

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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Website: www.godsacres.org

Vol. 30 September 2000 No. 9

Quest
Editorial

**Cherubims and the Way of
the Tree of Life**

Part 3 of 4

Genesis 3:22-24 reads: "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

This passage of Scripture records the famed account of man's expulsion from the garden. In this narrative we are introduced to terms and beings that God desires that we understand. In verse 24 the sacred writer spoke of cherubims, a flaming sword, and keeping the way of the tree of life. By way of review, we find that God placed man in the garden in a state of innocence. We know that because Acts 10:34 declares that God is no respecter of persons. The wise man penned in Ecclesiastes 7:29, "Lo, . . . God hath made man upright." The Hebrew word for *upright* is *yashar*, which means "righteous." God made man in a righteous state. Man was innocent, without any knowledge of good or evil, but the command came in Genesis 2:17 when He said, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Man came to a position of accountability when God gave him a commandment and he understood it.

When Adam was confronted with a choice, he violated that command and died spiritually. Ezekiel 18:4 says, ". . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die." The Lord must have been speaking of spiritual death, because Genesis 5:5 tells us Adam lived physically until he was "nine hundred and thirty years: and he died." Therefore, it was not physical death that occurred but

spiritual death; he died spiritually because of sin.

Once man partook of sin, he was in no condition to partake of life. Since sin and life are incompatible, he had to leave the presence of God and life. However, before he left, God gave him a bright prophecy in Genesis 3:15 when He said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." God became the first Messianic Prophet and prophesied of Christ's coming of the seed of a woman, which Galatians 4:4 tells us was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. God gave man a prophecy of a brighter day. He did not forever bar man from the tree of life, but He showed him the way to life.

What is the way to life? First, we need to understand that Christ is life. He is the tree of life; the life is vested in Him. In 1 John 5:11-12 John said: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." That life is in Jesus Christ. How can you get to Him? The way is through the flaming sword. Ephesians 6:17 talks about "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The fact that it is flaming indicates the working of the Holy Spirit, the anointing and the unction. The sword itself is the Word, teaching us that man's access to Jesus Christ and life comes through the Word and the Spirit, or the flaming sword .

In Genesis 3:24 we are introduced to a creature that was not previously mentioned in the Scriptures. People have any false conceptions concerning what verse 24 denotes as cherubims. Some say they are angelic beings, and others say they are a rank or an order of angels.

Webster's New World Dictionary tells you that a *cherub* is "any one of the second order of angels, usually ranked just below the seraphims." Do the Scriptures teach such a thing? Where does the Bible teach ranks and classes of angels? The truth of the matter is that the Scriptures teach neither.

[continued on page 26]

3 John 1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou

bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth

them out of the church.

11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

Are You a Gaius
or a Diotrefes?



Brother Roger L. Decker

Honor Shall Uphold the Humble in Spirit

Third John and Philemon are the only two epistles written as personal letters in the New Testament, but they are precious. They portray the early Christian correspondence. Although John mentioned three men in this letter, we want to look especially at two of them. Most scholars ascribe the term *elder* to John. It says, "The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius,

whom I love in the truth." There are reasons for this. John used the same language throughout all three epistles, and the term *elder* would be a fitting name for John writing in his elder years. Also, the epistle is similar to the language used in the Gospel of Saint John.

The one receiving the letter was Gaius, who, no doubt, was a dear friend of John's. Gaius' name was derived from a Latin word, which means "I am glad; rejoice."

The elder John said he loved his brother in the truth, and he called him "beloved" three times: in verses 2, 5, and 11. John's love for him was genuine and in accordance with God's Word.

Commentators vary a little concerning when this epistle was written, but some place the writing of the epistle in Ephesus around A. D. 95. Ephesus was the place where John abode in his later years. In this epistle much praise was given to Gaius. Paul

praised him for his reputation, for walking in truth, for his faithfulness, and for his hospitality. John prayed that Gaius would prosper spiritually as well as physically. Gaius was a real asset to the church.

John also had something to write about Diotrephes. The name *Diotrephes* means "love nourished (*nourished* means 'pampered') by a pagan god Zeus." The Word of God says he wanted the preeminence, which means he was fond of being first. It also means "ambition of distinction." Diotrephes was one who wanted to be recognized by others. There is only One who ought to have the preeminence, and that is Christ.

The Bible says very clearly in Colossians 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." A love of the sin of wanting the preeminence led Diotrephes into other sins. This sin is terrible and contrary to the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the will of God.

Romans 12:10 tells us, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." That is the opposite of wanting the preeminence. Romans 12:3 states, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." These Scriptures are an open rebuke to the spirit of wanting the preeminence.

Jesus, speaking in Luke, Chapter 18, talked about two men who went in the temple to pray. One prayed, and his prayer did nothing but exalt himself. The other man prayed in humility, exalting God. Jesus let us know that how you approach God makes a difference. Luke 18:14 says, "I tell you, this man went down to his house

justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Humility is the opposite of wanting the preeminence, or wanting to be number one.

Solomon said it this way in Proverbs 16:19: "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." He said in Proverbs 29:23, "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit." These Scriptures are the complete opposite of one who wants the preeminence.

Except You Become as Little Children

Matthew 18:1-4 reads: "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Notice how Jesus answered the mother of James and John in Matthew 20:20-28: "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand,

and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

"And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

First, Second, and Third John were written during an apostasy, or a falling away. What is one sign of an apostasy? The lack of love for one's brother. "We know we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). During this time of apostasy, according to Jude, men crept in unawares, exalting themselves in congregations. Major problems always arise where individuals exalt themselves in a congregation. If you have been delivered from sin, one thing that will help you to avoid this is to remember what you were before Christ saved you. Remember, if it were not for Christ, you would be in the pit of sin.

God Visits the Sin of Rebellion

In Numbers, Chapter 12, you can read that Aaron and Miriam spoke out against Moses, and Miriam became leprous. The congregation was at a standstill for a week. Moses, concerned over his sister, did his best to intercede for her, but to no avail. God hates the sin of wanting the preeminence. God does such a great work on people when He saves them, but sometimes after they have been saved awhile, they forget what

rascals they really were. When Aaron and Miriam spoke out against Moses, their own brother, God did not wait for that to spread through the congregation. He paid them a visit. Although Moses pleaded with God to heal his sister, the Lord said no. Therefore, the congregation stood still and did not move until God said it was time. God can still handle His church just as He handled congregations in the Old Testament.

David would not touch the anointed of God even though his life was in jeopardy. He behaved himself wisely. He would not lay a hand upon Saul, though Saul was after his life. He knew that he dare not touch God's anointed. Saul was once little in his own eyes, but he got away from God and became rebellious and stubborn. Even in that condition, David would not lay a hand upon him.

Friend, you are very unwise to lay your hand upon God's anointed. That is one of the most foolish things you can do. Oh, you may not drop over dead, but God will visit that sin. We read in Psalm 105:15, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

First Samuel 24:1-13 reads: "And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

"And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good

unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him [he felt condemned and chastised], because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

"David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. [Why? In reverence to the king. This was a far cry from people's attitude today. He bowed himself in reverence to a man who was after his own life.] And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed. [David's men urged him to take advantage of the opportunity and kill Saul, but David refused to do it.]

"Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not

be upon thee."

David let Saul know that the opportunity to slay him was there and that his men even urged him to do so, but David said he would not do it. He said, "I will not put forth my hand against my lord: for he is the LORD'S anointed." Saul was out to destroy David; still David refused to put forth his hand against him. Why? David knew that God would take care of Saul, and He did.

Loving to Have the Preeminence

Do you want to know why people move against others today? They do not have power with God or the faith to let God take care of it. Therefore, they make moves to gain carnal support, because they dare not pray against them. The Scripture still says in Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." What was the writer saying? The Lord will take care of situations; He will mete out vengeance. Just serve Him. Do not judge your brothers or your sisters; leave them with God. This is "Thus saith the Lord."

Some people overstep these Scriptures and think nothing of it. Why? Because God did not strike them dead; nothing has happened to them. Everything may look as if things are going great, but it is not over yet. Vengeance belongs in the hand of the Lord.

John said that Diotrefes loved to have the preeminence. He loved to be in the forefront, outshining everyone else. He loved men's applause; he had a competitive spirit: "Let me do it. After all, they would rather hear me. Those other brethren can preach, but number one can really preach." Diotrefes loved to be noticed.

Whenever you get a competitive spirit, you have lost the Spirit

of God. I would rather listen to someone sing in the Spirit who can hardly carry a tune than someone who has the attitude, "Let me up there. I can sing. You have heard enough of these other people. Just wait until I go out there; the people love it!" When you are fleshly instead of Spirit led, you may make a few bad mistakes. God may allow that just to knock some of the hot air out of you. In your playing an instrument, in your preaching, in your teaching, or in your singing, you should not think you are the greatest. You ought to give the glory and the praise to God. If God can use you, praise God. You should not praise this one or that one. I repeat, when you get the spirit of competition, then you lose the Spirit of God.

If you have a good voice and desire to sing, you should never get up to sing just to entertain. You should only sing to please the Lord. Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. I would rather not preach at all than to get up and try to preach in my own flesh. Why? The flesh does not profit a thing.

Filled With Pride

Diotrephes wanted the preeminence, but there were other things wrong with him too. What else went along with that spirit? He got so puffed up and filled with pride that he rejected the Apostle John; he was swelled up in his head. He was not even hospitable to the Apostles; he did not reach out at all to them.

Third John 9 states, "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes [no doubt, he had a position in that congregation], who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not." Diotrephes was not going to receive anything that John had to say. That spirit is very bold. He would not even allow John's letter to go through. John said the rea-

son was that "he loveth to have the preeminence." He would not submit to God-ordained authority. There is designated authority given in the Kingdom of God. As Creator, God is supreme and has all authority. We read in John 13:3, "Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God." All things are in His hands, and He is in control. We read in Matthew 28:18, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." The Father delegated authority to His Son, and Jesus delegated authority to His Apostles.

Matthew 10:1 states, "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Jesus, speaking to His disciples, said in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Jesus delegated authority through the office of the Holy Spirit.

Notice what John said about Diotrephes in 3 John 10: "Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." In other words, if anyone showed hospitality toward John, Diotrephes blasted them and cast them out.

Slandering Talk

Diotrephes loved the preeminence, and he also had the sin of prating laid to his charge. What

does "prating" mean? It means "gossiping, babbling, and trifling." Diotrephes was a gossip and spoke malicious (or hurtful) words about John. He slandered John. Malicious means "vicious, with malice."

I have never seen such a day when people use such malicious, fierce words, calling people liars, thieves, and backsliders. If you are guilty of letting such words fly out your mouth, you are a Diotrephes. When people get crossways, they often speak hurtful, vicious words; that is the wrong spirit. Some could care less what flies out their mouths. Like Diotrephes, they love the preeminence.

Diotrephes would not receive John or the brethren, and he was not hospitable. In those days they kept the brethren in their homes and took care of them. However, if someone did, Diotrephes verbally attacked them. Gaius might have been one who received such an attack, because John had good things to say about him.

Diotrephes was a real troublemaker in the congregation. He continually spoke evil against the ministry and those who received the ministry. He ran them down and put them out. He had self-claimed authority. God was not in that at all. Diotrephes was an evil man, and John named him out in a personal letter to Gaius. John encouraged Gaius and let him know the good things he had done and how he really appreciated him. He also let him know that he was going to deal with Diotrephes when he came. That spirit so had hold of Diotrephes that he withstood John, one of the last of the twelve Apostles. Brother, sister, that spirit is bold and strong, and you should not fool around with it. You should avoid it. Why? Because the next thing you know, you will start running your mouth, putting out malicious words, or prating, as the Scripture says.

No doubt, Diotrephes just drove a spear right through John's heart with his prating. It so troubled John that he wrote to Gaius about it and encouraged him. Diotrephes attacked John and went after him with false charges. Running John down was not enough. Diotrephes brought false charges against him. Why? People would not listen to slanderous talk against John, so he had to sound convincing.

Again, the name Diotrephes means "love nourished (or pampered) by a pagan god Zeus." He had the spirit of paganism and of wanting the preeminence. Just as the Caesars and the emperor Nero wanted the preeminence, so did Diotrephes. Diotrephes did not want John to receive any attention in that congregation. That is the reason he stood against him. No doubt, he held a position in that congregation, but he had self-claimed authority.

Are you a Gaius or a Diotrephes? Which of the two is a pattern for your life? Gaius had a good name among the church, but Diotrephes was named out by the great Apostle John. Diotrephes had to have been in bad shape for John to have named him out in a personal letter to Gaius.

John also mentioned another man, Demetrius, in his letter. He wrote in verse 12, "Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself." As John wrote that letter, no doubt he would liked to have given praise to everyone, but Diotrephes' words were affecting other people. Diotrephes stood against a man who was called of Jesus Christ Himself. That is how strong that spirit can get to cause you to verbally lay someone out. Demetrius had a good report. No doubt, John would have loved to have said good things even about Diotrephes, but he could not because he had an evil spirit. As God looks down upon your heart, are you a Gaius or a Diotrephes?

(Cassette C-4200E)

**Nothing lies beyond the reach
of prayer except that which
lies beyond the will of God.**



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Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.



The Destructive Work of a Little Folly

Brother Allen Polston

Has Your Vision Become Clouded?

God views things as they really are. Often I have taken consolation in that fact. When the devil brings accusations, it is comforting to know that God has the true record and views it as it is. In this Scripture text God has given a comparison through the wisest man who ever lived. We want to study and help you to see things as God sees them.

We are living in a time when there is a real danger of letting this old world influence us in a negative way and cause our vision to become clouded. God has given us His precious Word so that we can get a vision of ourselves and of what He wants us to be. When we see ourselves in the mirror of His Word, we can see what we need to do. I am thankful that God had mercy and showed my true condition to me one day. He showed me that I was a sinner on

my way to a lost eternity. Also, He let me know that if I did not repent, I was going to be lost forever; then He gave me the grace to do something about it. He is just the same today. God still gives us the grace to do whatsoever He bids us to do.

Sin has become exceedingly sinful, and because sin is all around us, it can affect our spiritual vision. The Bible tells us in 2 Peter 2:8 that a man named Lot became vexed by the things he saw and heard among unrighteous people. This lets us know that if it happened to Lot, it can happen to us if we are not careful. Everything that was going on in Lot's day is happening today. Our souls can become vexed by the things we see and hear. We are living in a lukewarm age. Revelation 3:18 says, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of

thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

Our Scripture text can help you to see the destructive work that a little folly can do. Not many who claim to be children of God would consider going to a barroom. Also, most Christians would be quick to stand against adultery, fornication, drunkenness, cheating, and lying. Yet, some allow little things to affect them. Therefore, God wants us to know that a little folly is unacceptable in His eyes. His view of a little folly is not a pleasant picture. You may be convinced not to go against the standard but fail to put your whole heart into His service and merely go through a religious form. God wants you to stand firm and to be true on every line.

Being a Vessel Unto Honor

In our Scripture text Solomon mentioned "him that is in reputa-

tion for wisdom and honour." The people of God are the ones who are in reputation for wisdom and honor. I am not talking about what the world thinks, but about what God terms a wise and honorable man. Sometimes we see a billboard that says, "Wise men still follow Him," referring to when the wise men came from the East and followed the star to Bethlehem when Jesus was born. If you have a determination down deep in your heart to live for God until He calls you home, you are a wise individual. Wise young people decide to follow God and stand by that decision despite peer pressure.

Job went through many trials. In Job 28:28 he said, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom." James 3:13 asks the question, "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

Verse 17 says, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." God is looking down upon His followers, the Church of the Living God, as a wise people. In the eyes of the world, to be wise you have to be one of them, but that is not so in the sight of God. Do not let anyone fool you. If you are serving God, do not let anyone change your mind or cause you to alter your course.

One song says, "Walk on in faith." The devil is doing all he can to try to destroy your faith and cause you to no longer trust in God for your salvation. I want to encourage you not to let anyone or anything steal your faith. You need to walk in faith and believe in Christ, and then you will be a wise individual.

Along with being wise in the sight of God, honor is bestowed upon those who have chosen to

serve Him with all their hearts. That is an honorable position to be in. In 2 Timothy 2:21 Paul wrote to young Timothy, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." Paul talked about a vessel unto honor. If a person purges himself from the things of the world, sin, and ungodliness, he becomes an honorable vessel filled with wisdom.

Examine Your Heart

Now, I said all of that to help you to understand something about our Scripture text in Ecclesiastes 10:1. Solomon was dealing with a comparison. In the second part of this comparison in Ecclesiastes 10:1 he said "so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor." Solomon was talking about when a child of God allows a little folly in his life. It is a serious matter when a saint of God begins to allow a little something that is not right in his life. A little folly, or a little sin, is not something that can be swept under the rug because you think it is insignificant. In the sight of God, it must be dealt with or it will result in a destructive work.

The comparison that Solomon used is not pleasant to consider, but you need to consider it because it will help you to understand what it is like for a little folly to be present in the life of one who claims to be a Christian. I want to clarify that so the devil does not falsely accuse anyone. He was not speaking of having a good time with people. The saints of God can have good, clean fun. To have a little folly is to play the role of the fool in a small way. Psalm 53:1 says, "The fool bath said in his heart, There is no God." You can know what a person is saying in his heart by his actions. When a person says in his heart there is no God, it will show by

the way he lives—by the things he does, by the things he becomes involved in, by the way he dresses and talks, and by the places he goes. What is down in the heart will come out. When you really believe that God is looking down upon your heart and life this very moment, it will alter the way you live today.

You need to be careful that you do not start thinking, "God looks on the heart, so it doesn't matter what I do." That kind of thinking will cause you to let down on things you once upheld. If you really believe something down in your heart, it will show on the outside. If you begin to lose your desire to do what the Word of God tells you to do, you need to examine your heart. You should ask God to search your heart and show you what is wrong. The devil will try to convince you that a little folly is acceptable because you are still attending the church services and reading your Bible. If you have a little folly in your life, it needs to be dealt with, because even a little folly is unacceptable to God.

The world around you can vex you, especially since morality is the lowest it has ever been. The devil will try to convince you that little things do not really matter anymore. On the contrary, in the sight of God, a little folly is a terrible thing; it is destructive and damaging to your soul.

Consecrate Your Heart to God

Again, our Scripture text states, "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor." Solomon was comparing the ointment of the apothecary to the child of God. To understand this fully, you need to know the purpose of that ointment. Exodus 30:25-29 says: "And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment

compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil. And thou shalt anoint the tabernacle of the congregation therewith, and the ark of the testimony, And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy."

The ointment of the apothecary was intended to take something that was common and make it holy. The tabernacle, the cloth, and the other common vessels became holy when the priest anointed them with that special ointment.

Solomon compared that ointment to one who is in reputation for wisdom and honor. What does that tell you? As saints of God, we each have a purpose in this life. We are to take that which is common and bring it in and make it holy. Our responsibility is to bring in the sinful and the ungodly so they can become holy. We do this by living the life before them, by spreading the Gospel, and by sharing the love of God that is working in our hearts. We need to influence others so that it compels those people who are drunkards, murderers, thieves, adulterers, and fornicators to become holy.

God did not create us to live in sin or to go to hell. He created us to serve Him. Salvation brings a new reason to live and a new determination to the soul of man. Without Christ all you had to live for was to try to accomplish some fleshly task, but when you get saved and start living for God, it brings new meaning to life.

Every day should be spent for Jesus. You should live so that you influence those who are sinful to become Christians. That is your purpose in this lie. God is calling for young people, middle-aged people, and older people to conse-

crate their hearts to Him. He wants you to say, "Lord, here am I; send me. Give me a work to do."

The anointing ointment of the apothecary was used in the Old Testament tabernacle to make holy that which was unholy. There were other uses, but that was one use. I want you to see what He had to say about the ointment when dead flies got in it. The Scripture says the dead flies caused the ointment to send forth a stinking savor. God wants you to realize that a little folly will cause your life to be unpleasant rather than being the drawing power that God wants you to be. Your life will no longer attract others to Christ.

God wants His people to be sweet so that others will be drawn to Christ. They may be in the depths of sin, yet when they behold such a sweet spirit and such a godly representation, it will begin to draw them to Christ. They will want to know how they can live in such a way.

When I was living in sin, I drank liquor and did other ungodly things, and I was unhappy. I got to the place where I was miserable. Down deep in my heart, I was crying out for something. I wanted what the saints had. God was drawing me, saying, "You can have something better." I did not have to choose to serve God, but thank God I did. I found what I had been looking for so long.

Saint, God wants you to be a drawing power for this lost and dying world. He wants you to live the kind of life that your neighbors can look upon and be drawn to a place of salvation. That requires you to have the sweetness of God in your soul.

If the flies were allowed to land upon the ointment of the apothecary and die, the result of that would be a stinking savor, or an unpleasant aroma. No one wants to stay around something unpleasant. That is what Solomon was saying about the apothecary

ointment when it sent forth a stinking savor. The same is true of the Christian who allows a little folly to come into his life.

God wants you to understand that just a little wrongdoing, just a little sidestepping of His Word, sends forth a stinking savor. The devil would like for you to get involved in just a little wrongdoing. Young person, the devil will come at you with statements such as, "Mom and Dad have taught against this, but just a little won't hurt." The Bible has something to say about that. Also, you will not be a productive Christian and win souls.

Power to Overcome Temptation

I want to mention another point concerning this Scripture. Solomon used the example of dead flies to relate the awfulness of just a little folly. Dead flies in the apothecary ointment caused an unpleasant aroma. That is the comparison he gave of those who partake of a little folly. Now, I want you to realize that those flies did not have to end up there. They were not created to be there, and that ointment was not created to attract flies. Likewise, the purpose of the Christian is not to be engaged in folly.

Had something been done about those flies before they had gotten in the ointment, they would not have caused the damage. Folly is not something that you have to allow. You do not wake up one morning and suddenly realize that wrongdoing has overtaken you because you did not have any choice in the matter. The devil works on a saint like a fly. He buzzes around a little here and there, and whispers, "Go ahead and do it; it's not that bad. It won't hurt anything." Then he may not bother you for a while. A while later he will come around again and say, "You know you would like to do that. It really won't hurt anything. Look,

So-and-So is doing it." He will keep coming at you and, finally, if you are not careful, you will give in to that temptation and folly will begin to work in your life. Then rather than having a drawing power and being a sweet, soul-saving station for God, your life will become something that others do not want anything to do with. It will send forth an unpleasant aroma.

Child of God, you do not have to give in to folly. God has given you power to overcome temptation. In His Word, Jesus told the disciples before He left them (in the Book of Acts) that they would receive power from on high to be witnesses for Him. The same power that enables you to be a witness can enable you to say no to the devil. You can have the power you need to keep you from becoming engaged in sin.

If I had to come up with this power on my own, I could never live this Christian life, but thank God, He gives me power! I never understood it until God saved me. He gave me power to lay down those things to which I used to hold tightly. I began to throw out the ungodly habits and bring in new things through the power of the Spirit of God working in my life.

When the devil begins to work on you, God wants you to stand against him with the power He has given you. Do not give in to what the devil is trying to do. Jesus is our example, and He used the Word of God when the devil tempted Him. He destroyed what the devil was trying to do in the beginning. He did not discuss it with him. The devil is a good talker, but he does not tell the truth. When he combines these two factors, he could convince you that what he is saying is true if you start discussing things with him; so you must stand against him. As soon as you recognize that sinful temptation, you need to rebuke it.

The devil can make things look good to you. You have to destroy what he is trying to do in the very beginning. The dead flies in the apothecary ointment should have been done away with so they could not have done a destructive work.

Turn From the Path of Destruction

God wants you to put all folly out of your life, no matter how little it may be. Even a little folly will cause an unpleasant aroma to come forth from your life. A little folly can relax your defense and eventually make way for more folly. Sin will take you further than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay. Young person, the little folly that you may be getting involved with now will take you much further than you ever intend to go, and it will cost you so much more than you want to pay. It may be something that you think does not seem to hurt much. The devil might even put the question in your mind, "If I did this little thing, how is that going to hurt me as a Christian?" Friend, if God, is against it, you can believe that it will do a destructive work in your life if you take hold of it. Just a little folly will cause you to start the downward descent toward a lost eternity, never to return, unless God has abundant mercy upon you.

When people allow just a little compromise, inevitably they will compromise more down the road. I have seen individuals let down on little things that seemed insignificant, and then, little by little, they became just like the world. Now, there is nothing godly about them at all. They have brought things into the home that they once stood against, and they dress and adorn themselves in ways they used to stand against. Just a little folly became a very destruc-

tive work. It will only be the abundant mercy of God that they ever recover from their apostate condition.

Saint, the devil would like to make you think that a little folly does not mean anything, but just a little folly will do a destructive work in your life if you do not do something about it right away. If the Lord has spoken to you about a little something in your life, the best thing you can do is go to God immediately and get it straightened out before it goes any further.

The devil can take a little folly in the life of a beautiful young person and make that person's life very unpleasant and miserable in just a few short years. Christian young person, you have a promising future of getting a good companion and a good job and being a real light in the community; but if you allow a little folly in your life, the devil will cause a destructive work. He will destroy your mind, your health, and your reputation.

Just a little folly will keep you out of Heaven. It does not have to be a bottle of whiskey or a marijuana joint; it can be smaller than that. If you have a little folly in your life, a little something that you know is not right, why don't you come to God and get it taken care of? He will abundantly pardon those who will humble themselves before Him. If you will repent and turn from it, God will forgive you and you can be in perfect harmony with Him. If you do not do anything about it, that is the same as asking for destruction to take place in your life. Do you have something in your life that you know God is displeased with? Do not allow it to lead you to destruction. Do not let it take you down that long, winding road filled with heartache. It leads to a lost eternity. Won't you ask God to help you?

(Cassette C-4195M)



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 mid-week 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

Forgiveness

In Matthew, Chapter 6, we find that Jesus gave to His disciples what is popularly called "The Lord's Prayer." Though this is only a very short prayer, it contains much along the line of doctrine and time. When Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples, He commented on only one verse in it. This prayer is complete in verses 9-13.

In verses 14-15 we find that Jesus gave a commentary on verse 12. Evidently, there is something in this verse which is of vital importance to the followers of Jesus Christ. This verse is dealing with the matter of forgiveness. It reads, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Jesus' comments on this verse read as follows: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (verses 14-15).

In the prayer, Jesus used the word debt, thus showing that it is something we owe. In the comment, Jesus used that same thought by using the word trespass to show that it was a transgression of some sort. No doubt everyone has had someone at some time trespass against him in some form, by doing them an injury or harm of some kind. Jesus was pointing out that, when this happens, the attitude we take toward the one who has done us wrong is extremely important.

It is a Christian act to forgive one another. This will not save a person by merely having a forgiving spirit toward one who has done him

wrong; but it will, according to our Scripture, remove a block out of our way so that God can forgive us when we come to Him for forgiveness.

We note in our Scripture that there are two ifs. One is the if of forgiveness; the other is the if of not forgiving.

There are two kinds of trespasses. One may be called unintentional trespasses; the other, intentional trespasses. There are people who infringe on our rights and privileges without any willful intention to do so. For this reason we should always put the best possible construction on the intention of any person who appears to intend to trespass against us; for he may be innocent of any intention to harm us. This is a prime reason why we should forgive men their trespasses.

Then there are intentional trespasses. These are, unfortunately, people who do intend to do us harm. This, of course, is very grievous to the one harmed; and yet the precept to forgive seems to be especially concerning intentional trespassing.

A great reward awaits one who has a forgiving spirit toward his fellowman. God will forgive such a one. If God is willing to forgive us our great transgressions so willingly, why should we hesitate to forgive our fellowman of his trivial indignities? Every one of us has trespassed against God in such major ways, surely we can forgive others. This is a way of saying that we will reap what we sow. Sometimes we hear people make the remark, "I will for-

give if he will ask me to forgive him." The transgressor may never ask you to forgive him. He may never have the grace to do so, but the spirit of forgiveness may be exercised on the part of the injured one.

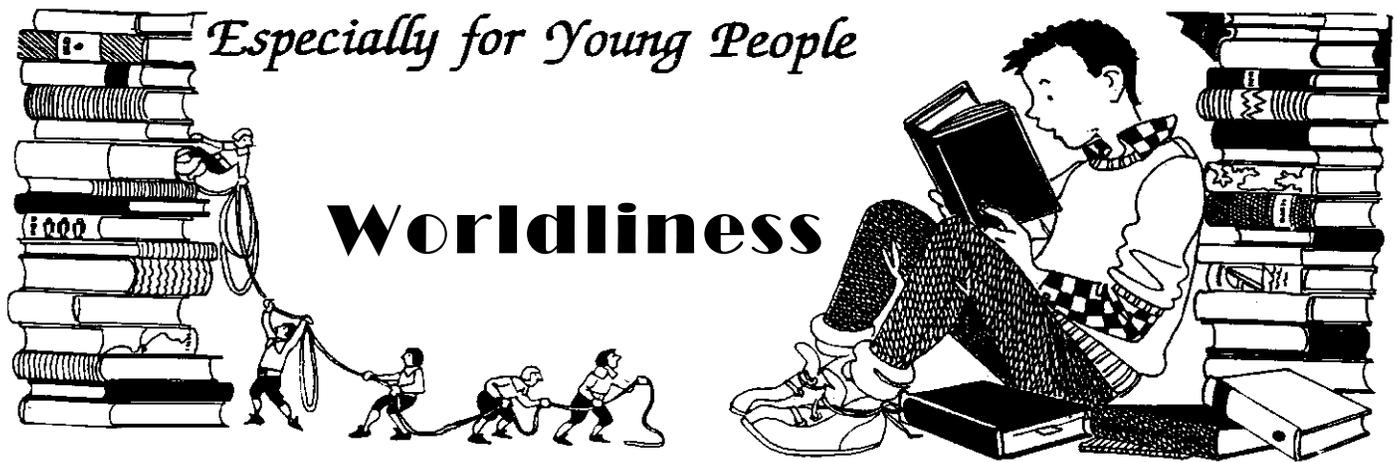
Jesus had many injustices done to Him. Did any come around to Jesus to ask forgiveness for their cruelty? No, not one! But what attitude did Jesus take toward them all? He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Undoubtedly, God exercises a forgiving spirit toward every sinner, only waiting for him to ask forgiveness to realize God's forgiving smile.

There are others who take the attitude, "I will forgive him if he makes things right." One should make amends for all wrongs, but it is not always possible to do so. Nor is it always possible to do so immediately. Where a trespass in money matters is involved, it may take a long time for a trespasser to make things right; in fact, he may die before he gets it all righted. So, forgiveness must be immediate, even if restitution is slow in its process.

Sometimes we hear a person say, "I will forgive, but I will never forget." This is often said in a bad spirit, intending to keep the trespasser under suspicion. It is true that we may not be able entirely to forget their actions, but we do not need to remember them against the trespasser. David said in Psalms 79:8, "O remember not against us former iniquities."

Selected

People fear
others so much
because they fear
God so little.



Especially for Young People

Worldliness

Spirituality is going with the wind of worldliness. Most of the trouble in this world can be attributed to the sin of worldliness among so-called people of God.

Worldliness is enmity toward God, and spiritual adultery (James 4:4). It is disobedience (1 John 2:15). Christians are called to separation (2 Corinthians 6:17). They are to be *insulated* but not *isolated*; in the world but not of the world.

Worldliness is deadening and retards Christian growth and effectual services for Him. When Lazarus was called forth out of the tomb, he was wrapped in grave clothes. He may just as well have been in the tomb, as far as service is concerned. Many Christians have been raised out of death into life, but like Lazarus of old, they are bound with the grave clothes of worldliness and carnality. The Lord said, "Loose him and let him go." There can be no going forth for God until God's people have been loosened.

Worldliness in the Home

When one of the widows of the prophets came to Elisha, saying, "Thy servant, my husband, is dead, and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord; and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bond men," Elisha said unto her, "What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house?" What could you say in answer to this ques-

tion? Some professing Christians have a radio blaring away nonsense, and sometimes filthy, suggestive sayings, or a magazine rack filled with sensual literature, a pack of devil's cards, a lot of worldly conversation, or some disobedient and worldly children. God takes inventory, not according to the fine furniture, but according to the behavior of those who profess to know Him.

This preacher's widow was in dire poverty. She had a little oil, and oil throughout the Scriptures is a type of the Holy Spirit. Many homes today are like the foolish virgins; there is a profession, a name to live, but they are dead—no life, no oil.

Elisha, said unto this woman, "Shut the door on thyself." Today, God is saying to those who know Him, "Shut the door on thyself; set up a standard against worldliness and its deadening influences." Elisha also said, "Shut the door on thy sons." Some parents expect their children to be separated from the world and to grow up reverencing the things of God when they themselves allow worldliness in their own lives.

When Noah entered the ark, the door was shut behind his entire family. The great need today is for separated, consecrated, and dedicated families.

After this, Elisha said, "Pour out the oil"; in other words, consecrate your means to God. We may not have much, like this widow,

but God can do much with little if it is consecrated to Him. He used the little maid's testimony for Naaman's cleansing. He used the little lad's lunch to feed the multitude in the wilderness. He used a little child to teach a lesson; He used the little gift of the widow's mites as an example.

Are you willing to pour out of that which you have—your means, your time, your talent, and yes, your sons and daughters—for the services of the Lord? Some Christian parents are fundamental, believe the Bible from cover to cover, and are separated from the things of the world—except in worldly ambitions for their children. They covet for them just exactly what unsaved parent desire for their children. They would like to have their children it business or professions such as doctors or lawyers, and to marry into prominent families; yet they have no thought in mind of giving their children for the services of the King.

A minister's wife, who is now a very spiritual and consecrated child of God, said to an evangelist some time ago, "If my ambition for my children in the past had been spiritual instead of secular, would not have the heartache today that I have because of them one sings in night clubs and the other is in business, and it seems as if they have lost their faith in God. If I had only known, I would have planned their lives for the services of God."

Worldliness in the Pew

Many well-planned, scriptural, spiritual sermons are killed before the service is closed by the worldliness and carnality of the members. Their prayerless lives, back-biting, and fault-finding grieves the Holy Spirit, resulting in the lack of conviction for the unsaved hearers, the lack of blessing for the children of God, and robs the preacher of liberty in the message.

Many church members are like the farmer's well. It had only two faults. It froze up in the winter and dried up in the summer. The church should be a spiritual maternity ward. The new birth can only be brought about through a spiritual, warm atmosphere, and the travail of the Christians. To hatch eggs we place them under the warm wings of the hen, or in an even-temperature incubator. We plant seed in the hot house. The Word of God, in order to germinate, must have the right atmosphere. The Christians in the pew, by their warm hearts and prayerful attitudes, can create the right conditions for the incorruptible Word of God (1 Peter 1:23).

The great need today is a revival that will convert the wrecking crew of some churches to a construction gang, like those who labored with Nehemiah in building the walls of Jerusalem.

Worldliness in the Pulpit

Water cannot rise higher than its source. It will not do for the preacher to say, "Live as I preach and not as I live." Like the people in the pew, the preacher live a separated life so that the Holy Spirit may speak through him. The pew sometimes may ask for mixing preachers, but God still is using separators (2 Corinthians 6:17). While speaking to a man about his soul, he said to an evangelist, "You should know our preacher. He is a regular fellow,

just like one of us." By that he meant that his pastor, like himself, smoked, went to the movies, and was worldlyminded. God deliver our pulpits from such "regular fellows," and give us righteous preachers like Noah, praying preachers like Elijah, bold preachers like Peter, and fearless preachers like John the Baptist—men who, through their consecration, have power from God and power with men.

We need stirred preachers like Paul, Holy Ghost preachers like Stephen, heart preachers—God says, "Give me thine heart," (Proverbs 23:26). People today are saying, "Give me thine heart." We need to reach men's hearts. This cold, lifeless, powerless preaching will not do. Henry Ward Beecher said, "The business of a preacher is not just to make sermons and preach them, but to save men."

"Your only business," said John Wesley to a group of preachers, "is to save souls." Hopacher, the powerful German preacher, used to say, "I have only one sermon. It is 'Come to Jesus.' It is the only sermon I have, but brothers, it draws hearts."

Souls are going to hell. This is no time for flowery sermons. Every message should be a fire alarm to awaken people out of their lethargy. Like the sirens that send the people scurrying for bomb shelters, the message should send people seeking for the shelter of the ark of safety. Sermons that do not alarm the sinner are dead.

When Peter preached at Pentecost, they were pricked in their heart (Acts 2:37). When Stephen preached, they were cut to their heart (Acts 7:54). When John the Baptist preached, people from all walks of life said, "What must we do?" The Philippian jailer said, "What must I do to be saved?"

Some ministers say that revivals are a thing of the past. However, souls are not being born in their churches, and their lives are not fruitful of spiritual results.

They might as well confess their spiritual sterility. They give no place to revivals, notwithstanding the large place given to revivals by the great Head of the church.

I believe that these ministers are as sincere in their opposition to revivals as was Lyman Beecher, who on hearing that Finney was planning to go to New England, challenged him not to put his foot on New England soil else he would meet him at the border with all the gunnery possible; but Finney went. Lyman Beecher surrendered and became one of the stalwarts of the revival. More evangelism is the best answer to all opposition. The revival must be revived. Evangelism must be evangelized. The history of salvation is the history of revivals.

Charles G. Finney swept a million souls into the kingdom, 85 percent of whom never backslid and fifty years after their conversion were as charged with spiritual power as they were the hour they arose from the altar.

Of Dwight L. Moody it may be said that few men have been more used of God, and many years after his death nations vie with each other in honoring his name. R. A. Torrey, whose invitation to sinners God honored, had crowded altars in nine nations of the earth. "Billy" Sunday was used of God in the conversion of a million souls.

The church has largely abandoned its policy of evangelism. It seems concerned with everything but the saving of lost souls. It sponsors plays, movie pictures, bazaars, rummage sales, and dinners. It is desperately concerned with ways and means of raising money, forgetting that the command, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in thine house," carries with it the attendant promise, "Prove me now herewith, said the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"

(Malachi 3:10).

In Luke, Chapter 15, we find that a man is interested in the sheep, a woman is interested in the coin, but who is interested in the lost son?

When Charles Lindbergh's son was lost, no money, time, or effort was spared in the search. When seven year old Bruce Crozier of Winslow, Arizona, was lost, business was suspended, work was stopped, and thousands searched

for the missing lad. It cost the state department four thousand dollars alone for feeding the posse while searching for him.

When Amelia Earhart was lost somewhere in the vast Pacific Ocean, Uncle Sam did not spare ships or money in searching for her. When a vessel is lost at sea, every ship within miles dashes to its rescue. But how few are interested in those who are lost spiritually!

*Millions now in sin and
shame are dying;
Listen to their sad and bitter
cry;
Hasten, brother, hasten to the
rescue;
Quickly answer, "Master,
here am I."*

Selected

You can't "wait on the
Lord" and run with the
devil at the same time.

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!

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.



OUR GREAT NEED

Brother Daniel Webster

Our Dependency Must Be on Him

Our greatest need is God. We need Him more than anything else in the entire world. When I first realized that, it blessed my soul in a wonderful way. I went to God when I finally came to myself one day and realized, "I need God." I was about twenty-four years old at the time and thought I was doing a good job of running my life. Finally, I came to the place where I realized that I had made a total wreck of it.

We need God more today than we have ever needed Him. We must depend on Him, rest on Him, and count on Him to help us. It is not through feelings, but through simple faith that God will help us in the time of need. The word *need* means, "an obligation." It also means, "a lack of something requisite, desirable, or

useful." Another meaning is, "a condition requiring supply or relief or poverty." God's Word likens Christians to sheep, and sheep need a leader. Without a leader they will wander about and eventually perish. We need God more than anything else to direct and guide us in every decision we make in life. The Bible tells us we need Him for our breath.

The definitions of the verb form of *need* mean, "to be in want of something; to have a cause or an occasion for; to require." We are in great need of God. He is the great supplier and life giver, yet many turn Him down and refuse Him. In a sense people are spitting in His face, saying, "I can get along without You." Through the Word of God we can find the instructions we need.

The verb form of the word *need* also means, "to be under an obliga-

tion or a necessity, such as, *We need to know the truth.*" If you were to ask many people, "What do you need?" they would have a long list of things. Some young people may say, "I need a boyfriend" or "I need a girlfriend." Others may say, "I just need to get out of school. Once I get out of high school [or college], everything will be great" or "I need to get away from my parents and be on my own, and then everything will be all right" or "I need a different job." The sad thing is, these are all temporal. In the light of eternity, they are not the most important things that people need to consider.

We are living in an age when people feel that they have need of nothing, spiritually speaking. Revelation 3:17 says, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;

and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." You may think you do not need anything, but in reality, you are in *great* need.

Get Your Heart Fixed on Spiritual Things

Jesus warned people, from the very beginning of His ministry, to get their hearts and minds off this world and the cares of life and to get them fixed on spiritual things. He said in Matthew 6:25, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" Something much more important than the physical life is the soul. One song says, "His eye is on the sparrow." God knows what we really stand in need of today, and He can supply every need. He is not just a god that someone has stashed in a corner somewhere that is, as the Bible says, a "dumb idol." He is a living God, One who can meet every need. God can do all things.

Jesus said in verses 26-27: "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" No matter how hard you think about it, you cannot add to or take away from your stature. As saints of God, we are the happiest people in the world, because God cares for us. God certainly would not do anything to cause us harm. We might have to go through some grief now and then, but it is not for our hurt but for our betterment. God has a better plan and a better way. The earthly cares are not the needs that we should be primarily concerned about.

Jesus said in verses 31-33 of the same chapter: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Where-

withal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." He can meet every need in your life!

The sad thing is that today many portray God as one who hands you everything you want as soon as you ask Him. Friend, that is not the God of the Bible! He is not a god who just hands you everything, as one would a spoiled child. Many people are too wrapped up in the affairs of this world.

God Will Supply All Your Need

False prophets tell people, "If you live for God, He will make you a millionaire. Give Him five hundred dollars, and He will give you a thousand back." That is the story they tell people so they can really fleece them for everything they can get out of them.

Jesus spoke about a certain rich man in Luke 16:19-22: "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried."

This lets you know that to be a Christian does not necessarily mean that you are going to be wealthy or even have an abundance of anything in this world. This poor beggar went to Heaven, because Jesus said he was carried into Abraham's bosom. On the other hand, the rich man no doubt had a large, fancy funeral and was buried, but he opened his eyes in hell. Jesus was teaching that not everyone is going to have all the earthly goods he wants; but though

you are a beggar when it comes to earthly goods, you can be as the songwriter penned, "a happy millionaire," spiritually speaking. When I was first saved and my wife and I were trying to raise our first baby, we had hardly enough money to live on, yet I was happy in my soul. Now God has taken me from that position to where I successfully run my own business. However, if it were to fail tomorrow, I would still be happy. I have learned, as Paul learned, to be content in the good times and in the times of poverty, in sickness and in health, when things go well and when things do not go as well. Not everything will always go the way you want just because you are a Christian. You need to keep your heart fixed beyond the things of this earth if you intend to do the work that God would have you to do.

Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God will supply all your need. It does not say, "all your needs," but "all your need." Our greatest need is to have the Spirit of God living in us and the Word of God. How does He supply all of that? Through Christ Jesus. All the world's problems today could be fixed if every soul were saved. This world would become a paradise if every living soul in this world were truly saved and moved by the Holy Spirit. The Bible says God will supply all your need according to His riches in glory. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills; He owns everything. He made this world and everything in it. He made the universe, the stars, and everything that we can see from nothing. He just spoke them into existence. Since He can do that, surely He can take care of you and me. He will not forget you or leave you; He will take care of you.

Wait on the Lord

Too many times people think that God will just give them everything instantly, but God does not always work that way. Sometimes

you have to learn to wait on the Lord. At other times God may say you have to do something before you will receive this or that. Sometimes before Jesus healed people, He had to do a part before the person was healed. Occasionally Jesus spoke and people were healed instantly. Once He made mud and put it on a blind man's eyes, and he received his sight. Another time He told some lepers to go and tell the priests before the healings were done. Not always does God move instantly in our behalf.

If you are willing to wait on Him by faith, He promised that He would take care of all your need, no matter what comes your way. Sometimes the help that He sends you may be in the form of grace to endure that hard time. Oftentimes you may want to get out of the trial in a hurry, but God may see fit to leave you in that fiery trial for a while. Sometimes you might have to cry and weep and seek God in a greater way, but He will always be there in the shadows to comfort your soul and to cheer you. When God's grace moves in upon your soul, you will find yourself singing when you should not be. How can you do that? The Spirit of God will cheer your soul along. When your heart is filled with sorrow, God is right there to cheer you. You need Him more than anything else in this life.

Many people have their hearts fixed on their companions, but someday God may see fit for one of the two to leave this world first. Therefore, your heart needs to be fixed on God. He is the One you need more than your companion, your children, your job, or anything else in life.

Your hope cannot be in your pastor. You must have your hope and your trust in God. When the time comes for God to call your pastor home, He can raise up another man to fill his shoes. When Samuel went to anoint a man to replace Saul, man looked on and said, "Well, this brother ought to be the one," but God said no. Samuel

inquired of Jesse, "Do you have another son?"

"Yes, we have little David. He is out taking care of the sheep."

"Bring him in."

God said, "He is the one whom I have chosen." The point is that if man gets in the way, he will make the wrong decision every time. Let God have His way. At the right time, the revelation will come; so be encouraged.

God is the One on whom you must rely. You must rest in Him more than anything else. Psalm 37:7 says, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." Rest in the LORD and be patient. Sometimes you will become impatient and want God to hurry and do something, but the Psalmist said to "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." Often that is difficult to do. The Bible says you get patience through tribulation. Wait on the Lord and be patient, and God will bless you for it.

Psalm 37:11 says, "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." You cannot have that peace unless you rest in the Lord and patiently wait upon Him.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven.

Psalm 37:16 says, "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." Again, do not get your heart fixed on this earth. Having little of this world's goods does not have anything to do with how happy you can be. You can be happier than the richest man in this world if you have Jesus Christ in your life. He is the One who brings joy. He brings eternal riches and all the blessings into your life. He is the One who makes you happy.

Before I was saved, I sought many things to find happiness, and they all came to dead ends, one after the other; they always let me down.

Thank God, once I found Jesus, that was the end of my searching. I found what I was really looking for. I found the happiness that I thought I would never find.

Jesus said in Luke 12:25, "And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?" He was letting us know that we should not worry about things. God has everything under control. From time to time, it may not look that way to you, but He knows what is going on, and He knows just what we need. I am thankful for that.

You may ask, "Well, why is it so important that I should keep my eyes off this world and keep them fixed on Jesus?" One reason is that other people are looking upon your life, and if they see you worrying and fretting about things that you should be letting God take care of, what kind of witness is that to them? They need to see that you have confidence in God and that you believe that He will do what He has promised to do. Your responsibility is to let others, through your actions, see that your faith is fixed in Him. You can tell them all you want, but that will not convince them of anything until they see your faith in action. True faith is witnessed in your actions and in your confidence in the living God.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-25: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to

Abide in Christ

the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"

God has ordained that men in this world look on the Church of God. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." You cannot overlook a city set on a hill. Likewise, the Church of God cannot be hid.

When Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth," He was saying, "Do not get so wrapped up in earthly things." People are looking on and wanting to know, "What should I do with my life?" If you are showing the example of pursuing all these earthly things, then that is all they are going to pursue. When you show them a better way by pursuing heavenly things and letting God take care of all the earthly problems, then you are showing the world what God really intends them to see. You can have confidence in God that He will take care of you. If you show the world by your actions that God is in the background somewhere, then you are sending the wrong message to this lost and dying world. God wants you to seek Him first and cause others to hunger and thirst after the living God.

Seek the Lord With All Your Heart

David said in Psalm 42:1, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Men long for a satisfaction in their souls that is not found in earthly things, so we have to show them that there is a better way. We can do that by having confidence, faith, and trust in God.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit [the needy ones who realize how much they need God]: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." One cannot get saved if he

does not feel his need of God. In other words, you must realize "Without God I can't make it. I need Him." That is the only way you can enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Verse 6 says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Unless you want this experience and are willing to die out to self for it, you are not going to get it. You must be willing to lay aside many things to follow Jesus. If you are not, no matter what you profess, sooner or later, the little thing you are holding on to will take you down. I have seen people measure to everything except one little thing that they wanted to hold on to, and it was just a matter of time until they went down because they were not willing to completely die out to self and recognize that, "God, I need You more than this one little thing that I want to hold on to." You need to surrender all.

In 2 Chronicles, Chapter 15, when the people sought the Lord with all their hearts, God blessed them richly, and they lived in peace. Verses 12-15 read: "And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about." Psalm 27:4 states, "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple." Psalm 84:10 says, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

We need God, because He is our power. Paul wrote in Romans, Chapter 1, that it is the Gospel that gives us the power to live holy. You cannot separate God from His Word or the Word from God, and you cannot separate either of them from the Spirit of God; they are One. We need God, we need His Word, and we need His Gospel preached to us. Also, we need to read and study it so that we can gain all that He can give us from it.

Paul said in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Those who do not believe the Gospel cannot tap into this power. If you do not believe it, it cannot help you. For everyone who believes, it is the power of God unto salvation. I have found it so. There is no other God, no other salvation, and no other way to be saved except through Jesus Christ.

Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 45:5, "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me." There are lots of little gods that men make, but there is only one Creator, and that is the God we serve.

David wrote in Psalm 18:2, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." David was a warrior, so he knew all the things he needed for defense, for power, and for victory, and he listed them there. All the things that David mentioned are symbols of refuge, strength, power, and protection. In other words, David said, "He is everything I need as a warrior; He is my all in all." We are warriors in the Lord's army, and we need God. He is your defense and your strength. If He is not, you need to get hold of Him in a greater way. There is no other salvation. In Noah's day the

only ones who were saved were those who believed God; only eight souls believed God.

Young person, you need to make sure that you are not serving God just because your parents say so or because the preacher says so. You must serve God because He is God Almighty. He is the One before whom you must stand one day and give an account for your life.

In the Book of Exodus you can read about the plagues of Egypt and how only those who had the blood of the lamb on the doorposts were saved from the last plague. Anyone who did not observe the Passover lost their firstborn. This shows us that there is only salvation in God's way.

In the Book of Acts you can read that Paul told the people on board a ship during a storm that unless they would abide in the ship, they would perish (Acts 27:31). Though Paul was going through a hard time, God witnessed to him that He was going to take him through. Likewise, we each have to abide in Christ and trust in God.

When it comes time to leave this world, no matter how many earthly cares you have, they will not mean a thing to you. The only thing that will really be important then will be, "Do I have hold of God? Do I have confidence in God that He will take me across death's river?" If you do not have that confidence, then you need to get hold of God in a greater way.

If you are saved and you have not sinned, then you are God's child. The enemy will try to make you doubt, but you need to rebuke that. You need to stand on that no matter what kind of doubt the enemy wants to put in your way. If you are not saved, now is a good time to get saved. The Lord wants you to realize that you need Him more than anything else. It is God who gives you the breath of life. If God would not let you inhale one more time, that would be the end.

I pray that you will obey the Lord. If God has witnessed to you

that you need Him in a greater way, perhaps you have drifted a little, then you need to get hold of Him. Let God have His way. Look up to

God, where your help comes from. He is the One who can help you.

(Cassette C-4048M)

Light Ahead

I once heard a story of how Satan hunts for the souls of man. With the story was a picture of a man going down a long, dismal street. On his right shoulder sat an imp, apparently speaking into his ear. The street represented life. Just where the man was seemed the darkest spot in all the street, but far ahead of him light seemed springing up. However, it was not seen by him at the time, for he was looking down. Often if we would look up, we should discover that just where we are is the darkest spot, and ahead the light of hope beams brightly, inviting us on to triumph and victory. The story ran as follows:

Satan has many imps with which he hunts the souls of man. The most successful one of them he calls Discouragement. Once upon a time Satan saw a man passing down the way of life, and he said to his little imp, "Discouragement, catch him." Starting off with a bound, the imp soon overtook the man, and springing upon his shoulder, whispered in his ear, "You are discouraged."

"No," replied the man, "I do not think so."

"Yes," said the imp, "I tell you, you are discouraged."

Finally, the man said, "Yes, I am discouraged." The imp then went flying back to his master and said triumphantly, "I caught him."

Another man came along, and Satan again said to the imp, "Catch him." Leaping upon the second man's shoulder, he began as before by saying, "You are discouraged."

This man answered firmly, "No, I am not discouraged."

But the imp repeated, "Sir, you are discouraged."

This time the man answered, "I tell you positively, I am not discouraged." But again the imp said, "Surely you are discouraged." On this the man became vehement and said, "You are a liar; I am not discouraged." At this the imp left him, slowly returned to his master, and reluctantly said, "I couldn't get him. I told him twice that he was discouraged, and he answered me promptly, 'No!' I told him the third time that he was surely discouraged. At this he called me a liar and that discouraged me.

Firm resistance to the accusations, discouragements, and attacks of Satan will put him to flight. Instead of being discouraged, downcast, and despondent, we can be victors in the name of Christ. The instruments of Satan sent to cast down our souls will themselves give away under the pressure of firm resistance and faith in God. Dear reader, let me remind you that Jesus said of Satan, "He is a liar and the father of it." Though many traps are set along the way to ensnare the feet of men and many imps are sent out to hunt the souls of those who would do right, no power or imp of Satan can stand before the soul of the least of God's redeemed. All you must do is resist Satan steadfastly in the faith and trust firmly in the written Word of the Almighty, the power of the true and living God. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

D. O. Teasley

Luke 19:37 *And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;*

38 *Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

39 *And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him,*

Master, rebuke thy disciples.

40 *And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

41 *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,*

42 *Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*

43 *For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,*

44 *And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

This Thy Day



Brother Esau Brooks

Discover the Way of Gladness

There is joy in the service of the Master. It is not just a long-faced, doleful affair. If you are outside the fold of God, looking for pleasure, looking for real, wonderful joy, let Jesus come into your heart. If you think that you have to take drugs to feel a thrill, you are missing it. An advertisement for Coca-Cola says it is "The Real Thing," but it is far from it. Living for God is the real thing! Praise the Lord! I found it so not only throughout my younger days but also in these days. After the Lord saved me, Jesus was enough to satisfy my soul, and now, after many years, I am still glad to be saved! I would rather have Jesus than any wealth that is in this world. I thank God for the joy that I feel in my soul and for the assurance that it

is going to be better later. This is not, the best; the best is yet to come! It is so good to know that I am on my way to Heaven.

During the few years that I spent in sin, had someone told me there was something better, I would have argued with that person. However, after I found the Lord, I discovered the way of gladness. I can assure you, if you will turn your life over to God, you will not regret it. Someone may ask, "Don't you have troubles and sorrows?" No, I do not have them; I pass through them. The Scripture says, "It came to pass." No matter what trouble or trial you pass through, it is not going to stay; it is going to pass.

If you reject God, you are going to regret it. You need to settle this question between you and the Lord concerning sin. Sin is man's worst

enemy. For every little pleasure you get in sin, you have to pay immensely. People will tell you that they are having good times in sin, but there are no really good times in sin. You need to turn your life over to the Lord. Some people have merely a religious profession. They joined a church or shook a preacher's hand and they call that salvation, but that is not it, friend. When you get it, you will know it. It will change you from head to toe, make you a new creature, and make you contented and satisfied in doing the Lord's will. Some people say, "I don't know how you people can live that kind of life." Well, it is because we have One in us living it through us. Praise the Lord! Friend, if you never do anything else, please do not go to hell! The rich man went there, and he did not enjoy it; and if you were to go there,

you would not enjoy it either. It has not gotten any better. If anything, the suffering is more intense because the true light now shineth, and with that light comes the responsibility to walk in it.

"If Thou Hadst Known"

Our Scripture text is very solemnizing, thought provoking, and heart arresting. I can see a similarity between what I read about in these Scriptures and what is taking place today. While some rejoice, others bring tears to your eyes. On one side the disciples were rejoicing, praising, and glorifying God for the things they had seen. Yet, when Jesus beheld the city, He wept over it, saying, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

In this message I am going to deal with the thought of "This Thy Day." Friend, I want you to know beyond any doubt that this is your day. Down through the history of time, God has always had His day. When the Apostle Peter was writing his epistles, he assured the brethren of that day and us today that the day of the Lord shall come. It may not appear that way, for many times it seems that the devil has control; however, that is not so. Jesus is still King of kings and Lord of lords.

In our Scripture text the people portrayed were actually going through their day of opportunity. Their day of God's mercy was waiting to be poured out upon them. The sad thing about it was that they did not know it. The question that faces you is this: do you know that this is your day?

Jesus, with tears in His eyes, looked over Jerusalem nestled among the mountains. As He thought of the people's rebellion against Him and their opposition to His Word, the tears began to flow. The burden of His heart found expression in the language of these words: "If thou hadst known"

Since those people are gone, I think it is only fair to substitute us today. Friend, God is as concerned about you as He was about those people in Jerusalem in their day. "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things that belong unto thy peace!" Many people do not realize the danger in going along in a happy-go-lucky, careless, indifferent way, uninterested in the things of God. It is dangerous because, as our Scripture text states, these things may be hid from their eyes. Sinner friend, could that be the cause of your rejection of Christ? Could the reason for turning God away from your heart be that the reality has been hidden from your eyes?

Jesus said, in so many words, "Jerusalem, the day shall come upon you when your enemies will cast a trench about you, compass you, surround you round on every side and keep you in." It happened just as He said. My friend, you do not know what is ahead of you. The near future could bring your funeral service. It could be that the next time you hear God's Word is when He speaks forth the words of judgment, "Depart from me." Oh, I know feeling that this cannot happen is easy. When Jesus delivered this soul-moving message, Jerusalem was in the bloom of her prosperity. Surely there was no sign of anything like that happening. Coming forth from this lowly Nazarene, who would have taken the message seriously? No doubt, people said, "What does He know? He was raised in the hills of Nazareth." So, people plunged deeper and deeper in sin.

You may be thinking that you will get by with what you are doing now, but many others have tried the same thing and failed. If they had a chance to get your attention from the pits of hell, they would exhort you, "Son, daughter, give your heart to God." The devil works to draw your attention away from anything spiritual. Today life is becoming so convenient. We live in a push-button age. There are many comforts and conveniences, but it is not enough to

cause you to reject God. Yet, many people are letting those things cause them to reject Him.

In this soul-moving declaration, with tears in His eyes, our Savior was addressing those people. The life of Jesus was not a life of comfort and enjoyment. He had many sad times, and this was only one of them. His sadness was seen not only in His expression but also in the contents of the expression. He was concerned because Jerusalem had failed and was failing to recognize her day. Friend, are you making the same mistake today? Church services come and go, but what are they doing for you? When you see weeping and rejoicing, does it matter to you? Or do you merely take it in stride and say, "It's just one of those services"? A time is coming when it is not going to be anymore.

Discerning the Signs of the Times

The antediluvians had their day. For approximately one hundred twenty years, Noah cried out to warn those people that there was going to be a flood. After twenty-five years, there was no flood; fifty years later, there was no flood; seventy-five years passed, and still there was no flood. Yet, Noah was still faithfully declaring that there was going to be a flood. One hundred years passed, and still no flood, but Noah was still contending, "There is going to be a flood." One hundred ten years later, there was no sign of a flood. People were making money and prospering. Seemingly, things could not have been any better, but Noah was still saying, "There is going to be a flood." Finally, one day a procession of wild animals came out of the bushes and headed for the ark. It was somewhat arresting, yet it soon wore off. Next, Noah and his family moved into the ark. People should have been wondering if there was any truth to what Noah had been preaching. Yet, their attitude was, "Oh, no, there is not the remotest possibility of any flood coming."

Now, it had never rained up to that moment. Everything had been going on as it had from Creation. Once Noah and his household went into the ark, God shut the door. There they sat in that hot boat without an air conditioner. I have always wondered just how Noah made it with a boat full of animals and only one opening, a window toward the sky. Today people complain about how much they have to do and how much they have to give up to get saved. Think about Noah. People persecuted him, yet he did not doubt that a flood was coming. Finally, the skies began to darken. As the clouds began to settle over the nations of the world, no doubt something was saying to the hearts and minds of the people, "There must have been something to what Noah was saying. Is it possible that it is going to come to pass?" Then the thunder began to roar and it began to sprinkle. Try to imagine how those people felt. For more than one hundred years, they had been told that day was coming, but they disregarded the message and went on as if the flood would never come; then it arrived, and the rain came.

I suppose the people did what was natural. They probably ran to the ark, pounded on the door, and cried out, "Noah, open the door! We believe what you said," but there was no response. It was too late! They had been told about that day, but they had refused to believe it. Dear friend, you had better be careful that it does not turn out the same with you. You have been told about the coming of the Lord and the lake of fire. It might seem as just a dream or a fancy, but picture the people in Noah's day as the waters began to rise about them. No doubt, they had thought Noah's message was just a dream.

The legendary story is told of a woman who called to her servant to get a broom to sweep the water back out of the house as it was coming in. The servant's reply was, "You cannot sweep back the wrath of God." In November 1998 the people of Hon-

duras went through the horrible experience of a hurricane. People ran to one house to seek shelter, but they no sooner got settled in that house when it began to shake and crumble. So they ran into another house, and the same thing happened. Some people told me they changed houses about six times that night while the hurricane blew over Banaca, and finally, they gave up. There was no shelter in the houses. Those who could, found some kind of plastic, wrapped themselves in it, and laid down on the ground. Fortunately, the water had not begun to rise. The rain beat on them all night long while they prayed and hoped for survival.

Dear friend, I am not trying to appeal to your emotions, but I am trying to appeal to your reasoning. God is saying to you as He said to Israel of old, "Come and let us reason together." God wants to reason with you concerning this matter of living for Him. You are not safe in rejecting His messages and trampling His mercies under your feet. "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto your peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

The Bible says that the people in Noah's day were eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage. They knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. Nowadays weather forecasters can predict an approaching tornado or hurricane. God has His forecasters too, forecasting the day of destruction from the Lord. Are you going to receive the message? Are you going to allow the message to affect your heart? This is your day. You may ignore it and disregard it, but this is your day.

Israel had her day, the antediluvians had their day, Sodom and Gomorrah had their day, and so will you. Can you discern the signs of the times? Can you see how fast the time of destruction is approaching? Time is moving on; yet you, sinner friend, remain unsaved. You are lingering between obeying God

and following your own selfish desires.

The Onward March to Destruction

In our Scripture text Jesus wept because Israel had chosen to ignore the time for God to give them peace of mind and peace of heart. In essence, Jesus said, "The things that belong to your peace are what you are ignoring. You are trampling them under your feet, and now they are hid from your eyes." If you are not careful, you are going to lose sight of these things. Sometimes I wonder if the lack of conviction, the lack of condemnation, and the lack of obedience to God's Word are not the results of these things having been hidden from people's eyes. It is time for you to be awakened from your state of ease. Many people are on a journey, and they know not where it will end. However, the Bible says the wages of sin is death. Sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. The wicked will be cast into hell with all the nations that forget God. Friend, you need to take time to consider this. Today people are treating this message as they did in the days of Christ and in the days of Noah. I am striving to warn you. Do not let the same thing happen to you. If your companions will not listen and do as they should do, you need to do it anyway. Many people are becoming so carried away by sinful pleasures that the day of salvation is passing them by unnoticed.

People have been taught that God will always have mercy. They say, "God is a God of love and mercy, so why worry?" Yet, they fail to remember that the Scripture says to behold the goodness and the severity of God. While God is merciful, He is also just. He is as capable of being displeased as we are. Child of God, you need to quit listening to the false prophets of this age who are prophesying to you of a time of peace when there is no peace.

Jesus said, "If thou hadst known . . ." Israel's mistake was refusing to know. God told them from back in

the days of the Prophet Hosea, "Because you reject knowledge, I will also reject you." God is sending this same warning today. I hope you will let it affect you. I hope you will refuse to listen to Satan when he tries to tell you, "All that preacher is doing is trying to scare you." Honestly, I am not! I am merely striving to get you to become aware of how dangerous it is for you to continue to reject the goodness of God. God does not want you to end up as those people did. They were persuaded in their minds that those things would never happen. Nevertheless, when they did wake up, it was too late. It had already taken place. Today there is an onward march to destruction. I have never seen days like these. We are living in perilous times! There is such a state of ease and unconcern prevailing that it is alarming and dangerous.

The sinner has his day of mercy and hope. That day is today. Jesus said, ". . . even thou, at least in this thy day . . ." Friend, this is your day for salvation. If you reject salvation today, you may never have another chance. Oh, you might not drop dead today. You may rise from your bed tomorrow and go about your duties, but as far as feeling the moving of God's Spirit on your heart, you may not. Fewer people anymore are getting under conviction. Fewer and fewer people are feeling condemned under the Word of God. Of the few who are feeling condemned, most are just pushing it away and ignoring it. Israel did, Sodom and Gomorrah did, and the antediluvian world did also. They all reaped the same consequence and recompense of reward.

A Limited Time for Repentance

My friend, God is demanding action on your part. The cry has gone out, "Repent!" Acts 17:30 tells us, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Repentance is not just a favor; it is a command. You are under command

to repent. Many people act as if it is left to their own fancy. Well, you may accept it that way, but it is a command. Now is the time when God is speaking to you. You can choose to ignore it and disregard it, but you are going to suffer the results of such actions. Whenever God brings light and understanding to you concerning your spiritual condition, that is your day to seek peace. Whenever God speaks to you and His Word digs around your heart, that is your day to consider the things meant for your peace. Today, in too many cases, these things are being ignored and disregarded, and the sinner passes on into a state of hardness of heart, not realizing his destruction until it is too late.

Dear one, you have a limited time to repent. The days are dissimilar; no two days are alike. You cannot say, "Well, as with Lot in Sodom, God will send an angel down to talk to me personally." No, friend, you need to be aware that this is your day. You need to do what is required of you now to find peace for your soul. We read in Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Israel rejected their day, and it is recorded on the pages of history that they lived to regret it. Friend, these days of pleasure in sin and whiling away your time will soon be gone. You must make sure that you are not caught without Christ.

The Bible makes it plain that this day is accompanied with things of peace. That is speaking about your spiritual welfare. There is no peace with God except by the blood of Jesus Christ. You may join a church, shake a preacher's hand, or get confirmed and become a church member, but none of these things can bring peace to your soul. There is no peace without confessing and forsaking sin and repentance toward God. The Bible says in Isaiah 55:6-7: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his

thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Friend, you are warned to seek the Lord while He may be found, or while He is near. You do not know how long He will be near you. It could be only a short while.

Many individuals have heard Gospel messages like this, ignored them, and gone into a lost eternity. At the same time, others have opened their hearts and accepted the precious Word of God. No matter what you try, it all will be in vain unless you obey God. The Bible says, "Seek ye the LORD while He may be found." If you do not, the time will come when you will remember this message. Then, you will say, "If I had only known that what that preacher was saying was true, I would not have ended up in this condition."

The story is told of a man who worked late one night on his job. On his way home he noticed an open-air revival service going on. He decided that he would stop and listen to that preacher for a while. During his listening, God moved on his heart. He went forward, surrendered himself, and was gloriously saved. He went back into his car and started home. On his way home, he had to cross some railroad tracks. No one knows what happened, whether he was so taken up in his new found joy or what, but he attempted to cross the tracks when a train was coming. There was an impact, he was knocked about seven or eight feet into the air, and he landed a distance away from his automobile. People in the vicinity gathered around. They thought he was dead, but someone noticed that his lips were moving. He was trying to say something. When a man knelt down and put his ear to the dying man's mouth, the words that greeted him were, "I am so glad I made it tonight!"

Friend, something like this could be in your near future. If you are unprepared, you can do something

about it now. Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, "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." Dear heart, won't you turn your life over to

God. You will never live long enough to outlive this requirement. You must open your heart's door. No matter what reason you are rejecting Christ, it is going to amount to a trifle if you are unsaved and lost at the end of your way. Do not let

mercy's door be closed against you. Now is the accepted time. Today is the day of salvation. If you will, hear His voice and harden not your heart. God bless you.

(Cassette C-4158E)

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]

What do the Scriptures teach that these cherubims are? We must acknowledge that they are a vital, biblical teaching, because the word *cherub*, which is singular, is mentioned twenty-seven times in nineteen verses. *Cherubims*, which are plural, are mentioned sixty-five times in fifty-seven verses. Every Bible student knows that Hebrew was predominantly the original language of the Old Testament. The words *cherub* and *cherubims* come from the Hebrew word **chaoth**, which means "the living ones." The root from which the word is derived means "a brilliant appearance." What a fitting and encouraging picture for the Lord to portray to Adam and Eve, who at this juncture were, as Ephesians 2:1 says, "dead in trespasses and sins." That was a very dark hour for man; he had just succumbed to sin, and fellowship with God had been broken. Sin caused man to be removed from the presence of God, but God in His faithfulness showed him a brighter day. He showed him there was still the tree of life, but that he must access that tree through the flaming sword: the Word and the Spirit of God, which is the only way to access Christ and life.

What are cherubims? Why did the Lord place them there? Another rendering of the word *cherubims* (found in verse 24) means "to come near or to serve." *Cherubims* mean "the living ones." Angels, or angelic beings, neither live nor die, but these creatures have life and a brilliant appearance. Let us consider where these beings figure predominantly in the Old Testament. In Exodus 37:6-9, where Moses was getting instruction concerning the articles and the furnishings that were to go into the tabernacle, we read: "And he made the mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half was the length thereof, and one

cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat; One cherub on the end on this side, and another cherub on the other end on that side: out of the mercy seat made he the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims spread out their wings on high, and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims."

What did the Apostle Paul say about the articles of the old Mosaic Law? In Galatians 3:24 he wrote, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." The focal point of every article in the old Law was to point us to Jesus Christ and the reality of this Gospel Day. In Hebrews 9:24 the Hebrew writer, writing to Jewish converts in the first century, who were very familiar with the articles of Hebrew worship, said, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true." What was the old literal tabernacle? A figure. The Amplified Bible says "only a copy and pattern and type of the true One." When God gave the design for all of the articles in the old tabernacle, those things, according to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:11, "happened unto them for ensamples." They were for our learning, to point us to Jesus Christ and His vicarious work.

Now let us survey Exodus 37:6-9. Verse 6 says that "he made the mercy seat of pure gold." This mercy seat was a lid that sat on top of the ark of the covenant. The Hebrew word for *mercy seat* was **kaporath**, which means "to cover or to atone." Verse 7 states, "And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat." In Exodus 25:17-19 the command says, "And thou

shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof." The cherubims were made of the same piece of gold and of the same quality gold that the mercy seat was made of.

Why were the cherubims and the mercy seat of one piece? Because you cannot separate Christ from His church. They are one body, and the body has the same purity that Christ has. Exodus 37:7 says they were "beaten out of one piece." The two cherubims were connected to each side of the mercy seat. They were one with the mercy seat. Verse 9 says they "covered with their wings over the mercy seat . . . even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims." I want you to understand the literal picture, and then I will deal with the spiritual aspect.

Exodus 26:34 reads, "And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place." The old tabernacle was divided into two rooms: the holy place was the first room where the priests ministered, and the second room was the holy of holies, or the most holy place, where only the high priest went once a year. The ark was right beyond the veil, right at the entrance to the second room.

Hebrews 9:4 tells us that the ark contained "the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant." Over the top of the ark was a lid, which was the mercy seat, and it was made of beaten gold. At each end of the mercy seat was a cherubim of the same gold that the

seat was made of, with the cherubims facing each other and leaning with their wings arched over the ark of God.

What was this mercy seat? Hebrews 9:3-5 says: "And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly."

What is the mercy seat that Hebrews 9:5 and the Exodus account speak of? The root meaning of "mercyseat" here in Hebrews is the same word that is used for "propitiation" in 1 John, Chapter 2. First John 2:2 says, "And he is the propitiation for our sins." To whom does this refer? Verse 1 refers to "Jesus Christ the righteous." Who does the mercy seat typify? Remember, the word for mercy seat is **kaporeth**, which in the Hebrew means "to cover or to atone." Christ is the only One who can atone for our sins; He is our mercy seat. He is the One that the pure gold typifies. Exodus 37:6 says, "And he made the mercy seat of pure gold," denoting purity.

According to 1 Peter 1:19 Christ was "a lamb without blemish and without spot." The gold was pure in the old tabernacle, and so is the antitype, Jesus Christ. Exodus 37:7 says, "And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat." Christ was a lamb without spot and blemish, and when one gets connected to Christ through real salvation, he is also without spot and blemish. Read Ephesians 5:27, where Paul spoke of the church "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing."

Again, Exodus 37:7 says, "And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them . . ." What does beaten mean? Pressure was applied to form these into the image that God wanted them to be. Similarly, it takes striving to enter the Kingdom of God and to conform to the image of Christ.

Notice that those creatures were

connected to the mercy seat. In other words, they were connected to Christ, or they were one with Christ. In John 17:20-22, read what Jesus said in His high priestly prayer, just before the Roman soldiers seized him in the garden: "Neither pray I for these alone [speaking of His disciples], but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they [the church] also may be one in us: [Christ was speaking about the saints being one and being unified with Him, just as those cherubims were 'made out of one piece.' They were of the same gold that Christ was, and they were in unity with Christ, the mercy seat.] that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." What do the cherubims represent? They represent the people of God that He has conformed to the image He desires them to be, a heavenly image, so that they can be one with Him. You cannot separate Christ from the church.

Look how the cherubims are positioned. Exodus 37:9 says, ". . . even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims." They were not facing the world; they were facing the mercy seat. They constantly had their eyes on Christ. Exodus 37:9 says that they "covered with their wings over the mercy seat." Again, the mercy seat was the lid of the ark, and the cherubims were on each end with their wings covering the mercy seat. Let us see what happened between those wings and the

mercy seat. In Exodus 25:22 God said, "And there I will meet with thee, and will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony."

God's presence, the **Shekinah** glory cloud, came in and met over the mercy seat and under the wings of the cherubims. Between the mercy seat and the shelter of those wings is where the presence of God came in. What does that portray? God meets man through Jesus Christ under the shelter of the church, because He is in the midst of the church; that is where His presence is. In the safety and the shelter that the church provides, the presence of God can work in a free manner. He met with man overshadowing that mercy seat. Numbers 7:89 says, "And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him." When God wanted to speak to Israel, His presence overshadowed the mercy seat. This teaches us as a type that the only way that man is going to hear the voice of God is through Jesus Christ. His voice cannot be heard out in Babylon. He overshadowed that mercy seat and came in under the wings, under the shelter of those cherubims. The presence of God will not just speak anywhere, but He speaks in the safety, shelter, and seclusion that the church brings.

Brother Earl R. Borders

The measure of a man's
real character is what he
would do if he knew he
would never be found out.