up and warned them about repeatedly, and they are going to come face to face with the Word of God.

The sword (God's Word) separates families. You cannot base your answer to God on what your family says. Even if your family is saved, you still have to get divine direction from God, because their advice or admonition to you may be prejudiced. They may give you certain advice because they do not want to hurt you. Also, sometimes those who are nearest and dearest to you may not understand you. John 7:5, speaking of Jesus, says, "For neither did his brethren believe in him." Jesus' own brethren did not believe in Him, and even His friends thought He was mad. You read in Mark 3:21, "And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself."

To have true friendship and true love, at least three things must exist: you must have a common ideal, a common experience, and obedience. The devil is always working to get you to compromise your ideals and your experience, and eventually cause you to disobey. A man or a woman or a young person can love someone so much that he or she refuses the call of God. That is hap-

pening. Some are so caught up in the flesh, like Solomon, that they say, "I am going to do it anyhow. I don't care what God says. I can handle it." Well, usually their love gets directed the wrong way, and what they call love is nothing but physical attraction.

Salvation is an individual call, a call that you must answer. Some feel that their homes will split up if they stand for Truth. Friend, I would rather have the home divided here than to be separated from God in eternity. Often people do not look at it that way because the thought of eternity is far from their minds.

### **Loyalty to Christ**

There comes a time when a man or a woman has to make a choice. God must have your loyalty first. Jesus said in Matthew 10:37, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." I repeat, God has to be first.

John Bunyan, the writer of *Pilgrim's Progress*, was faced with a tremendous choice that most people will never have to make. He had to stop preaching or be cast into prison and be separated from his wife and children, which meant that his family would have no support. Besides all of that, one of his children was blind. All he had to do was obey the government, which said he was not to preach, and he could go free. Nevertheless, he was loyal to Christ and spent six years in jail. When he was released, he began to preach again; so he had to spend another six years in prison. Though he was an uneducated man, he was a loyal vessel to Christ. What he lacked in education, he certainly had in heart to serve God. Though separated from his wife and children, he obeyed God.

Someone may say that Luke 2:14 says, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." More accurately, that

phrase reads not "good will toward men" but "good will among men." Those with whom He is pleased are the recipients of His favor and grace. Jesus said in Luke 12:49-53: "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Fire represents judgment. This judgment was going to cause division. The closest of your ties are going to be tested. Also, in this warfare, there is a cross. In Matthew 10:38 Jesus said, "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." A cross is a place of sacrifice. Your will, your ambitions, and your desires must be laid down when they conflict with the will of Jesus Christ and with doing His will.

### **Stand for What Is Right**

To finish this Christian race right, you have to fight for that which is right, not carnally or fleshly, but in the Spirit, because it is a spiritual battle. Some people combat one another with harsh words, tempers, slander, and gossip. Instead of taking things to God, they take it to someone else and slander someone's name. The Bible says that love covers a multitude of sins. If you really love a person, you will not exploit his or her sins. Some people profess to be Christians, yet they slander their brothers' and sisters' names.

How do you fight a spiritual battle? You can only fight it down

on your knees. The battle is not yours; it is the Lord's. You can only stand in the power of His might. His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him. Zechariah 4:6 states, "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." To finish your work for God, it must be in accordance with His Spirit. Your might and your power will not accomplish the work of God.

Be wise and stand against that which is wrong, even if you must stand against those of your own household or a preacher friend. Some people run all over the country talking to preachers; yet, they already know what they are going to hear when they talk to them. Friend, if you compromise Truth, you need to consider what is going to happen. You will be lost, and the one you were trying to please will be lost also. God is calling for those who will dare to stand for what is right. Though Solomon had gained favor with God, God did not turn the other way when he disobeyed. Solomon's disobedience angered the Lord. The Bible says that God is angry with the wicked every day.

Our Scripture text reads in verses 36-39: "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Again, Ecclesiastes 12:13 states, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Friend, if you are going to make Heaven your eternal home, you must stand for what is right.

*(Cassette C-4194E)*

*Isaiah 28:7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong*

*drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.*

*8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.*

*9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand*

*doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*

*10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.*



# Growing in Your Experience

*Brother C. H. Dickerson*

## **The Evening Time Apostasy**

The essence of our text of Scripture is simply this: they erred through wine. Wine is a type of the Spirit of God. This lets us know they erred through the Spirit. In other words, they did not allow the Holy Spirit to lead them. The results were that they erred in spiritual vision. The people's appetites were killed because their tables were full of filthiness. The condition that the world is seeing among some people who call themselves saints of God and ministers of the Gospel is absolutely sickening.

If you are not careful, you will limit what you call the ministry to a half dozen people and then find fault with them. In reality, the ministry are only those whom God has called, not those who have been cranked out of theological seminar-

ies like wieners out of a meat packing house. The reason conditions are so sickening is that there are many so-called sinning Christians.

We see and hear much talk about churches becoming more worldly. The reason they are becoming worldly is that they want to draw in crowds. They are not concerned about the body of Christ. Because of this, they bring in rock bands to play music, have spas for sore muscles, and form bowling leagues for those who need exercise. They do all these things under the heading of a church. Some churches even have resting places for the weary in the malls.

Today carrying a Bible is obsolete. Many people say they do not want to hear anything about God. Nevertheless, God's Word has never changed. If you are going to see God, you need to get back to the

old-time Gospel. You need to get back to what the Word of God teaches and walk in the light. If you do not, you will not make Heaven your home, despite your profession.

Backsliding and falling away have been more prevalent since the day of apostasy. The Word of God tells us that as it was in the morning time, so shall it be in the evening time. The apostasy in the morning time happened because people left their first love. The reason we are seeing an apostasy in the evening time is that people have left their first love. If you love God's eternal Truth, you will stand for the Truth, defend the Truth, and live the Truth. You will have more than a mere profession.

The devil would like to get people to believe that it would not mean much or have much effect if they were to backslide, but that is not

true. The world is watching the church. The Bible says we are living epistles, known and read of all men.

### **Drunk on Worldly Pleasures**

The Scripture text states in verse 8 that all their tables were defiled. Literal tables have food on them for consumption. The food one eats becomes a part of him; what one eats is exactly what he is. Now, spiritually speaking, there was no clean place because their tables were defiled, yet they claimed to be God's people.

Today people are acting as they do because their tables are defiled. The Apostle Paul wrote in Titus 2:2-3: "That the aged men be sober . . . . The aged women likewise." Friend, he was not talking about being drunk but about one's need to control himself. Backsliding begins when one fails to let God have control of his life. The Bible also speaks of being drunk on pleasures. There has never been a time that I know of when people have been so pleasure mad as in the day and age in which we are living. People love pleasure more than they love being on fire for God, standing for God, and letting Him be their all in all.

Too often when it comes to wanting a boyfriend or a girlfriend or the pleasures of this old world, individuals put God on the shelf, so to speak. After they get what they want, then they hope to go back and pick Him up again. Consequently, they lose all the zeal they had in their experience. The Word of God talks about things that cause people to become spiritually drunk on the pleasures of this world and the cares of life. It is not talking about being drunk on wine, but about getting too wrapped up in the things of life. The cares of life are crowding in on people so much that they spend little time reading the Bible, praying, or assembling at the house of God. The very first thing that happens when people get wrapped up in worldly things is that they leave

God out. They have time for everything else, but they do not have time for God. Serving Him is the most important thing in life. When people crowd God out, they have lost their first love and they have gone into spiritual darkness.

I want you to realize that you must put God first in your heart and life. You must not neglect your prayer life, your Bible study, and your assembling at the house of God. Someone may say, "I can listen to tapes of the services." That is not God's plan. He said to assemble yourself because He has called a pastor to feed you. To grow spiritually, you must sit under a pastor and obey what he has to say.

Romans 10:14 tells you, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" You cannot hear without a preacher. That is the reason God calls men away from secular jobs and says, "Son, I want you to quit your job and feed the saints of God." If you listen, to tapes simply because you have no desire to get to the house of God, you have lost something.

You need to see the things that defile men and make them unable to be taught so that you do not stumble over the same things. All you have to do is look at their countenances and consider what they talk about, and you will find out whether they are spiritual.

### **Failing of the Grace of God**

Another thing that defiles people, according to the Word of God, is their tongues. We read in James 3:5-8: "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents,

and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

Friend, we have seen all kinds of animals tamed. The only reason they can train the animals is that God placed something within them to cause them to fear man. Genesis 9:2 says, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered."

Although man can tame animals, no man has ever tamed that little member called the tongue. It has defiled many people, and it is defiling more every day. The Bible says the tongue is full of deadly poison. It is destroying more people all the time, because people cannot keep their mouths shut. What is the answer? They need to get God in their hearts. He can give them the power to control their tongues and keep their mouths shut. The reason people who claim to be saints run off at the mouth is that they do not have enough of God.

The Word of God lets you know that when you fail of the grace of God, or do not have enough grace to take you through temptations or trials, many will become defiled. Hebrews 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." If you do not follow peace, you are not going to see God. Also, if you do not follow peace and holiness, others will not see their need of God.

Verse 15 reads, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God [in other words, be mighty careful that you do not fail of the grace of God]; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

When people become troubled, they are miserable. The only way they can soothe that misery is to find someone who will listen to them who is in the same condition. When

one becomes crossways and cold in his experience, he usually does not go to someone who is on fire for God. Often he looks around to find others who will sympathize with him, and soon you see them together all the time. They visit one another's houses frequently because misery loves company.

If people who get in that miserable condition would get down on their knees and pray and obtain godly counsel from their pastor or another godly saint and confess it to God, He would put them back on track again, but too many are not willing to do that. They would rather cause division and cause other souls to go to a lost hell because they cannot control their tongues. Some may not say anything wrong, but they leave people with a false impression.

Friend, it takes the power of God to control the flesh. If you get away from the power of God, the first thing you will lose control of will be your tongue. We need to get in a prayer vigil when people start using their tongues to destroy others and lift up themselves. We need to get down on our knees and pray that God will break that thing up if He has to carry them out feet first, because they are doing a destructive work.

### **Corruption of the Heart**

Hebrews 12:16 says, "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright." What was he saying? Many people sell their birthrights to satisfy the flesh. When God shows people how to walk and how to conduct themselves and what to do, some are disobeying for a little earthly pleasure. It may be to listen to something, to run their mouths, or to go somewhere that they have no business going.

Some are selling their birthrights just as cheaply as Esau did. Afterward, he sought it carefully with tears, but he never regained it. Why? Because he willfully sold it. People

who have walked off and left their first love have found something else to love more. They have lost something that they may never regain. Why? Because they did it willfully. When God shows you something, and you do something contrary to that, you are selling your birthright, possibly never to regain it. Very few have ever regained it, because they knew what they were doing. They had already been warned about where to go and where not to go by the preaching of the Gospel, yet they were stubborn and did something that cost them their birthright. They may have a profession of religion, but they do not possess the Spirit of God.

Today many folks are living as if there were no God, no Heaven, and no hell. For example, once filthy magazines were not on the newsstands. People would rise against that. What are they doing today? They are putting them right out in front of everyone. Filthiness is being shown on television and on the Internet. People are accepting these things today when at one time they would not have.

Psalm 53:1-3 reads: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Also, Psalm 14:1 states, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works."

Adam Clarke's commentary states this: "The corruption of their heart extends itself through the actions of their lives." In other words, when filthiness gets in the heart, it extends through people's lives and is put into action. People say, "There is no God." When the corruption of people's hearts extends itself through the actions of their lives, they are plagued with the most

deadly propagation; it presents nothing but destruction.

Losing the fear of God from one's heart is dangerous. What is the fear of God? Proverbs 8:13 says, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil." Today many have lost the fear of God out of their hearts because they do not fear evil as they once did. As a result, it is showing up in people's Christian experiences.

When do people say there is no God? Very few people actually say that, but when they take matters into their own hands instead of letting God work them out, in reality, they are saying there is no God.

### **Cast Your Care Upon the Lord**

God can take care of every situation. He is the answer to the world's problems, and He can work out your problems. If God cannot work out problems, they cannot be worked out. God created the universe. He spoke the Word, and this world came into existence. He spoke the Word, and the waters came into a heap, and then He leveled them out. He spoke the Word and created a man.

Today many feel that God cannot work out little problems. These same people will not tell you that they do not believe in God. However, if you take things into your own hands and try to work them out, you are telling the world there is no God. On the contrary, there is a God. God has worked many miracles, and He is still working miracles. He will work miracles for you if you will turn your life over to Him and let Him work. I have needed help often, and I learned a long time ago to turn my problems over to God. First Peter 5:7 instructs, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Do not try to work them out; cast them upon the Lord. When God works out situations, everything will be as smooth as it can be.

Many times down through life I have faced difficult situations, and there was no way under the sun that

they could be worked out; but when I pleaded my case before God, He worked them out and everything was fine. God is still the same today. When people take matters into their own hands instead of letting God work them out, in essence, they are saying, "There is no God." However, that is not the end of it. When they do this, it leads to corruption, and then it will lead to a nasty, rotten spirit. This is far from what God has in mind.

The flesh wants to have the pre-eminence. We read in 2 Peter 2:10, "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities [or the elders]." We are seeing this very thing when God does not have the preeminence.

Many people despise the standard of God's Word. We could fill all the church buildings today if we did not preach the standard. Jesus let us know that only a few choose to walk this narrow way. Jesus preached to the multitudes. He even got in a boat and went out into the water and taught the people who were on the shore. Multitudes followed Him, but what happened when He preached the standard? They all left and walked no more with Him. Today when God does some separating to get the dead branches off, people blame the preacher for it. If Jesus could not hold people, then a preacher cannot hold them. Those who love the Truth will be there, and they will rejoice in the Truth. They are the Church of the Living God.

### **Failing to Keep the Covenant of God**

Another thing that defiles people is moral corruption. Micah 6:10-12 reads: "Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceit-

ful weights? For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth."

This lets us know that the rich man is full of violence, but God's people are full of peace. When Micah talked about the scant measures, he was simply speaking of people living as close to the world as they possibly can. God is saying, "Can I bear this?" The answer is definitely no. God does not want His people to live close to the world. He wants us to measure to the fullness of His Word. If you are not doing that, God is displeased.

Hosea made it plainer when he spoke about Ephraim. Who was Ephraim? According to the Word of God, Ephraim was a people who had turned their backs on God. Psalm 78:9-10 tells us: "The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law." Everything was fine until they had to go to battle, and then they turned their backs and would not keep the covenant of God.

What were the results? Jeremiah 7:15 tells us that God cast out the whole seed of Ephraim: "And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim." Those people turned their backs on the work of God and what God wanted them to do.

What were the results of their being cast out? Hosea wrote in Hosea 12:1, "Ephraim feedeth on wind [she was puffed up], and followeth after the east wind [if you follow the east wind, it goes west, and that is toward darkness]: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt."

They tried to make an alliance among themselves. This happened in Christ's day when the Pharisees and the Sadducees were against each other. They hated the Truth and wanted to do away with it, so

they got together because they had one thing in mind, and that was to crucify Christ.

Today we are seeing alliances made. Protestantism once protested Catholicism, but today they are making an allegiance with Catholicism. Many are lukewarm who once were on fire for God and against lukewarmness, but now they are embracing it and working against the Truth. The only thing they have in mind is to destroy the Truth.

### **"Their Nobles Shall Be of Themselves"**

Friend, the Word of God will point out where you stand today. The thing that took place in the morning time is taking place in the evening time. The eighth beast is forming, and you will believe it when they start putting the pressure on you.

Jeremiah 30:21 says, "And their nobles [or high-ranking officials] shall be of themselves . . ." When God saves a man, He puts him on a higher plane; but when God calls a minister, He puts him on an even higher plane. However, He never made one minister any higher than any of the other ministers. He said, the noble men made themselves, or lifted themselves up. I have not found any place in the Word of God where God sets men above other ministers. Also, I have never seen in the Word of God where God has taken one church and made it a headquarters here on earth.

Jeremiah said their nobles made themselves. In other words, they lifted themselves up to where they could come in and tell others what to do. Jeremiah 30:21 states, "And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them . . ." In other words, they set their own standard.

Daniel said that a stone would be cut out of the mountain without hands. Isaiah said 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." Those nobles spoken of in our Scripture text made their own government. They did not depend on Christ or God's leadership. By their actions, they said, "There is no God, so we have to be in leadership."

The answer to why all of this was taking place is found in Romans 1:28-30: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge [in other words, they did not want to be obedient to God], God gave them over to a reprobate mind [one who has a reprobate mind is void of understanding], to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, [One thing that causes so many problems today is that people have envy in them. They cannot control it, and as a result, they move onto the next step.] murder [riot physical murder, but spiritual murder] debate, deceit, malignity [it grows like a cancer and continually gets worse]; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents."

### **"Without Natural Affection"**

Romans 1:31 states, "Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful." I have never seen the time when there were so many unnatural affections as there are today. The men want to look like women, and the women want to look like men. They wear things that are not becoming to saints of God. Another unnatural affection is what they call an "alternate lifestyle." I could name many other unnatural affections. The natural affection for the wife is to be in subjection to her own husband. When she does not want to be in subjection, she has an unnatural affection. Often the reason God cannot bless many homes today is that the women do not want to

submit to their husbands.

God said in the very beginning that the natural affection for the wife is to want her husband to be the head. In other words, he should be the leader, or the guide. Today many people do not want that. Nevertheless, God said the women are to be in obedience to their own husbands. Then He also said, "Husbands, love your wives." When these things are not being carried out, they are simply unnatural affections.

Years ago, when I was in school, if someone called a man a sissy, he had a fight on his hands, but today more men are becoming effeminate all the time. Some men walk effeminately, and some women walk as men do. Also, many women cut their hair as men do and talk as men do. The reason many conditions are coming upon our nation is that the people in general are without natural affection, implacable (in other words, they are relentless, harsh, or pitiless), and unmerciful. Some people today have no pity at all. That is what the Word of God said would happen to them. The reason they are that way is that they act as if there is no God. They may not say it in words, but they put it in practice when they take things into their own hands. Romans 1:32 continues, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Romans 1:21 tells us, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful . . ." We ought to praise God for men who will preach the Truth and live the Truth. Also, we ought to praise God for people who will dress as saints of God, for the Church of God, and for what God has done for us. We should not murmur or complain, but live for God and defend the Gospel.

Whenever I hear that someone has run down a man of God, it stirs me. Too many people have lost their appreciation for men of God. We ought to lift them up in prayer and

be thankful for them. You may not like how they wear their clothes, how they comb their hair, or the grammar they use; but it is the spirit they have that counts.

If you are a pastor, God wants you to preach the Word of God after you have measured to it. He will talk to you, and then after you have measured to the message, you are to bring it to the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made you the overseer. Why? So you can feed the Church of God something that will cause them to grow. Often children do not want something that will cause them to grow. No one is going to grow strong spiritually unless he partakes of the strong meat in the Word of God. The devil hops on the preacher's back and says, "People will not like you very well," but men of God are not in the ministry to please people. They are to please God. The main reason for the lack of spiritual growth is that folks become satisfied when they get careless in their Christian experience. People who have a burden will be in the prayer services praying.

### **Forbearing One Another in Love**

Salvation removes the guilt of sin, breaks the powers of it, and sets one free from bondage. All these things are for our benefit. God also gives us something for the benefit of others. We each need to feel our obligation to God and the church. He gave us something for fellowship to help others. The Bible tells us that we should forbear, be forgiving, and have charity (or love).

We must learn to forbear one another in our homes. We are living in a day and age when people do not even bother getting married. They look at getting a companion as one would buy an automobile: "If I don't like her, I'll get rid of her." That is not according to God's ordained plan. He meant for a man to find a wife and stay married to her.

My wife and I have been married for fifty-six years. Over the years, we have worked through

many problems. I am sure that if you have been married any length of time, you have had problems arise in your home, but you did not pack up your clothes and leave. No, you learned to work them out and to forbear.

In congregations today, just because the preacher does not smile the right way or do things just as certain people think he should, they are ready to leave. Too many come with the attitude, "If I don't like it, I'll go somewhere else." That is the reason they leave. You need to unpack and get your feet under God's table and stand for the Truth, stand for the church, and stand behind the pastor. Do not let anyone lead you astray by whispering in your ear. Many people will try to fill your ears. You need to watch out for whisperers and backbiters. They do not have the nerve to tell a person to his face, but they will go behind one's back and run that saint down. Colossians 3:13 reads, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Second Corinthians 7:10-12 says: "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you [when you get a genuine experience of salvation, you will be careful of how you walk, of how you talk, and of your actions], yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear [Proverbs says the fear of God is to hate evil], yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter [you will want to revenge the devil and uncover him, and you will want to show the world what he has done to you and what he has set out to do to others]. Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong,

but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you."

You must continually grow in your Christian experience. Verse 10 of our Scripture text says, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." Sinner friend, before you get saved, the first thing you need to do is to come in and hear the preacher preach under the anointing of God's Spirit. You should sit up with your ears open, and then the Spirit of God can move upon you and put you under conviction. Next, you must accept it and ask God to forgive you.

### **"Giving All Diligence"**

Second Peter 1:1-4 reads: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature [God's nature, or His Spirit], having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Ezekiel 36:26-27 states: "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 you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." When you see people breaking God's laws, you know they do not have the Spirit of God in them. When they do not do things God's way, they do not have the Spirit of God. Those who have the Spirit of God will do these things God's way.

Second Peter 1:5-8 states: "And

beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity [or love]. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

How can you become a partaker of the divine nature? You get it and add to it by giving all diligence, or careful effort, and by adding to your faith virtue, or effective power to influence or affect people in the right way. Today many people influence or affect people the wrong way. Do you influence people the right way? Are you working on the way you walk, the way you talk, and the way you conduct yourself? Are you working in a way to influence others to do the right thing?

Again, verse 6 says, "And to knowledge temperance [or self control]; and to temperance patience . . ." Peter said if you will do these things, you will never be idle, but you will always be fruitful. You will always be fruitful if you will keep growing in your Christian experience.

### **Filling Your Obligation to God**

Today people are so busy with the cares of life. The cares of life are pressing in on the people of God and robbing them of their time. Many are busy on themselves and idle in the things of God. Many people go to an altar because they fail to read their Bibles and pray as they ought. We are living in a time when people who have to be at work by eight o'clock think they can sleep until five minutes of eight, jump up and eat some cereal with one hand and talk with God in between bites or on the way down the road. The Bible instructs you to take time to be holy. It takes time and effort to serve God. Too many saints are crowding Him out of their lives. They have

cooled off in their experiences because they have failed to pray and read and study the Bible.

Christian friend, you need to make sure that you find a secret place at home where you can get away from the world and get hold of God. The Scriptures instruct you to go into your secret closet and shut the door. This is not speaking of your clothes closet, but simply shutting out the world and talking to God. You must pour out your heart to God and tell Him what you stand in need of. Then, do not just jump up and run off. Ask God, "What would You have me to do, Lord?"

Because of the lack of time being spent with God, souls are not being helped and encouraged. Do you send letters or cards to encourage dear ones? Do you call the one who is discouraged and say, "I am praying for you" or do you just go on and forget them? Friend, this is what serving God is all about. When God saved you, He had a work for you to do, and you must give an account to God concerning whether you did that work. He saved you as a vessel that He could work through to reach other people.

The Lord wants us to encourage one another. Hebrews 3:13 says, "But exhort one another daily." What does the word exhort mean? It means to encourage. Whenever the church doors are open, you should be at your place of duty to encourage your pastor. He needs encouragement. The devil will not encourage him any. You should encourage your Sunday school teacher, the choir director, and the song leader. How? One way to encourage them is by being at your post of duty. You should open your songbook, if you are able, and sing.

Carefully read Matthew 25:40: "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." In other words, if you do not do this for the brethren, you are not doing it for Him. There is a work for you to do. Someone may say, "I'm getting old, so I can't do much." I am getting old too, but God has given me added strength and I am going to use it for Him. Friend, how long has it been since you have written a little note to your pastor to encourage him?

We are facing a hostile world, and the very powers of hell are working to kill the influence of God's eternal Truth. If you have been a little lax along any line, you ought to confess it to God and ask Him to help you. Why not have a little talk with God and make a covenant with Him? God has given you something to benefit others. God moves upon the singers, and He has given them voices with which to sing. Why? So they can sing to themselves? No, to benefit others. He has given the instrument players a knowledge of how to play for our benefit. He has called preachers, given them the Holy Spirit and sent them out to preach the Gospel. Was it for his own benefit? No, it is for the benefit of others. Are you filling your obligation to God and the church? Are you grateful enough to be at your post of duty to show others that you really appreciate them: Friend, if you have lost something, you ought to ask God to forgive you.

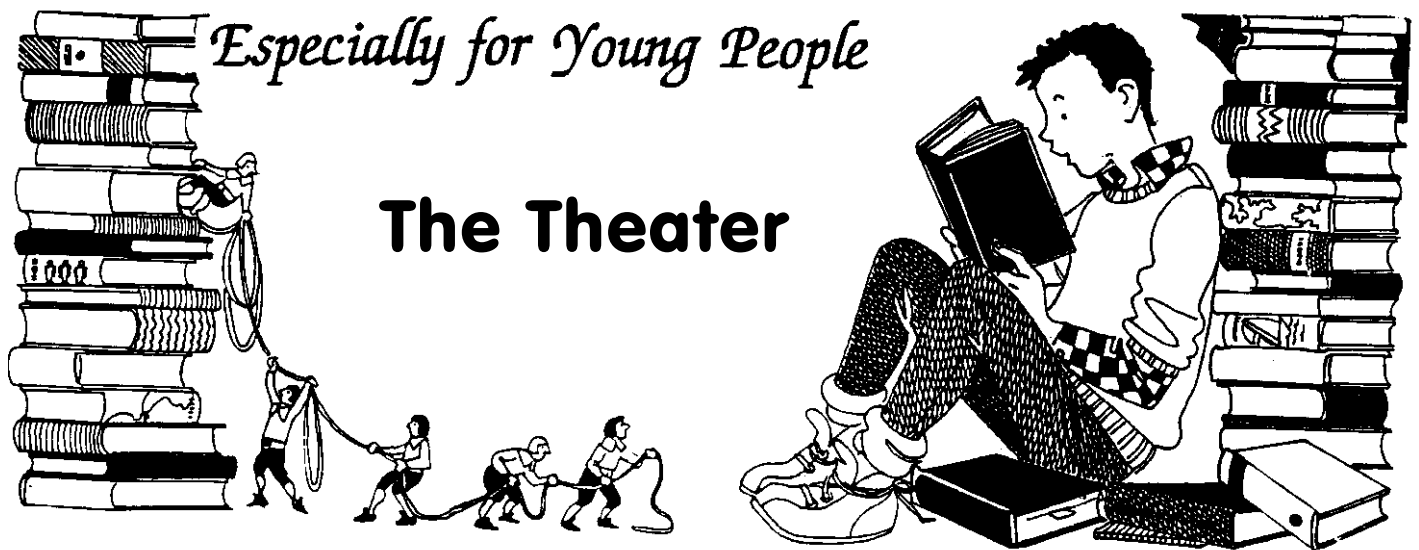
*(Cassette C-4189M)*

# Radio Log



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	7:15 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Anderson, Indiana	WQME-FM 98.7	Sunday	8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Gaffney, South Carolina	WAGI-FM 105.3	Monday	8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Tune in to the radio station nearest you to hear an inspiring message from the Word of God. If you enjoy the broadcast, let us hear from you!



*Especially for Young People*

## The Theater

As I walked into a drug store some time ago, I noticed a stack of large books on the counter. They were about the size of a large city telephone book. I glanced through one and noticed the title, "Gone With the Wind," and realized it was the popular play of the screen, starring Vivien Leigh as Scarlett, for which she was awarded the "Oscar" statue by the Hollywood Academy of Science. When I left the drug store, I wondered how people in this busy age would take the time and effort to read this voluminous non-sensical trash.

However, the title stuck with me, and I realized that morality is going with the wind of sexual prominence. The days of Noah are upon us. Spiritual things are discarded and the great majority of Americans are living after the flesh, fulfilling the evil imaginations of the heart (Genesis 6:5; Luke 17:26-27). The bars have been let down and public institutions have commercialized sex appeal and demoralized the youth of our land.

The theater is public enemy number one. It is positively immoral and rotten to the core. It defies reform. Good pictures, so-called, would bankrupt the theater in short order. The average movie crowd thrives on smutty, improper, and immoral suggestions. Take the filth out of the movies and the crowds would dwindle, and that goes for the

operas and plays as well.

They are teachers of crime and immorality, and to them sin is a joke. The pictures that are generally a success are those that touch upon the shady side of life. Bad girls are pictured as good. Marriage is made light of, and illicit love is encouraged. A heathen country has branded American films as immoral. A member of the Turkish Parliament sought to prevent the children less than sixteen years of age from attending the American-made movies. The reasons he gave were that they distort the brain, shake the nerves, suggest adventurous ideas, made girls fond of jewels and expensive dresses, convey premature information about sex, and inspire violent passions.

Many people attend the movies every week, and many are young people. To a great majority of these, the movies set the standard for dress, manners, righteousness, religion, and lovemaking. Their influence for evil is tremendous. Not only are the pictures bad, but so are the people that produce them. We cannot spare words in speaking of their licentious, rotten barnyard standards of living. The diaries of some of these would make a prostitute blush. To some face-savers, divorcing and remarrying are only a cloak for their immoral behavior. The pictures of movie stars should never be found in Christian homes.

Some say, "We attend only good movies." Well, that is just like going down into the sewer to pick out something good that is floating by. Every good thing of the movies is polluted by the evil. It is the devil's school and church for millions. It has debauched the actors and actresses and defiled its patrons.

A new attack is being made on America's morals. A man connected with the music publishing business said that his business views with alarm the increasing manufacture of recordings with nice songs on one side and smutty ditties on the other. Recently, also, smutty films have appeared, traveling along grapevine routes to social gatherings in homes. Add these corrupting influences to the smutty shows, the morally devastating movies, the magazines of the lewd and suggestive type, and one wonders why all this filth is tolerated to corrupt our youth in a nation that has millions of professed church members.

Selected

**The more of Heaven  
there is in your life,  
the less of earth you  
shall covet.**

*Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*

*2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression*

*and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;*

*3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard*

*him;*

*4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

# The Penalty for Rejecting Salvation



*Brother Esau Brooks*

## "Give the More Earnest Heed"

In these verses of Scripture, the great Apostle was writing to the people in his day to awaken them to the importance of giving heed to God's Word. He did not merely say "give heed," but to "give the more earnest heed." The reasons he gave are twofold: one, "lest at any time we should let them slip"; two, "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape . . . ?"

Notice that he was stressing how important and how urgent it is that we give the more earnest heed. When he said, "we ought," he meant we have a duty to do so. Disregarding the Word of God and treating it as if it does not matter is becoming so common. Nevertheless, the writer

made it quite plain that God's Word is firm, steadfast, and unwavering. Every transgression and disobedience receives a just recompense of reward. The only way for you to come to a full realization of how steadfast the Word of God is (and has always been) is to go back to the many examples set forth in the Word.

In the antediluvian age God appeared to Noah and said that He was going to destroy the world with a flood. It did not happen right away. Time went on and on until it seemed as if the flood would not come. No doubt, many scoffed, ridiculed, disregarded, and despised that which Noah declared; yet, Noah held on.

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an

ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Noah moved with fear and did what God told him to do. According to the Bible, it was more than one hundred years before the fulfillment of the Word came to pass; nonetheless, it was steadfast.

One day God came on the scene and said, "Noah, you and your household come into the ark." Just before that, God spoke to the animals of the field and they came. Do you know what made me marvel as I read that account? Of all the people to whom Noah preached for more than one hundred years, only eight souls were saved. Noah did not preach one message to the animals, yet each one that God spoke to was saved. Studying these things is worthwhile. That is the only way you can be thoroughly convinced

that God's Word is steadfast. You may disregard it and trample it under your feet, but His Word abides faithfully.

### **The Recompense of Reward**

Every transgression and disobedience will receive a just recompense of reward. When Noah went into the ark, no doubt, some gathered around and mocked and laughed. They probably thought it was quite funny. No rain had fallen, and there was not a cloud in the sky. Low and behold, when they were not expecting it, the clouds came, the rain began to fall, and the world perished by a flood according to God's divine Word.

Peter said, "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7). You may preoccupy yourself with other things, but the day is coming when, if you have chosen to disregard God's Word, you will regret it.

The question is not, Where are you going to escape, but how? As for the writer, he saw no way one could escape God's judgment, the recompense of reward, if he neglects this great salvation. To neglect salvation is to find something else more interesting. Many people find the time for other things, but not salvation. Bear in mind that there is a recompense of reward to reap for despising this great salvation.

Notice the characterization he gave to salvation. He called it "so great salvation." Someone may ask, "What's so great about it?" Jude called it a common salvation, but he did not mean that it is common in the sense of not being worthwhile. He meant that it is common in the sense that God has made it available to every individual on the face of this earth. The recompense of reward for despising it shows how great it is. Verse 3 of our Scripture lesson says that it is a salvation "which at the first began to be spo-

ken by the Lord." It is not a salvation that had its beginning in human minds, or one that was put together by men, but it was first spoken by the Lord Himself.

God has gone to much trouble to give us this great salvation. Therefore, it is time to start giving it the respect and the consideration it deserves. It is a shame to see how mankind is regarding everything else of more importance than this great salvation. Everything else occupies people's minds except this great salvation. The writer said that God spoke it and confirmed it by them that heard Him. Verse 4 reads, "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" All of that was put together to impress upon our hearts how great this salvation is.

Hebrews 10:28-29 reads: "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Despising this salvation is serious. Just because the majority is inclined to despise this salvation does not mean it is not worthwhile. It is still great, and the penalty for rejecting it is also great.

### **God's Word Shall Stand**

In the writing of Jeremiah, we find in a statement by our Lord to Jeremiah when God called him to witness to a people. Jeremiah 44:29 says, "And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil." God gave this to Jeremiah in the day of his ministering, but the principle still stands and holds true today.

Just as those people were punished for disregarding and despising

the message that Jeremiah delivered to them, in like manner you will be punished if you choose to disregard the message delivered to you. You may not take it from me, any more than those people took it from Jeremiah, but God said, "My words shall surely stand." Every transgression and every disobedience shall receive a just recompense of reward. The question is, How are you planning to escape this? The writer used these words to drive this thought home to your heart. I hope you will seriously consider it. There is a great penalty in store for those who reject the salvation of God.

You may walk away from the Gospel and trample it under your feet, but that is not all there is to it. Many hear the message, yet they do not give a second thought to what is being preached. They push it from their minds and devote themselves to things of minor importance, believing that somehow they are going to get away with it. No, they will not.

Friend, it is time to settle down and face the fact that every transgression will receive a just reward. Just because it has not happened yet does not mean that it will never happen. Just because you seem to be doing fine with all your rejecting and despising does not mean that the Word is of none effect. God said, "My words shall stand." You can believe that what God said shall come to pass. You need to see how fatal it is to ignore God. His mercy is being extended now, but eventually He will withdraw it.

Consider the rich man whom Jesus spoke of in Luke, Chapter 16. While he was living in luxury and faring sumptuously every day, a poor beggar was laid at his gate full of sores. Day after day this went on. It might have seemed as if it would never end, but it came to pass that the beggar died. When he died, he was carried by angels to Abraham's bosom. In the process of time, the rich man died also. Hebrews 9:27 states, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the

judgment."

After death comes the Judgment. Ecclesiastes 12:14 says, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Rejecting the Word of God is not a good practice. Every nation throughout history that has chosen this course of action has met the penalty for doing so. There is a penalty for despising and rejecting God's precious Word.

The rich man died, but no angels carried him to Abraham's bosom. Obtaining a reward in Heaven is not based on the wealth of this world that one has acquired, but rather it is based on one's standing with God. Lazarus was poor, full of sores, and disregarded; but when he died, angels conveyed him to Abraham's bosom.

### **The Fate of the Lost**

Jesus said concerning the rich man, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments" (Luke 16:23). You may not hear much about hell today, but it does exist. The quicker you come to the realization that there is a fiery, burning hell, the better it is going to be for you. Suppose you had met that rich man a few days before he died and told him about going to hell. He probably would have laughed you to scorn; but when he died, the Scripture says he "lift his eyes in hell." In lifting his eyes in hell, the rich man saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. Do you know what that tells me? He could see Abraham and Lazarus and recognize them. One thing you need to notice about that encounter is that Lazarus had nothing to say to him. Despite the rich man's cry for mercy and for Abraham to send Lazarus down with his fingertip dipped in water, nothing came from Lazarus.

The rich man said, "Father Abraham, have mercy upon me." Do you know what I tell people? Do not die expecting any mercy in hell. Had there been any mercy in hell, the

rich man would have found it. Furthermore, if you are planning to cry out to God for mercy, you may as well save your breath. Look how long that rich man has been crying for mercy, but he has not received any yet. Look at the many others who have gone ahead of you. They are crying, yet they have not received any mercy.

You need to be sober minded. Many people are allowing the devil to blind their eyes, deceive their souls, and mislead them in their living. They are carrying on today as if all that matters is life itself. Friend, there is a life beyond this life.

Notice that the rich man could talk in hell. He said, "Send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:24). You know there must be agony in hell if just the tip of one's finger could be of any measurable comfort. He cried out for deliverance from the flames because he could feel pain. If you go to hell, you will feel pain. In this life, if you get a headache, you can take a pain reliever, but there will be no pain killers to help you in hell. Abraham said, "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" (Luke 16:25). That is the reason you must be careful about getting the good things. Lazarus had evil things here and good things after he died.

I have heard people say, "I don't believe that God would send a person to that kind of place." The Bible does not say that God sends people to that place. The Bible only says that the wicked will be turned into hell. Every time you reject the offer of God's grace, you are paving your way to that place called hell.

Next, the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brethren. Abraham answered the rich man, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." The thing that shocks me concerning this story is this: in the rich man's

lifetime on this earth, he had no burden for his five brethren. Nothing is said about his spending any money or time to help evangelize them. Lazarus laid at his gate, full of sores. Why did he not give him some money and tell him to go talk to his five brethren? He did not have time for that. He was too busy enjoying his riches and his material comforts. That is one reason Abraham ignored him when he started to cry out.

Many people are like one boy in school who, after the teacher taught about the rich man and Lazarus and asked, "Now, boys, which of the two would you like to be?" got up and said, "Teacher, I would like to be the rich man while I am living and Lazarus when I die." That is the way most people are. They cannot stand to let the world pass them by. They feel they cannot afford to do away with the riches, the comforts, and the pleasures of this life. Jesus said in Mark 8:36-37: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" How shall you escape this recompense of reward?

If you continue to waste your time as you are and open your eyes in hell, your mother may be there, but she will be of no help to you. Your husband or wife or your children may be there, but they will be of no help to you either.

### **Man's Only Escape**

Friend, God is placing the Scriptures across your pathway right now. Paul said they can make you "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Many are too concerned about how they see this or how others feel about that. The things that people should be worried about, they do not take time to study.

How shall you escape if you neglect so great salvation? Salvation is man's only way to escape hell. You cannot escape by joining the church of your choice, by having

your name written on some church roll, by shaking a preacher's hand, or by paying church dues. Also, salvation means more than kneeling down beside your bed every night and begging God to forgive you for the sins that you have committed. Salvation will take you out of sin.

Someone may say, "I don't understand how you can believe that people can live right in a world that is wrong." What good would salvation be if the world had to be right for you to live right? That is where salvation shines-in a world that is wrong. If you are sitting around waiting for salvation to save you in a world that is good, that ship will never come in. Salvation will save you from sin.

When Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them," the rich man countered that and said, ". . . but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent" (Luke 16:30). Jesus has risen from the dead. He died, and on the third day He was resurrected. You may ask how I know He lives. I know He lives because He lives within my heart. This is not a fantasy or an illusion that you are being faced with; this is real!

Friend, the salvation you have been rejecting is real, and you are going to regret rejecting it. You may even find some who are ready to glory in your rejection of salvation, but you are going to regret it. Some day you will wish you had bowed. Punishment is awaiting those who despise God's salvation. What are you going to do? How are you going to escape? Even now, many are feeling God's wrath. The Bible speaks about Sodom and Gomorrah suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Right now, the rich man is suffering. Right now, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are suffering. You may soon be joining that crowd if you continue to neglect this great salvation. The question is, How will you escape?

Hebrews 6:4-8 says: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the

heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned."

If you continue to neglect this great salvation, your end will be to burn in hell forever. Once death overtakes you, that is final. This is the reason you need to be careful not to trample this great salvation under your feet and despise it. Note that this salvation was provided at a very great cost—the life blood of the Son of God. He died on the Cross to secure it for you. If you rise against it and reject it, you have chosen to be lost. When you are presented with this salvation, you are presented with the gift of God, which is eternal life.

### **God's Divine Work of Deliverance**

Paul, writing to Titus, said in Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." We are saved, not of ourselves or by our good works, but it is the grace of God that brings salvation. How, then, shall you escape? Some people are planning to wait until the last minute, just before they drop off to the shores of eternity, to cry out to God for mercy. Then they are hoping to go sweeping through the gates of Heaven, but it does not always work that way. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:1, "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "(For he with, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of

salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" The Holy Ghost says if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart. I am not talking about joining a church; I am talking about salvation. Salvation is not a trifle, a profession, or some kind of belief. Salvation is God's divine work of deliverance, and He is offering it to you today. The reason the penalty for rejecting it is so great is that the favor is so great.

Friend, I am begging you to be reconciled to God. The world, the flesh, and the devil have nothing to offer you except damnation and destruction. Won't you give your heart to God now? You must turn your life from the ways of sin to the way of righteousness. Stop giving yourself over to the devil and give yourself to God. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). God wants you to surrender your life to Him, not to do you harm but to save you.

### **The Danger of Resisting God**

I have never heard a person who has gotten saved say he or she regretted being saved. Do you know what I have heard many say? "I wish I had gotten saved earlier." Someone may say, "What about those who turn back?" God did not turn them back. Salvation is not at fault because some turn back. People turn back because they decide to go the way of the world.

Some years ago I met a brother in Miami who was working at a Greyhound bus station. This young man once had a wonderful experience with God in Honduras, but he left Honduras to come to America to look for a job and a better life. When I met him, I asked, "Are you still saved?"

He said, "No, Brother Brooks, I have lost out."

I said, "It would pay you far

better to drop what you are doing right now and get back to God than to go on the way you are living and be lost."

He said, "I'm not going to be lost. I'm going to get saved."

We separated, and it was years after that before I met him again on the island. He was sick, so I asked, "What has happened to you?"

He said, "I don't know. I'm going to the doctor to see what is wrong."

I asked, "Are you saved?"

He said, "No, not yet, but don't worry, Brother Esau. I'm telling you, I'm not going to be lost. I am going to serve God."

I said, "You need to do it as quickly as you can."

We separated again, and I did not hear from him until one day someone knocked at my house door. I went out and the man said, "Brother Esau, So-and-So sent me to bring you to him. He wants you to pray for him." I got into a little boat, and when we came to the docks and I began to walk toward the house, I heard cries. I wondered if it was really what it sounded like. As I entered the yard and started up the stairs, I knew that it was. This brother was crying out at the top of his voice, saying, "I am dying, and I am lost, and I am going to hell!" I walked up the rest of the stairs with a heavy heart. I walked in the door of his bedroom, and while he was tossing back and forth on the bed, he raised his eyes and saw me. He said, "Brother Esau, you have come."

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Oh, pray for me! Pray for me, Brother Esau! Because I am lost, and I am dying, and I am going to hell!"

I tried to talk to him, and then I knelt down to pray for him, but it was as if the heavens were made of brass. I could not get anywhere. I got up and said, "You pray."

He said, "I have tried, Brother Esau, but I can't. Oh, pray for me! I am lost and I am dying, and I am going to hell!" And he dropped dead

on the bed.

As I stood there and looked at his lifeless body, I remembered when I met him in Miami, I remembered when I met him the next time, and I remembered how he emphatically assured me, "I am not going to be lost. I am going to get saved." But he died, proclaiming that he was lost. Friend, it is not good to put off salvation.

Once, I was holding a revival at a certain place, and on the very first night after I preached, I was moved to go down in the midst of the audience. I stopped before a middle-aged woman and began to talk to her about going to the altar and giving her heart to God. She said, "Not tonight."

I said, "This could be your last night. Why don't you make it tonight?"

She said, "Don't worry, I'm going to get saved before this meeting closes." I tried to show her the danger in holding back and resisting, but she insisted, "Honestly, I am going to come back, and I am going to get saved before this meeting closes."

The next morning about seven o'clock, the phone rang. The person on the other end said, "Brother Esau, do you remember the woman you were talking to in the service last night?"

I said, "How could I ever forget her?"

"She's dead."

I said, "What?"

"She's dead. After the service she went home and had a massive heart attack." Instead of her getting saved before the meeting closed, we had her funeral. The Bible says in Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." How shall you escape if you continue to neglect this great salvation? It is being offered to you, friend. Jesus is knocking at your heart's door. Every demon from hell, no doubt, is whispering to you, "Wait until a little later." Friend, it is too

dangerous for you to do so. You do not know how soon it will be too late. While God's Holy Spirit is tugging on your heart, won't you yield yourself to Him? If you do not, you may regret it even before tomorrow's sunrise.

*(Cassette C-4153E)*

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## An Honest Boy

A man stood at the corner of a vacant city lot one day, watching two boys in a race. One was a street boy and the other a vigorous school boy. They were about the same age and weight and in every way matched. When they came to the corner lot, however, the school boy stopped short, while his companion took the short cut across the lot instead of going around the square. The watching man was interested.

"Why did you stop the race so soon, my boy?" he asked. "It seemed to me you were a step or two ahead just as you quit."

The boy lifted an honest face and said, "Don't you see that sign?" pointing to "Trespassing Forbidden" on a small, plainly written board. "I'm no lawbreaker."

"Who owns this lot?" the man asked, very much interested.

"Oh, Mr. .\_. He is in California for the winter."

"And this is Maine! Why, how could he know?" the man asked.

"Maybe he couldn't; but I would know," was the simple answer.

Later this man sent this very boy, then eighteen, on an errand of trust and much importance to them both. "I picked him out," he explained, "because I never knew him to do wrong even when it seemed he might not be found out. He is honest to himself."

Selected

*Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*

*13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

*14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

# Man's Great Indebtedness



*Brother Cleve Green*

## **The Ransom Has Been Paid**

We are living in an age when most people act as though they are indebted to the devil. My friend, if you are away from God, lost and undone, you do not owe the devil one hour or one day, let alone the best part of your life. However, you are deeply indebted to God. I could better illustrate it this way. The story is told of a boy who had whittled a little boat. He had spent many days working on it. A very good piece of work it was, and he was very proud of it. He took the boat out to the ocean one day to sail it, to see how it would cut through the water. The little fellow was so busy with the boat that he did not notice the high tide was coming in. His brother went upon a higher bank, saw the high tide coming in, and hollered at his younger brother just in time for him to flee to safety, but he lost his boat.

Sometime later this little boy saw that same boat in the window of a store. He went in to look and realized that the boat was his, because he had carved his initials on it. He said to the merchant, "This is my boat. I'm taking it home."

"Oh, no, you're not!" the merchant said. "I'll sell you the boat, but you can't have it for nothing."

The little boy went home crying, and when his father found out what happened, he said, "Son, here is the money. Go and purchase the boat."

The boy went in and purchased the boat, and as he went down the street with the boat tucked under his arm, he said, "I made you, I lost you, and then I bought you back." That is true with God. God made us, the devil stole us, but Jesus bought us back. Praise God! I am glad for the great redemption story.

We have read about heathen people who have thrown their babies to the crocodiles. They were

worshiping strange gods, and they thought they could appease their gods by sacrificing their babies. We look down on that and say, "That is terrible! That is heathenism!" However, parent, are you throwing your children to the smoking god, to the dancing god, to the drinking god, or to the worldly pleasure god? If so, then you are worse than the poor, ignorant heathen who knew no better. At least their babies were saved, but will your sons and daughters who have been turned loose to the world be saved? Not unless they come under the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because you failed to restrict and discipline them in the home. Friend, Jesus died to pay the ransom price. Everyone has been purchased; the price has been paid. All you have to do is repent and come to the Father.

Many years ago the son of a lumber millionaire was kidnaped and held for a ransom of \$200,000.

No doubt, that father was troubled greatly. The ransom note said that if he would get \$200,000 and leave it in a certain place, they would return his son. As I thought about that incident, I thought of Christ Jesus who paid the ransom price for us. I wonder what that father would have thought if, after the ransom price had been paid, the son would have written a note and said, "Father, I know you have paid the ransom price. I appreciate that, but I am having quite a lot of fun with these boys. They lead a fast and exciting life. They drive down the highway at breakneck speed and run through road blocks. They are teaching me how to draw a revolver and shoot fast and how to break into safes. So, I'll be home later, Dad, but not for a while." Friend, it would have broken that father's heart to know that after paying the ransom price, his son would not come home.

The ransom price has been paid, sinner friend, yet you have not returned home. You are staying in sin to have a little fun. You may say that you are having a good time and that you are leading an exciting life. I do not doubt that the world is showing you some real thrills, but eventually that life will damn your soul in hell. The young kidnapped man came running home to his father as quickly as he was released. In my mind I can see the father embracing his son, saying, "Son, it's so good to have you back home." Sinner friend, that is the way the Heavenly Father feels about you. The ransom price has been paid. Why not run back home? May God help you to realize that you are indebted to Him.

### **"What Shall I Render Unto the Lord?"**

The Psalmist in his writing in Psalm 116:12 expressed his feeling of indebtedness to the Heavenly Father. He said, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" I am sure that he felt deeply indebted to God. Think of it: "What shall I render unto the Lord?"

Friend, you need to render your whole life in service to Him—your talents, your time—you ought to give Him everything. One man, speaking of another man's experience, said, "I would give the whole world if I could have an experience with God like that man has." A by standing friend said, "That is exactly what you'll have to give—the whole world." The Bible says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John 2:15). Some folks could qualify had Jesus just said, "Love not the world." They can leave the worldly crowd alone, but when it comes to loving the things of the world, that is a different story.

Are you in love with the things in the world? Some church people are. If they are not, why do those things keep them away from the house of God? They are in love with new clothes, new furniture, new homes, and new cars. God's Word tells you what you can love: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Mark 12:30-31). In this modern world in which we live, often people love things and use people. God wants us to love people and use things. Friend, we ought to feel as the psalmist, who penned, "What shall I render unto the LORD . . . ?" He is such a great God; therefore, we ought to render something worthwhile to Him. We are greatly indebted to Him.

Elisha met a woman who was indebted to creditors. They said to her, "If you do not have the money by the time we return, we will take your two sons." (Friend, if you continue to live in sin before your children, you will lose not only your own soul but also your children's souls.) In essence, the woman told Elisha, "They are coming back after my boys. I have to give my sons to pay the debt to the creditors." Elisha asked her, "What do you have?" She

said, "I have a pot of oil." Elisha told her to borrow all the vessels she could from her neighbors. After she did that, Elisha told her to start pouring oil into them, and she filled every vessel. She sold the oil, and when the creditors came, she paid the debt, and they did not take her boys. Friend, God has a way for your escape from the devil. You do not owe the devil anything. Do not let him rob you of your soul or cause you to think that you owe him anything. You owe him nothing, but you owe God everything.

### **Self-denial**

In 1 Corinthians 6:20 we read, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Beloved, that means more than you may think. You are bought with a price; therefore, you ought to glorify God in your body, in your attitude, in your conversation, and in your spirit, which are His. The best way to glorify God in your body is to do as the Apostle Paul said in Romans 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice . . ." The best way to present your body a living sacrifice is to put it on the altar for God. You should trust Him for sickness and disease. That is one way to glorify Him in your body. You need to glorify Him in your spirit so that you can pay on your great indebtedness.

You can never pay off your indebtedness to God. However, God will take a good down payment, and that down payment consists of repenting, forsaking all sin, and being born of the Spirit of God. He is not satisfied with a monthly or a weekly payment. You must serve Him every day. Sometimes you have to pay hourly. Every day you ought to pray through, and every day you ought to be a blessing and an inspiration to others. One great lack in the lives of people who backslide is that they fall short in their prayer lives.

I will never forget the last time I

went back on God. I am sorry to say that I did not keep the victory after I was saved at fourteen. I was up and down in my experience until I was twenty-one. I did not have a good spiritual church to attend. I wrestled with God and would get victory for a while, but soon I would go back. Up and down I went, sometimes more down than up. Finally, I got a fresh hold of God when I was twenty-one. I will never forget when I backslid last. I was in sin for two days and two nights. The thing that made me the most miserable was that I could not talk to God. The little pleasures of sin that made me think I was going to have a good time seemed as nothing, and I missed the sweet communion with God. I began to see more clearly what the Apostle John meant when he said in John 9:31, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners." I could not pray because sin had separated me from God.

You may ask, "Preacher, how can anyone get saved if God will not hear sinners?" When God sees you praying a prayer of repentance, then you can be converted. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." If you do not repent, the Lord will not blot out your sins. My friend, once you are born of the Spirit of God, you will know what I am talking about.

Matthew 16:24 tells us, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." First, one must deny himself. Self-denial is what keeps the religious world from truly following Jesus. Self is your greatest enemy. Self wants to have his way at the ruin of others, even if he has to push another fellow down to climb up. That is not the spirit of a Christian. The Christian will help lift up the other fellow if he is going to climb up. Someone may say, "I think the quickest way up is to climb on top of another man's head and push him down." No, that is not true. The quickest way up is to get beneath

him and help push him up, and then you can climb up.

### **The Necessity of Showing Compassion to Others**

Another way to pay upon this great indebtedness is to have forgiveness in your heart. In Matthew, Chapter 18, you can read of one who was lacking. Verses 23-24 read: "Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents." The least that a talent was worth in silver was about \$750; however, its value varied, and it could be as high as \$1,900. For an even figure, let us say it was worth \$1,000, and that this man owed ten million dollars. Jesus was conveying that although your debt of sin is great, He is willing to forgive you. Your sins may look so great that you feel that you can never be forgiven, but take courage, my friend. God will forgive you of great sins.

This servant owed ten thousand talents, or approximately ten million dollars. Verses 25-35 state: "But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made [he was going to have to sell everything he had to pay the debt]. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. [Here is a picture of the sinner humbling his heart before God, saying, 'Lord, have mercy on me. I repent of every sin. If You will just forgive me, I will be Your servant.' That was the way this servant came.]

"Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt [he forgave that great debt of millions of dollars]. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence [about fifteen

dollars]: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

"So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." You must forgive, not just from your lips but from your heart. Some folks say, "Oh, I forgive you," but they do not mean it from the heart. Friend, if you forgive from the heart, you can forget it.

When you get saved, you will be as the man who lived a terribly wicked life. One day he got saved, turned his back on sin, and began to live for God. The story is told that he died and went to Heaven. As he walked along with Jesus one day, he said, "Jesus, I can never thank You enough for Your wonderful love to me. You have been so good to me!" Then he began to relate how wicked and ungodly he was before he got saved. He said, "Jesus, don't You remember when I got drunk and came home and acted so ugly with my family?" Jesus said, "I don't remember." Then he told Jesus of another incident when he mistreated people, reproached his family, and disgraced himself. He went on at great length to explain his sin, but Jesus said, "I don't remember." Praise God! Every one of his sins had been cast as far as the east is from the west. Why? Because he had

repented of them.

Friend, would you like to have your sins removed as far as the east is from the west and cast in the sea of forgetfulness? If so, then you have to forgive. You may say, "You don't know how others have mistreated me." That makes no difference. You may say, "But I forgave them, and then they did me wrong again and wanted forgiveness again. How long must I go on forgiving them?" Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive a man in a day, seven times?" Jesus said, "Seventy times seven." In other words, if someone needs forgiveness four hundred ninety times a day, you must forgive him. That is what the Word of God says. You must forgive your fellow-man if you expect forgiveness.

### **Bound With Unforgiveness**

I have met many people in my travels who have been bogged down with unforgiveness. I once was in a revival meeting in the southern part of Illinois. During this meeting a young lady came to the altar, and I saw right away that she could not pray. She could cry, but she could not pray. (When a person goes to the altar of his or her own accord but cannot pray, that person is bound by some kind of power. When a sinner heads for an altar of prayer, seeking to get right with God but cannot pray, he or she is bound and fettered.)

I began to pray and said, "Lord, reveal what is wrong with this young lady." God revealed to me that she had hatred in her heart and that she had a stubborn spirit. Also, she had an old spirit that imposed dumbness upon her. She could talk to anyone else around the altar but me. (Later she told me, "I wanted to talk to you, but I just couldn't." The devil does that sometimes. When he sees that the man of God is on his track, sometimes he imposes a dumb spirit so that person cannot talk to the man of God, because if that person did talk, he or she would expose the devil.) So, I said, "Young lady,

God has shown me that you have a spirit of hatred." (Folks will own up to about anything, but they do not want to say they have hatred.)

I went on and prayed with her, but the preacher felt that I was way off track. So he asked the young woman's sister, "Does she have hatred in her heart?" Then he asked her mother and father, "Does this young woman have hatred in her heart?" Well, how would they know? (Parent, your child can be bound with some old ugly spirit of the devil, and you may not realize it.) Finally, the preacher said to me, "Brother, you are confusing this young woman." So, I said, "All right; I'll step back." I sat down, and they prayed, they slapped her on the back, and they tried to sing her through. They kept saying, "Believe, believe, repent, believe." (If someone is bound with the power of the devil, you are not going to get that person to repent and believe. He or she has to be free from the power of the enemy first.) They went on, trying every scheme to get her through, but they were not getting anywhere. Soon this young woman said, "I want Brother Green to come back." She wanted help, and she knew I was on the track of the devil.

I began to work with her, and finally she admitted that she had ill will in her heart. I said, "Ill will or hatred, it is of the devil." The devil is stealing a notch on people. People will not admit they have hatred, but you cannot call it love. God helped me to see her need, and she was delivered and got a real experience with God.

May God help you to be willing to forgive others. People let such little things creep in and cause them to be unforgiving. You can never pay this indebtedness to Christ unless you first forgive your fellow-man. You must forgive or God will not forgive you. The Bible says in Romans 13:8, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another." That does not mean you should not get a loan and repay on an installment plan. Paul was saying, "Do not owe

a man an apology and not beg it. Do not owe a man restitution and not make it." Saint, do not owe man anything, so that he will have confidence in your life. Again, Paul was not speaking of borrowing money. However, I think some folks have saddled themselves too heavily with installments. They keep borrowing until they cannot even give the tithe that belongs to God, not to mention giving an offering.

### **The Need for Discernment**

Church, we need a ministry who will be true to souls. Too many people have left altars when preachers have just said, "Just repent and believe," and they went back to their seats with nothing. Some preachers deny the fact of demon possession. Brother, sister, more people are devil possessed than you think. One does not have to run around and scream like a wild person to be devil possessed. Some very religious people are filled with ugly spirits. The man of God has to be true to souls. Paul said he was indebted to the Greek, the Barbarian, the wise, and the unwise. He said, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Today people are getting into terrible spiritual conditions because the ministry cannot discern evil spirits; they cannot discern the devil working. May the Lord help preachers to seek God for more spiritual discernment! If you are a lay member, you need to seek God for more discernment so that when the preacher sets someone down, you will not sympathize with that person. You may not understand everything your God-called, God-anointed preacher does, but you should never take sides against him! Unless you have proof that he is guilty of sin, you are obligated by the Word of God to stand back of that man. If he preaches the Truth, you ought to obey him. God's Word tells us, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit your-

selves: for they watch for your souls" (Hebrews 13:17). Your pastor is the watchman on the wall. He can see more than you can see; that is the reason God put him over you. If he could not see any more than you can see, he would not be over you. The overseer can see further down the road than you can see. He stands every Sunday morning and every Sunday night and looks at the people's faces. Friend, you do not see those faces as the Gospel goes forth. If you did, you might understand some things better.

John 1:14 says, "And the Word was made flesh . . . ." When the blessed Word goes forth under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, the child of God rejoices in his heart. He does not sit there and look pokerfaced, so to speak. God's people do not look sad and dejected in every service. No! The Bible says, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13). Friend, can you rejoice when the Truth goes forth? Sometimes I wish a big mirror were hanging up in front of the church on the platform so people could see themselves while the preacher preaches. I do not mean so that people can see if every hair is in place, but so that people can look at their own countenance as the Word goes forth.

When the Word begins to cut close where you are not measured up, would you see yourself and say, "That isn't I; I look better than that"? I wonder, child of God, as you look into the mirror of righteousness, are you as spiritual as you think you are? Human nature will cause you to think you are getting along better than you really are, but the divine nature shows you how you really are getting along. You are indebted to God for revealing your true spiritual condition.

Child of God, you are indebted to God. Also, you are indebted to your family, your spouse, your children, your neighbors, and even your enemies, to live the Christian life consistently so that they might want it. The Apostle Paul felt this great

indebtedness. Oh, how great is man's indebtedness!

To pay this indebtedness, you must be born again. You may feel that you do not have much to offer, especially if you are getting up in years. Though you might not have much of your life to offer, God will forgive you. The widow did not have much to offer, just a pot of oil. Yet, in essence, Elisha said, "That is plenty. The Lord can help you." Friend, you might not have a long life ahead of you. The years may be greatly spent, but do not go on owing this debt. Just as surely as you die without paying on this indebtedness, hell will be your doom.

### **You Owe the Lord Everything**

In closing, I want to tell you about the story of a little boy. It illustrates so well what I am trying to say. When I read it, I could not keep from weeping because it is such a beautiful illustration of Jesus, the One who loved us when we were unlovely, unwanted, wicked, and vile. Some curse Him, blaspheme Him, and do everything to despise Him, all because they live in sin. Sin is an ugly thing; it is like a man shaking his fist in God's face; yet He still loves him.

A little boy had been running some errands for his mother. Since he did not have the courage to face her, he wrote a note and left it where she could see it. It read, "Dear Mom, you owe me 10 cents for wiping the dishes today, you owe me a dime for going to the store, and you owe me 25 cents for babysitting my little sister." Then he ran off to play on a vacant lot with the boys who were playing ball.

When his mother read the note, her heart was broken to think that her boy was so ungrateful for all she had done for him, so she called him in. He thought he was going to get the money, but she said, "Son, sit down. I want to talk to you." Then Mother said, "Johnny, I had to go down to the jaws of death to bring you into this world. You will never

know how I suffered. I wash your clothes, mend them, and patch your pants. I fix your meals, I get you off to school on time. I keep your room straightened. I bathe your wounds, and I sit up with you all night when you are sick and when you can't go to sleep. Yet, Momma doesn't charge you anything."

Johnny was pierced to the heart. He slipped around later and got the little note. He drew a line through 10 cents for washing dishes, he drew a line through 10 cents for going to the store, he drew a line through 25 cents for babysitting his little sister, and down at the bottom he scribbled, "Mom, you don't owe me anything. I owe you everything." As I read that story, I thought, "That is a beautiful picture of Christ and the sinner. People in this world think God owes them so much. Friend, God does not owe you anything. He has warned you to flee the wrath to come. He has sent preachers to warn you. He has given you a Bible to read so that you might know the Truth. He does not owe you, but friend, you owe Him everything; if you do not do something about this great indebtedness, you are going to end up as the man whom I spoke of in Matthew, Chapter 18. He was forgiven, yet he would not forgive the trespasses of another. Friend, you cannot afford to go to hell.

You may say, "I don't know whether I can make it through." Yes, you can! One of the two wicked thieves who was crucified with Jesus said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus said, "This day thou shalt be with Me in paradise." That thief had been deep in sin, yet Jesus saved him. Sinner friend, you might have gone the ways of the world. Perhaps you have tried to do what is right but failed. There is deliverance for you! If you will repent, forsake the world, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved.

*(Cassette C-1742)*



# GOD'S VERY BEST

My life was a most unhappy one. I was miserable because I became aware that the life I was living was sinful—that I was not pleasing to the God of Heaven. I was twenty-eight years old, I had four children, and their father and I were living together unmarried. My religion just did not satisfy my heart. I had gone to all the churches I knew but went away empty-hearted. At my place of employment at a textile factory, a Christian young man witnessed to me about Jesus Christ, and the Lord began speaking to my heart.

During my fifth pregnancy, I grew despondent and tried to destroy my unborn baby. The unsuccessful attempt hospitalized me, and there I began to feel the need to raise this child for God; but because of my unbelief, I did not know how. Three months after my child was born, I sought help for my burden from the young man who had witnessed to me. He made an appointment for me with his pastor. Although I was not at all well and in constant pain, I visited the pastor seeking help in how to give my boy to God.

The pastor did not waste any time but told me that I was a sinner and needed Christ. The Lord showed me my need, and I asked Jesus to come into my heart and save me from sin. And He did just

that! Yes, it was a miracle! When the pastor invited me to the church services the next day, I remembered my constant pain and how ill I recently had been. In my heart I said to the Lord, "O Lord, how will I attend the services when I can hardly move around?" But the next day I was in all the services. On Wednesday night I was in the midweek service. On Sunday I was back again! My children and their father thought it strange that I did not cry out in pain anymore, and I told them that I believed the Lord not only had saved my soul but healed my legs as well.

The old nature within me struggled against the new one that God had given me. My pastor pleaded with my children's father for us to get married. He did not say, "No," but kept putting me off. I told him that if he would not marry me, he would have to leave me, but he would not believe me and only laughed. When I realized what God wanted me to do, I told my children that we were going away to my mother's home to live.

On my payday, we packed our clothes and moved in with Mother in her tiny house. It was crowded, and we had to sleep on the floor. Living that way was hard, but we proved the power of God, and He gave me the strength I never thought I was capable of! There

wasn't much money, for after I paid my tithe, I had only a few dollars left for food each week. But we never went hungry—our God is faithful!

Since that time, my two older sons, my daughter, and I have been baptized. My two younger sons have received Jesus as their Savior and are awaiting baptism. I am, at the present time, teaching a Sunday school class in our church and am finding real joy in serving our Lord in this manner. To me, these are real miracles!

During one of the strong temptations which came to me, the Lord gave me these lines which I share with you:

*We must seek God's very best,  
No matter what may be the test.  
Be satisfied with nothing less  
He will take care of all the rest.*

*If we in Him our hearts confide,  
He will be ever at our side.  
No matter where life's rough roads lead,  
Let Christ the Savior be Lord indeed.*

*Think nought of works that you have done,  
The many souls that you have won,  
The work is Christ's—may glory be His  
throughout eternity.*

Selected

# Fall 2000 Camp Meeting



## Tape List



TAPE NO.	DATE	MESSAGE TITLE	MINISTER	COST
C-4457M	8-06-00	The Secret to Living a Victorious Life	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4458A		We must Keep Our Eyes on Jesus	Bro. Irwin Seshar	2.50
C-4459E		The Backslider	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4460M	8-07-00	Checking Our Hedge	Bro. C. H. Dickerson	2.50
C-4461A		The Christian Attitude	Bro. Jeremy Hupp	2.50
C-4462E		Wisdom Crieth	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4463M	8-08-00	Our Worst Enemy-Sin	Bro. James Lovingood	2.50
C-4464A		The Word Made Flesh	Bro. Calvin Foster	2.50
C-4465E		The Blessings That Came Upon Israel At Christ's First Advent	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4466M	8-09-00	Why I Do Not Believe in the Millennial Reign	Bro. David Watson	2.50
C-4467A		A Man After God's Own Heart	Bro. Silvestre J. Calauan	2.50
C-4468E		The Birth of the Church	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4469M	8-10-00	Overcoming Antichrist Spirits	Bro. C. H. Dickerson	2.50
C-4470A		The Crown of Life	Bro. Earl R. Borders	2.50
C-4471 E		The Truth About Sin	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4473A	8-11-00	The Mountain of the Lord's House	Bro. Allen Poston	2.50
C-4474E		Safety in Christ	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4475M	8-12-00	Like a Mighty Army	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4476A		Finding Favor in the Eyes of God	Sis. Millie Stegmeier	2.50
C-4477E		The Slothful and the One Who Received Understanding	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4478M	8-13-00	The Earmarks of the Church of God	Bro. E. David Stegmeier	2.50
C-4479A		Has Your Spiritual Well Been Affected?	Bro. Irwin Seshar	2.50
C-4480E		Does God Forget?	Bro. Roger L. Decker	2.50
C-4450	8-2000	Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs		2.50
C-4451	8-2000	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1		2.50
C-4452		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2		2.50
C-4453		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3		2.50
C-4454		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4		2.50
C-4455		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #5		2.50

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