

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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Website: www.godsacres.org

Vol. 35 April 2005 No. 4

Annual Financial Report

Various Scriptures throughout the Word of God exhort us to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for His goodness. Surely, He is worthy of all praise and honor! His bountiful hand provides for the needs of all mankind each and every day. In addition to thanking God for His goodness to us, we also desire to express our appreciation to all of you, our fellow labors in this great work of publishing *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

It has been a while since we have written to thank you for your support of *The Gospel Trumpeter*. We deeply appreciate all the faithful ones who contribute to the success of this monthly periodical and those who sacrifice their time and talents, laboring in different capacities to publish the Gospel message. We truly appreciate those who faithfully pray for us here. Certainly, we never want to fail to thank the many who support this work with their financial giving. It takes each one doing his or her part, working together to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We thank you for your help!

It is still the Word of God that attracts honest hearts who are seeking the right way to live. There are ones who love the old paths, the good old way, but unfortunately, in many places the old paths have become obscured because of an unfaithful ministry. Many precious souls have lost their way because of compromise and a letting down on the solid teaching of the Scriptures. However, through the preaching of the Truth, honest hearts are being awakened. Those chords that once laid dormant are beginning to vibrate once again. Nothing can truly excite the soul of a man or a woman or set the joy bells ringing like hearing or reading the pure Word of Truth.

Recently a letter was received from an elderly sister in a western state expressing her appreciation for this periodical. She is up in age and has been deprived of fellowship with the saints and of hearing preaching concerning the old paths. She wondered if anyone still believed and preached the Word of God as she knows and believes it. Through reading this paper, she realized that she was not alone and that others deeply love God and want to serve Him in all righteousness and holiness. Being isolated where there is no Church of God to attend, she asked if we knew of a congregation in her area where she could fellowship and have her soul fed.

Brother Roger Decker contacted Brother David Stegmeier, who lives on the West Coast, concerning this matter. Brother and Sister Stegmeier traveled to the state where the lady lived in search of her. Finally, they were able to locate her, and she was so glad to meet them. This dear sister had been praying and trusting that God would direct someone her way to help her find a place where she could have her soul fed. Her faith in God was strong! When Brother and Sister Stegmeier found her, they invited her to a revival. She got ready and went with them. Since that time, she has moved and now attends their congregation. This all came about because of this printed periodical and a precious soul who was hungry for more of God and His eternal Word.

Each of us faces many trials throughout this life. We must endure hard places, and we must overcome troubles and problems. However, at times God allows something like this to come along to lift our spirits and

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Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said

unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

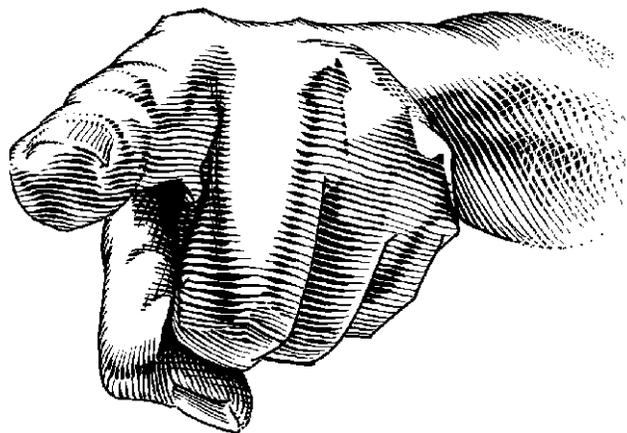
23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried-out the more, saying, Let him be cruci-

fied.

24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

What Will YOU Do With Jesus?



Brother Roger L. Decker

Pilate's Judgment Seat

In the setting of the Scripture text before us, the Son of God was standing before Pilate's judgment seat. Historians say that Pilate came into power in approximately A.D. 26. Although he was against the Jews, he was maneuvered into doing the work of the chief priests and the elders. You may ask, "If he was against the Jews, why did he succumb to the wishes of the Jews? How could he allow them to use him as an instrument to get their work done?" Well, it has been implied that his position in the Roman Empire was in jeopardy.

John 19:12 reads, "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar." It is very evident that Pilate did not want to condemn Jesus, because he was impressed with Him. Jesus' silence had made an impression upon him. Plainly, Pilate did not take the Jews' claim seriously. Pilate knew a radical when he saw one, and he knew that Jesus was no radical. Jesus' silence made Pilate feel as if it was not Jesus on trial but he himself.

Matthew 27:12-14 says: "And

when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; inasmuch that the governor marvelled greatly." Jesus never even opened His mouth. In 1 Peter 2:23 the New Testament writer said, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." Pilate was a man who felt the power of Jesus, but he was afraid to submit to it. Today there are still those who are afraid to be the Christians that they know

they ought to be. They are afraid to proclaim that they are Christians and afraid to speak out for Jesus. Some are ashamed to bow their heads in public to pray and ask God to bless their food. They need to remember that if it were not for God, they would not have the strength even to chew their food.

There are many more so-called secret disciples today than in Jesus' day. They are afraid to be numbered with the saints and to take Jesus' part in a discussion. They listen to others run down Jesus' name without taking His part. Others are afraid to dress modestly, fearful that they will stand out in a crowd. They are afraid to be different. "What would people think?" they reason. Well, they might think they are Christians.

Pilate was afraid. His position was in jeopardy, and political pressure was upon him; yet he felt a certain awe about standing in the presence of Jesus. Pilate sought some way of escape. It had been the custom at the time of the feast to release one prisoner. No doubt, he thought that surely the mob would settle down and choose to release One who was innocent rather than a murderer.

Barabbas was a murderer and a rebel, and all he did was stir up trouble. He was in custody at the time of the trial of Jesus. Surely they would take a peacemaker who was innocent rather than a criminal who was guilty. Yet, when Pilate gave the crowds a choice, they asked for the release of Barabbas and demanded that he crucify Jesus. They chose the release of a murderer, a man of violence, and to crucify the very love of God.

The Jews' Charges Against Jesus

Pilate did not give in to their demands easily. He tried to get out of his responsibility. His conscience troubled him, his wife warned him, and the presence of Christ troubled him; yet he gave in to the multitude. Pilate knew why Jesus Christ was

before him. The Scripture says in Matthew 27:18, "For he knew that for envy they had delivered him." It was not because Jesus was guilty, but it was for envy and jealousy.

The Jews knew that in order to get Rome involved in the trial and have Jesus put to death, they would have to lie and charge Jesus with a crime against Caesar. Therefore, they had to bring Rome into it or else Pilate had no jurisdiction. Since Pilate would have had no say in the matter unless they brought Caesar into it, that is just what they did.

Luke 23:1-2 says this: "And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King." Consider those charges. They were all political lies, and they were told for one reason: to get Pilate to take the case seriously. Had Caesar not been brought into it, then Pilate would have had no business sitting in judgment.

One of the Jews' charges was that Jesus had spoken blasphemy. Matthew 26:65 says, "Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy." I want to emphasize that had the charges been merely religious charges, Pilate would have dismissed the case immediately and would have told the Jews to settle it themselves.

I want you to read verse 22 of our Scripture text again: "Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified." Pilate tried three times to return Jesus to the Jews. Luke 23:13-22 reads: "And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those

things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

"I will therefore chastise him, and release him. (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go."

The more Pilate tried to release Jesus, the louder the crowd cried, "Crucify him, crucify him." They did not want to hear that Pilate found no fault in Him. Verse 23 states, "And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed." In other words, they shouted everyone. What happened? Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required, yet he found no fault in Him. Also, Herod found no fault in Him.

Crucifying Christ Afresh

The religious people of that day did not want Jesus. Sad to say, many religious people of our day do not want Him either, and they crucify Him afresh every day. In Hebrews, Chapter 6, Paul was writing to those who knew the Law well in the transition period to Jesus Christ. He stated in verses 1-6: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.

"For it is impossible for those

who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

There is much confusion over these verses of Scripture. Paul was not saying that if one should fall away, he could not get back to God. You have to understand what he was dealing with. He was dealing with those who knew the Law. All he was telling them was that once one had been enlightened, had known Christ, and was made a partaker of the Holy Ghost, should he fall away, he could not go back under the old Law and offer animal sacrifices and live in sin; because in doing so, he would crucify Christ afresh: their members live in sin daily, and when they live in sin daily, they are putting Christ back on the Cross.

How do you crucify to yourself the Son of God afresh? You do that by sinning daily. There is no godly sorrow in doing that. You cannot get saved without godly sorrow. If you are sinning daily, you are not truly sorry. This is what Paul was dealing with. He was not dealing with those who had lost out with God and were truly sorry and wanted to repent. They feel godly sorrow, and they can renew. If they should fall away, God can reinstate them in the Kingdom of God, as long as they are sick of sin and ready to quit sinning. You cannot live in sin and practice it daily without crucifying Jesus Christ afresh.

"We Will Not Have This Man to Reign Over Us"

Jesus told a parable in Luke 19:12-14, saying: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten

servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us."

Mainstream religion does not really want Jesus. They do not want Him to reign over them. Oh, they talk about Jesus, and they have singspirations, Bible study groups, and social gatherings. However, it is the reigning that they are against. By their actions and attitudes, they say, "We will not have this man to reign over us." They feel that Jesus gets too personal, and they resent the narrow way. Friend, if you ever make it to Heaven, you must walk the narrow way, not the broad way, or the way that is well worn.

In Matthew, Chapter 7, read the words of Jesus in verses 13-14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it [not the narrow way, but life]." People know what Jesus expects. They are not ignorant.

I want you to consider the "many" that Jesus spoke of in the following verses. Jesus stated in verses 21-23: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many [not few, but many] will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Those who work iniquity have not come out of sin. They do not want Jesus to reign over them. They do not want Jesus to tell them how to dress, what they can and cannot look at, where they can go, or what they should read.

Isaiah 4:1 reads, "And in that

day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." This is happening right in the Gospel Day, when there are seven seals and seven trumpets. The church age, or the Gospel Day, is divided into seven periods of time. In the Gospel Day there is a true church, and there is false religion. The false one says, "We will eat our own bread." Jesus is the Bread of life, yet they say, "We will eat our own bread, and we will wear our own apparel." Who says that? The seven women who take hold of one man. In other words, they want to be called by His name, but they do not want Christ to reign over them.

Friend, you must let Jesus reign over you if you want to be called by His name. Today many people do not want Jesus to reign over them. They do not want the pastor to tell them what the Bible says concerning how the child of God ought to dress, so they leave and go down the highway to another place. There they can look the same way the world looks and yet be accepted as a member in good standing. They do not even have to be saved.

Does Christ Reign in Your Life?

If you are going to truly live for God, you must straighten out your life and let Christ reign over you. He wants to reign, and He said, "Occupy till I come." That is where people have a problem. Some people say, "You are not going to tell me what to do, preacher!" No, and neither is God with that attitude.

Psalm 146:10 says, "The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD." In verse 22 of our Scripture text, Pilate asked, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" Pilate judged Him innocent. (Only God truly knows those who want Christ to reign over their lives supremely today.) Even those in Jesus' own country were offended

by Him. What about in your home? Does Jesus reign in your home? What do you do with Jesus in the home? Is He a welcome or an unwelcome guest? How is the order of your home?

In 1 Corinthians 11:1-3 Paul wrote: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Sister, if you are single and living at home, the Bible says the head of the woman is the man. Therefore, your father is your head, not your boyfriend. He did not say the head of the woman is the husband, but the man. If you are living at home and you are not married, you are to submit to your father. Should you move out of the home and get married, then your husband becomes your head.

God has an order, and when it is followed, there is harmony in the home. The wife is not to be the head of the home. Why? Because she is the weaker vessel. The man is tough, strong, and able to work. The woman fixes the meals. He should not have to go to the cupboard and get out a box of cereal or open a can of food. The wife should have a meal on the table for him. Today some sisters do not even know how to cook. They never had to cook, and they were never taught to cook.

The older sisters are to teach the younger sisters how to cook. Too often all the young sisters think about today is getting out and getting a job. Young sisters need to learn how to take care of a house, make beds, iron clothes, clean the floor, and place a meal on the table. This would save many problems in marriages. Also, she should learn how to pamper her husband and say sweet things to him when he comes home. She should not say to him, "It's about time you got here!" Many homes are out of harmony. God has

an order, and it is a good order. The saints love it so.

Husband, wife, how do you get along in the home? Do you quarrel and fight? Ephesians 5:22 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." Colossians 3:19 states, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Husband, you should not lay your hand on your wife to harm her. She is not a punching bag, a slave, or a servant; she is a helpmeet, or a helper. In a Christian home, the more the man loves the wife, the more she will submit.

How is your home? Too many times the husband or the wife will hold out for his or her own way. That is selfishness. Sometimes even though one knows that he or she is wrong, that person will hold out. He or she has the attitude, "I'm not going to give in." The next thing you know, turmoil and strife are in the home. That ought not to be in a Christian home.

What Do You Want With Jesus?

Some want Jesus, but they despise His rule. Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" The Jews did not want Jesus. He upset their traditions and their philosophies. He healed on the Sabbath day, taught in their temples, and worked miracle after miracle in their presence. John 1:11 says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." The Jews did not want Him, and Pilate did not want Him. Matthew 27:26 states, "Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."

Herod did not want Jesus either. Luke 23:8-11 tells us: "And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. And the

chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. [Now look at the change that came over Herod.] And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate."

What did Isaiah the Prophet say in Isaiah 53:3? "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not." Herod did not want Jesus, Pilate did not want Him, the Jews did not want Him, and those of His own country did not want Him.

Mark 6:1-6 reads: "And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

"But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching." Jesus' own country did not want Him, and many of His own disciples did not want Him. You can read in John 6:66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

Christian friend, do you really have Jesus or do you just want Him when you are sick or when you have a problem that you cannot handle? Do you want Him only when you have a financial need or to put your marriage back together? Too many people want Jesus only as one

would use a spare tire: they do not want Him unless they need Him. They attend church services, but the rest of the time they have Jesus on the shelf, so to speak, until the next service. That is when they wipe the dust off the Bible and try to look pious and go to the house of God.

Dear one, you never know when you will be in a condition where you will need Jesus right away. It is best to serve Him when you do not have a pressing need. What do you want with Jesus? The Jews said, "Crucify Him." Herod mocked Him, Pilate tried to return Him to the Jews, and His own people were offended by Him. Today not many people truly

want Jesus either. People do not want Him to reign, or to rule, over them.

Some like the prestige that goes along with being a Christian. Some want His name, but not His doctrine. They want His love, but not His judgment. However, Christ is not divided. If you want Jesus, you must accept all of Him. Judgment and doctrine come with His love. If you receive Christ, you must accept it all. You do not have to play church. You need Christ in your life daily. The things going on in the world are scary without Christ. I close with verse 22 of our Scripture text, which reads, "Pilate saith unto

them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" You talk about a revelation, Pilate had it. He saw Jesus and felt His presence.

If you have a need and you do not have Jesus Christ in your life, you need to do something about it. It just makes good sense for you not to stay away from His presence any longer. Won't you yield your life to Him? You will not regret it. Living for Him is the best life. Nothing else can compare to it. What will *you* do with Jesus?

(Cassette C-5249E)

"Can I Be Saved?"

Away on the western coast of England, there stands a steep rock that is known to everybody as the "Lady's Rock." At high water it is surrounded by the sea; but at low water, it stands upon a sandy beach and is easily reached.

It gets the name from an accident that occurred years ago. One summer day a lady had walked along the beach as far as this rock, and there sat down and began to read a book that interested her. She read on, never thinking of any danger, when she was suddenly startled by a loud cry from the cliffs. The coast guard had seen her and shouted across the bay. She looked up, and in a moment saw her peril. Between herself and the shore there were the curling waves, and the white foam spreading over the sands. Her first look showed her nothing but certain death, for the waves were rising every moment. As she stood hesitating, a huge breaker dashed its spray over her. Above her frowned the steep, black rock, and even the fisher lads could scarcely climb to get the sea birds' eggs. There seemed to be no way of escape there. She looked across to the crowd that was gathering on the shore, but no boat could live in that tumbling sea. Then, as she stood with the waves creeping up after her like wild beasts that chased their prey, she wrung her hands in agony and burst into tears, crying: "Can I be saved? Can I be saved?"

A moment before, it was nothing to her; now it was everything. Wealth, luxury, comfort, pleasure—all thoughts of these were swept away. Her only anxiety was this: "Oh, to be saved!" Then across from the shore came the cry from the coast guard again: "You must climb the rock! Your only chance is to climb the rock!" She looked at it hanging over her with jagged sides and steep, slippery front. How could she climb it? But as she delayed, a wave swept up and flung itself over the place where she stood, and close below her the waters surged and hissed. Then she grasped the rock desperately, and dragged herself up, and hung to the face of it, tremblingly feeling for a higher foothold, and rising, little by little, until she reached a ledge, from which she looked shudderingly on the waves below.

The tide crept upward until again the spray flew about her. "Climb higher!" rang from the shore, this time from a hundred voices, for the tidings of her peril had spread to the adjoining village. Again, she gathered her strength, and hardly knowing how, she crept, little by little, hanging on with bleeding fingers, dragging herself through narrow openings, pressing up the steep, slippery places, until now within her reach lay a tuft of grass. Seizing it, she fell fainting on the top, beyond the reach of the waves, while the excited people cried with a shout: "She's saved! Thank Heaven, she's saved!"

A story wild and strange, like the coast, and yet it is true of every life—true of you, reader. Slowly the sea is chasing you from point to point. The sea is rising about you. You can look back and see how it has driven you from day to day, from year to year, and yet you are unmindful of it. Taken up with a hundred things, you do not see it. It is the last thing you think of. You have time for everything else. You can think of business, of pleasure, of politics, of the markets, of friendships—of everything else but this. And yet the time is coming when you will see the peril, when your own eyes shall look upon the threatening danger, and all these things of today shall be nothing. Suddenly, all in a moment, you will start up with the cry: "What must I do to be saved?" but it may be too late!

The Benefits of Divine Healing



Brother E. David Stegmeier

The Lord Executes Righteousness and Judgment

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:14-15: "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

You may ask, "What is Truth?" Truth is anything that agrees with

the character of God and His Word. Truth makes you more Christlike when you obey it, and it brings God's people together in a greater way. Truth gives us greater love and concern for one another. David said in Psalm 119:151, "Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth." The Gospel covers everything that pertains to our lives.

Psalm 103:1 reads, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." This verse lets you know that you

need to put your all into everything you do for God. You must put your whole heart in His service. God's service is worthy of your very best. I like to see people giving God their best whether they sing, testify, or listen. No one should sleep in church. We are to go to the house of God to listen, to hear some extremely important things.

When I was in the military service, we were not allowed to sleep in the classroom. One had to walk to the back of the classroom

and stand at attention if he was caught dozing. I love to come to the house of worship. There is no place that I would rather be, because it is a privilege. Sometimes I hear things that dig very closely to my life as the Word goes forth. It may make me a little uncomfortable, but I always say, "God, help me. I do not want to come short of what I ought to be for You." Paul said we labor to be accepted of God.

Psalm 103:2 reads, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." The benefits that we have in serving God are the very best. God's eye is on the church; she is the apple of His eye.

Psalm 103:3-22 reads: "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; [Fanny Crosby wrote, 'The vilest of sinners who truly believes That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.' Sinner friend, no matter how vile you may be, God can forgive every iniquity.] who healeth all thy diseases [this is just as much a part of the Word of God as the salvation of the soul]; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; [I heard a number of very precious men of God say that had it not been for God, they probably would have been in hell. No doubt, that is true of many of us, but God redeemed us from self-destruction. God has been good to us.] who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. [I believe God's people age more slowly than the people of the world. They are not carrying around their sins and burdens. Their sins are gone, and Jesus helps them to carry their burdens.]

"The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. [We must leave everything to God. Romans 12:19 states, 'Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the LORD.' Sooner or later justice will be wrought.]

"He made known his ways unto

Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger [He may be slow to anger, but He does get angry], and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide [God will not always correct, but the time may come when he will leave you alone]: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. [The child of God will never meet his sins again. As far as God is concerned, they are in the depths of the sea, never to be remembered against him again. The devil or a hypocrite may bring them up, but not God.] Like as a father pitieth his children [so be obedient, and walk with respect toward God; walk in the fear of God, and then when you need His pity, you will get it], so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; [This behooves you to live an impeccable life. You must live a life of complete obedience to God. If you really love your children, you will live right and be obedient to the man of God. God will have the final word. You may argue with the man of God and contest his decisions, but remember that some day God will come down with judgment without mercy.]

"To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening

unto the voice of his word. [God is still speaking, and we need to have very sensitive ears attuned to His Spirit. How can you cultivate sensitive ears? When God speaks, respond and say, 'Yes, God, I hear You,' and then do what you ought to do.]

"Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul."

God's Concern for Man

Psalm 103:1-2 in the *New Living Bible* says: "Praise the Lord, I tell myself. With my whole heart I will praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, I tell myself, and never forget the good things He does for me. He forgives all my sin and heals all my diseases. He ransoms me from death and surrounds me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's."

David asked the question in Psalm 8:4, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" God is concerned about each of us. Man is the apex of God's creative work. After He got everything finished, He created man. Dear one, God is extremely concerned about your life. He works out even the smallest details in your life, and you need to be cognizant of them. You should look and observe when God works out the smallest details in your life.

We serve an awesome God. We should not be so busy that we do not look and see all the times when God works out schedules, keeps us from accidents, and blesses us. Moreover, you ought to take time to thank Him.

There is a danger in affluence and security with all our blessings. These things might cause one to forget some of the benefits. I am enumerating some of these benefits for you. Is this not what is going on in America today? Moses said in Deuteronomy 8:10, "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt

bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee." We are living in a good land in America, and we are privileged. So many people forget that it is God who has blessed us with all these blessings.

Moses said in Deuteronomy 8:11-14: "Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

A Part of the Redemptive Work of Christ

I want you to study the benefits of divine healing so that you might appropriate, appreciate, and enjoy them. Divine healing is just as much a part of the redemptive work of Christ as the salvation of the soul. I was taught to trust God from my youth. We never had a medicine cabinet, and we still do not have one. We prayed or called our pastor.

Divine healing is the healing that comes to an afflicted one in answer to the prayer of faith. John the Revelator said in Revelation 14:13, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

James 5:13a states, "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray." This is not a confusing Scripture; it is very plain and simple to understand. Here the reader is encouraged to pray when sick and suffering. I was taught that we have a Doctor who is always available, and He is Doctor Jesus. I want to see the people of God be what God would

have us to be in these closing days of time. A beautiful song entitled, "Faith in the Rock" says, "Stronger and stronger my faith has grown." Should this not be the testimony of each child of God?

In many places the doctrine of divine healing has become an antiquated teaching. As I was growing up in the Church of God, we had many revivals. At least one night during each revival, the evangelist preached on divine healing. It was part of the sixth-seal legacy. Many books have been written concerning the doctrine of divine healing, and many books have been written about instances of divine healing. During the sixth seal, the church sang many songs about divine healing.

What is wrong that we do not see more divine healing today? I do not have all the answers, but I believe one reason is that we are fighting unbelief in a greater way. Unbelief is an enemy. Maybe we need to spend more time in the Word and with God so that our faith might grow stronger and stronger. The Apostle Paul said in Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." It is serious if you are letting the things which you have heard slip from your life or if you are allowing things in your life that you once did not allow.

One older brother said this: "Our minds are like leaky vessels: without much care they do not retain what is poured into them. It well represents the treachery of the memory respecting spiritual things and the way in which good instructions, convictions, and affections vanish." We each need to be careful that we do not lose ground. May God help us. I am not chiding you, but I want you to feel challenged.

"Faith Cometh by Hearing"

I do not look to Babylon for anything. Once I heard a leading

minister in America make this statement: "I am glad that Heaven will have a place for all of us sinners, me and you too." That is a terrible teaching! We sing a song entitled, "Sin Can Never Enter There." The first verse and the chorus read: "*Heaven is a holy place filled with glory and with grace; Sin can never enter there; All within its gates are pure, From defilement kept secure, Sin can never enter there. Sin can never enter there, Sin can never enter there; So if at the judgment bar, Sinful spots your soul shall mar, you can never enter there.*"

The teaching and the practice of divine healing has been very much an important part of the church since the beginning of time. During the Dark Ages, many of the doctrines on divine healing were perverted and lost. In its place arose superstitions and unbelief. In the Church of God we are to encourage one another in the faith. We sing songs and read prophecies. The Bible says in Amos 8:11, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD." Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

What is another reason there is not more divine healing today? First of all, the doctrine must be preached. If we were to quit preaching salvation, would people get saved? If we were to quit preaching the doctrine of living above sin, would people know that it is possible and that it is also God's command? Probably not. If we were to quit preaching about what the Bible says concerning modesty, would immodesty come in? Perhaps. So it is with divine healing. If we were to quit preaching divine healing, people would not appropriate the blessings and the benefits that can be theirs.

Faith is based upon one's knowledge of God. The more one understands and knows about God and His love, the greater his faith and confidence in Him. May God

help us as the church. We want to go forward in a greater way. In too many situations, God is being left out of the picture. I have often thought that perhaps one reason people are afraid to trust God is due to the many cults and their teachings and practices in the world today.

The Comprehensive Plan of God

As we study God's Word, much Truth is taught concerning the benefits that we can receive for the body. J. W. Byers said this: "The doctrine and practice of divine healing is part of the all-inclusive, comprehensive plan of God." The full Gospel includes salvation for the soul and the body. In Isaiah 53:5 the Prophet Isaiah wrote, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Matthew 8:17 says, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

When a person dies, he leaves a will for his heirs, and the beneficiaries soon inquire about its contents. As children, we are inquiring into the contents of the will that has been given us. The will of God was sealed and ratified by the blood of Christ. Since His death is in effect, it is for you and me. In Matthew 4:23 the Bible records this: "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

Have you ever read in the Bible of even one failure with God? There never was a failure with God. Matthew 4:24 reads, "And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."

There is no failure with God. The only hindrance in that day was unbelief, and it is the only hindrance today. Someone may ask, "Is it the will of God to heal?" Let me ask you this: Is it the will of God to save your soul? The answer is yes; no one is excluded. When I was visiting a prison, one inmate was talking about the doctrine of divine elections, or only a certain number of people being saved. That doctrine is contrary to the Word of God. God will save whosoever will come. Any one who wants salvation can have it. I believe the same way with divine healing. We can have it if we want it.

He Is Just the Same Today

You can read in the Old Testament that King Hezekiah was healed. Matthew 8:16 says that Jesus "healed all that were sick." We need to grow in faith. We need to hear these things. The Bible lets us know that Jesus is touched with the feeling of our infirmities in Hebrews 4:15. He is touched with the feelings of those who are suffering. He is concerned, and He is compassionate. The Bible says in many places that He was moved with compassion when He saw the suffering multitudes.

We sing the song, "He Is Just the Same Today." Where did the songwriter get that? Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Is it unreasonable to expect God to heal your body? No, it is not unreasonable. Consider the creative work of God in creating us in the first place. When the world comes to an end, He will recreate us. The Bible says every grave will bring forth a body. It is not unreasonable to believe that God can heal you today. We have many records in the Bible.

In Genesis 18:14 the question was asked, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD? The answer to this question is no. The Bible says that Abraham was a man of great faith. You need not be any different from

Abraham today. Why was he a man of great faith? He was given a promise and a command, and then he obeyed. You can do that also.

When the Pharisees and the scribes found fault with Jesus after He healed the palsied man, in Matthew 9:5 Jesus said, "For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?" Jesus was saying, in essence, "Which is easier, to heal a diseased body or to save a diseased soul?" Sometimes people think it is harder to heal a diseased body, but both are easy with God.

You may say, "Well, I don't feel that I am worthy of God's healing." It is not according to your worthiness; it is according to God's mercy. God deals with us in mercy. He loves us; therefore, He will heal us. He saved you because He loves you.

I was raised in divine healing, and I experienced divine healing throughout my growing up years and today with our family and our congregation. As I was studying, I thought of a very beautiful healing that we had in our ministry. I try to make friends with all people. In our area we have many Mennonite people, and they help to make our school system very conservative. They do not have the Truth, but they are conservative people. My wife and I befriended an older Mennonite couple in our community. We became very dear friends.

Years ago when we first went to Oregon to minister, he was afflicted with a heart condition. One morning he had a very severe heart attack, so they went to a hospital. When we heard about it, my wife and I went to see him as soon as we got the news. We went into the Intensive Care Unit and anointed him and prayed for him. The doctor said that it was a miracle how he was raised up out of that condition. A blood clot went through his heart and into his lung, and the doctor told him, "It is a miracle how God has spared you."

When we arrived home from anointing and praying for him, his

wife called us and said, "Brother Stegmeier, do you folks believe in divine healing?"

I said, "Yes, we do."

She said, "Would you go to the hospital and anoint my husband and have prayer for him?"

I said, "We already have."

Because of the way God healed him, he and I were very close. When he passed away years later, I preached his funeral. He left me a large sum of money, which I did not use for myself. I used it for the ministry at the prison. God is still on His throne!

When You Pray, Believe

I am concerned about the doctrine of divine healing. I am concerned that it has slipped away from many today. Divine healing is still a part of the legacy that we have in Jesus Christ.

I believe that one reason we have so few healings today is that people have so many alternatives. They can do so many things rather than trust God for their healing. People do not want to suffer, but you know, suffering can help to develop Christian graces in us. God is more concerned about your spiritual and moral excellence than He is about the health of your body. We are living in a day when the focal point of almost all people is the body. Our focal point should be the condition of our souls. Sometimes God may allow afflictions to come upon us so that we can suffer a little to help us develop in the graces of God. I repeat, He is concerned about our moral and spiritual excellence. He wants excellent people. May God help us today.

Suffering can work good. We sing a song that speaks about sorrow having a perfect work; so can suffering. Job said in Job 23:10, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." The Bible lets us know that healing can be instant or gradual. The blind man was healed in two stages, so do not be discouraged if

you do not see exactly what you want to see the first time you come.

We have many general and unspecific promises in the Word of God. Jesus said in Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Healing is part of those things. Jesus said in John 14:14, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." The words "any thing" include the healing of your body.

Sometimes sickness and disease are the result of the judgment of God. A school principal once said to me, "Dave, you are too sympathetic of the feelings of people." I struggle with seeing sick people. I feel compassion for them. It hurts me when I see people suffering. When one member of the body of Christ suffers, we all should suffer. John said in John 14:14, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Judgments of God

If one should oppose the work of God and become disobedient, he may become afflicted. In the Old Testament you can read in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 12, that God became angry when Miriam spoke against the man of God, and she was afflicted with leprosy. People speak against a man of God so freely today. When I was growing up, my mother taught our family to have a reverential fear of the man of God.

You may inquire, "How can one be healed if he has been afflicted because of the judgment of God?" He must repent, confess, and renounce his opposition. Some people are afflicted because they are standing against the Word of God. This happened to Uzziah when he set himself to oppose the work of God. Second Chronicles 26:19 tells us, "Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD,

from beside the incense altar."

Some people are against having Sunday school. People can strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. I grew up in Sunday school, and it was a very important part of my life.

Have you ever heard of Gahazi, the servant of Elisha? When Elisha turned down all the gifts from Naaman, Gahazi became covetous and ran after Naaman because he wanted those gifts. He lied to Naaman and said that his master had sent him; then upon his return, he lied to Elisha. Because of what he had done, the leprosy of Naaman went to Gahazi and to his family. In 1 Kings, Chapter 13, you can read that King Jeroboam's hand became withered when he tried to put forth his hand against the Prophet of God. You see, we need to be very careful.

I have a very strong reverential fear of God upon my life. I do not want to displease Him in any way. Over the many years that I have preached, I have learned to be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit in the pulpit. I do not want to grieve God, and as far as I know, I have not grieved Him. There is absolutely no sin in my life, and there is absolutely no disobedience that I know anything about, but I am not satisfied with where I am. I want to become more spiritual; I want to be more Christlike, and I want to have more faith.

In the New Testament we can read the accounts of the judgment of God. In Acts, Chapter 13, you can read that the Apostle Paul rebuked Elymas the sorcerer, and he became blind for a season. Verses 8-11 read: "But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing

the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand."

Causes of Some Afflictions

Some sickness and disease is the work of the devil. We read in Luke 13:15-16: "The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" We need discernment in this. I grew up as a child in a very strong congregation. Brother Mullen was our pastor, and he taught divine healing very strongly. I want to see people healed. I do not like to see people suffer; that hurts me and makes me feel inadequate. I say, "God, help us; increase my faith."

Job is a classic example of sickness and disease that came from the devil. The Bible says that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. Acts 10:38 says, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Dear one, deliverance can come; do not give up.

Sickness can also come from overtaxing the body. Paul, in writing of Epaphroditus, said he was sick nigh unto death. Philippians 2:25-30 states: "Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon

sorrow. I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." Sometimes a man of God can so overtax himself that he becomes sick.

The Benefits of God Are Conditional

Saint of God, if you are afflicted and living up to all the light and understanding that you know, God has divine healing for your body as well. If you will come to Him believing, you will receive. God will honor your faith. What are the conditions to receive the benefits of God? You must have faith, not historical faith, but genuine, living faith. You need to live your faith. As I was studying, I thought of the four men who brought their friend who was sick of the palsy to Christ. He saw their faith. If you have real faith, you will put action to it. One action is getting up out of your seat in the services and coming forward and asking the men of God to pray.

The healing of the body is a foretaste of the eternal redemption of the body. Salvation is a foretaste of the eternal redemption of the soul. Both the salvation of the soul and the healing of the body are based on the atonement. In the

salvation of the soul, Jesus takes your sins and you take His righteousness. In the healing of the body, He takes your sicknesses and you take His health. When the woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus, He said He knew that virtue flowed out of Him. If you are afflicted, do not give up.

Some who are afflicted may need to confess their faults. Sometimes the confession of faults can be an obstacle to receiving healing. Others may not receive healing because they expect the pastor to come, yet they have never called him. Some people have gotten upset with their pastor because he did not come to pray for them, but he did not know they were sick. Brother W. A. Wilson used to have the policy that he would not go into anyone's home unless he was called. If you are sick, James 5:14 instructs you to call for the elders of the church. Today most people have a telephone.

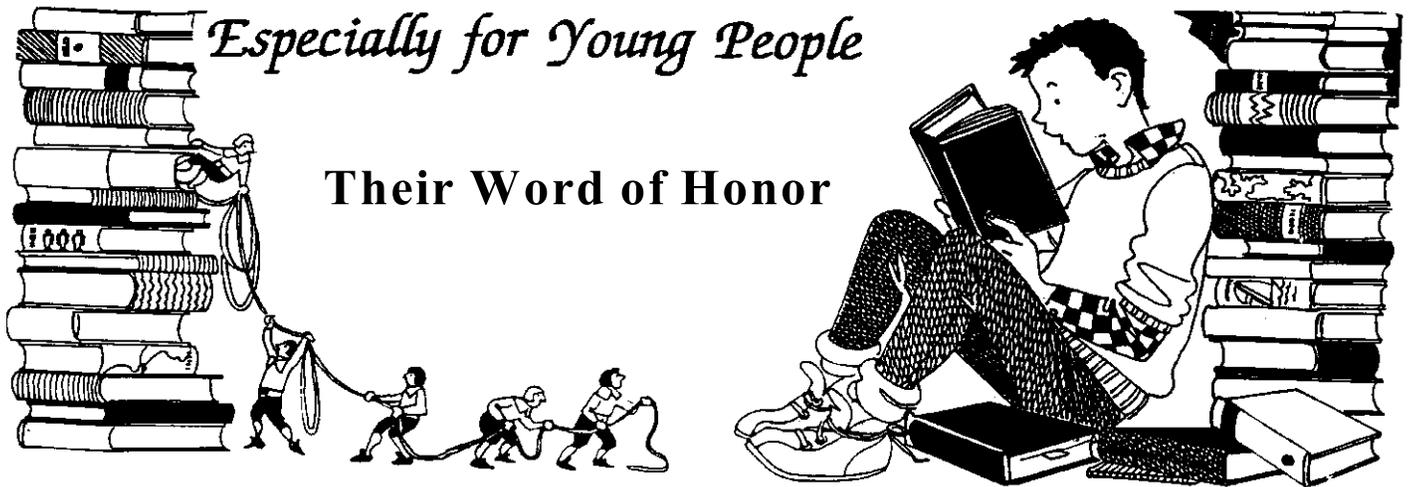
Fear keeps some people from receiving divine healing. The latter part of 1 John 4:18 states that "perfect love casteth out fear." May God help you. I have tried to challenge your faith. Again, one songwriter penned, "*He is just the same today.*" If you have an affliction or any kind of problem, won't you come to Him? Jesus is still the healer. Again, Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

(Cassette C-4565M)

Have Courage

*As the springtime conquers winter,
As the dawn drives out the night,
As the rainbow with its promise
Puts the darkest cloud to flight,*

*So the promise of the Savior—
"I will always be with you"—
Gives us joy and consolation,
And a courage fresh and new.*



The president of the Great B. railway system laid down the letter he had just reread three times, and turned about in his chair with an expression of extreme annoyance.

"I wish it were possible," he said, slowly, "to find one boy or man in a thousand who would receive instructions and carry them out to the letter without a single variation from the course laid down. Cornelius," he looked up sharply at his son, who sat at a desk close by, "I hope you are carrying out my ideas with regard to your sons. I have not seen much of them lately. The lad Cyrus seems to me a promising fellow, but I am not so sure of Cornelius. He appears to be acquiring a sense of his own importance as Cornelius Woodbridge. Third, which is not desirable, sir, — not desirable. By the way, Cornelius, have you yet applied the Hezekiah Woodbridge test to your boys?"

Cornelius Woodbridge, Junior, looked up from his work with a smile. "No, I have not, Father," he said.

"It's a family tradition, and if the proper care has been taken that the boys should not learn of it, it will be as much a test for them as it was for you and for me and for my father. You have not forgotten the day I gave it to you, Cornelius?"

"That would be impossible," said his son, still smiling.

The elder man's somewhat stern

features relaxed, and he sat back in his chair with a chuckle. "Do it at once," he requested, "and make it a stiff one. You know their characteristics; give it to them hard. I feel quite sure of Cyrus, but Cornelius—" He shook his head doubtfully, and returned to his letter. Suddenly he wheeled about again.

"Do it Thursday, Cornelius," he said, in his peremptory way, "and whichever one of them stands it shall go with us on the tour of inspection. That will be reward enough, I fancy."

"Very well, sir," replied his son, and the two men went on with their work without further words. They were in the habit of dispatching important business with the smallest possible waste of breath.

On Thursday morning, immediately after breakfast, Cyrus Woodbridge found himself summoned to his father's library. He presented himself at once, a round-cheeked, bright-eyed lad of fifteen, with an air of alertness in every line of him.

"Cyrus," said his father, "I have a commission for you to undertake, of a character which I cannot now explain to you. I want you to take this envelope" — he held out a large and bulky packet — "and, without saying anything to anyone, follow its instructions to the letter. I ask of you your word of honor that you will do so."

The two pairs of eyes looked

into each other for a moment, singularly alike in a certain intent expression, developed into great keenness in the man, but showing as yet only an extreme wide awakesness in the boy. Cyrus Woodbridge had an engagement with a young friend in half an hour, but he responded firmly:

"I will, sir."

"On your honor?"

"Yes, sir."

"That is all I want. Go to your room, and read your instructions. Then start at once."

Mr. Woodbridge turned back to his desk with the nod and smile of dismissal to which Cyrus was accustomed. The boy went to his room, opening the envelope as soon as he had closed the door. It was filled with small envelopes, numbered in regular order. Infolding these was a typewritten paper, which read as follows:

Go to the reading room of the Westchester Library. There open envelope No. 1. Remember to hold all instructions secret.

C. W., Jr.

Cyrus whistled. "That's funny! It means my appointment with Harold is off. Well, here goes!"

He stopped on his way out to telephone his friend on his detention, took a Westchester Avenue car at the nearest point, and in twenty

minutes was at the library. He found an obscure corner and opened envelope No. 1.

Go to office of W. K. Newton, Room 703, tenth floor, Norfolk Building, X Street, reaching there by 9:30 a.m. Ask for a letter addressed to Cornelius Woodbridge, Jr. On way down elevator open envelope No. 2.

Cyrus began to laugh. At the same time he felt a trifle irritated. "What's Father at?" he questioned, in perplexity. "Here I am away uptown, and he orders me back to the Norfolk Building. I passed it on my way up. Must be he made a mistake. He told me to obey instructions though. He usually knows just about why he does things."

Meanwhile, Mr. Woodbridge had sent for his elder son, Cornelius. A tall youth of seventeen, with the strong family features, varied by a droop in the eyelids and a slight drawl in his speech, lounged to the door of the library. Before entering he straightened his shoulders; he did not, however, quicken his pace.

"Cornelius," said his father, promptly, "I wish to send you upon an errand of some importance, but of possible inconvenience to you. I have not time to give you instructions, but you will find them in this envelope. I ask you to keep the matter and your movements strictly to yourself. May I have from you your word of honor that I can trust you to follow the orders to the smallest detail?"

Cornelius put on a pair of eyeglasses and held out his hand for the envelope. His manner was almost indifferent. Mr. Woodbridge withheld the packet, and spoke with decision: "I cannot allow you to look at the instructions until I have your word of honor that you will fulfil them."

"Is not that asking a good deal, sir?"

"Perhaps so," said Mr. Woodbridge, "but no more than is asked of trusted messengers every day. I will assure you that the instructions are mine and represent my wishes."

"How long will it take?" inquired Cornelius, stooping to flick an imperceptible spot of dust from his trousers.

"I do not find it necessary to tell you."

Something in his father's voice sent the languid Cornelius to an erect position, and quickened his speech.

"Of course I will go," he said, but he did not speak with enthusiasm.

"And — your word of honor?"

"Certainly, sir." The hesitation before the promise was only momentary.

"Very well. I will trust you. Go to your room before opening your instructions."

And the second somewhat mystified boy went out of the library on that memorable Thursday morning, to find his first order, one which sent him to a remote district of the city, with the direction to arrive there within three quarters of an hour.

Out on an electric car, Cyrus was speeding to another suburb. After getting the letter from the tenth floor of the Norfolk Building, he had read:

Take cross-town car on L Street, transfer to Louisville Avenue, and go out to Kingston Heights. Find corner West and Dwight Streets, and open envelope No. 3.

Cyrus was growing more and more puzzled, but he was also getting interested. At the corner specified, he hurriedly tore open No. 3, but found, to his amazement, only the singular direction:

Take Suburban Underground Road for Duane Street Station. From there go to

Sentinel office, and secure third edition of yesterday's paper. Open envelope No. 4.

"Well, what under the sun, moon, and stars did he send me out to Kingston Heights for!" cried Cyrus aloud. He caught the next train, thinking longingly of his broken engagement with Harold Dunning, and of certain plans for the afternoon which he was beginning to fear might be thwarted if this seemingly endless and aimless excursion continued. He looked at the packet of unopened envelopes.

"It would be easy to break open the whole outfit, and see what this game is," he thought. "Never knew Father to do a thing like this before. If it's a joke," — his fingers felt the seal of envelope No. 4, — "I might as well find it out at once. Still, Father never would joke with a fellow's promise the way he asked it of me. 'My word of honor' — that's putting it very strong. I'll see it through, of course. My, but I'm getting hungry! It must be near lunch time."

It was not, but by the time Cyrus had been ordered twice across the city and once up a sixteen-story building, in which the elevator service was out of order, it was past noon, and he was in a condition to find envelope No. 7 a very satisfactory one:

Go to Café Reynaud on Westchester Square. Take a seat at table in left alcove. Ask waiter for card of Cornelius Woodbridge, Junior. Before ordering luncheon, read envelope No. 8.

The boy lost no time in obeying this command, and sank into his chair in the designated alcove with a sigh of relief. He mopped his brow, and drank a glass of ice water at a gulp. It was a warm October day, and the sixteen flights had been somewhat trying. He asked

[continued on page 25]

Luke 5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little

from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

DOING THINGS GOD'S WAY



Brother Eula Bland

How to Get Good Results

Peter confessed that he was a sinful man for not believing Jesus. He had been fishing for years; He was an expert fisherman. However, this time he had fished all night and yet caught nothing. In doing things God's way, you will get godly results, but if you do things your own way, anything can happen. It did not matter how long Peter had been fishing or how much of an expert he was at fishing, he caught nothing until he did it God's way.

Friend, if you get saved and start to do things God's way, everything will be better. If you have

deviated from doing things God's way, even just a little, you need to turn from your own way and start doing things God's way. If you will do things God's way, you will get good results. I did not know life could be so sweet until I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. If your sins have not been pardoned, you are living beneath your privileges. It is God's will for all people to be saved. Second Peter 3:9 says that He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

In our Scripture lesson Jesus used Peter's boat for a while to preach the Word. After this, Jesus

told Peter to launch out into the deep. Peter and his partners had already washed their nets, and they were ready to go home after toiling all night and catching nothing. Saint, we cannot do anything without the Lord. I get excited over what God has done for a wretch like me. As one songwriter expressed, "*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!*" I thank God for Jesus Christ. He is the way, the Truth, and the life. He convinced Peter. Jesus let Peter know that if he did it His way, he would get results. Dear one, if you will do things God's way, you will get godly results. I have found it so.

When Jesus was getting ready to leave this world, He said in John 14:1-6: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Christ is the way, and He is the light of the world. Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Peter realized later that he was dealing with the Son of the Living God, One who never fails.

Jesus did things God's way, and He was able to save everyone who wanted to be saved. Matthew 1:21 reads, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." No one ever got saved *in* their sins. To be saved, you must be saved *from* your sins. Sin is a terrible thing. Jesus Christ was willing to die to save us from our sins.

How to Become a New Creation

Our Scripture text states in verses 1-2: "And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets."

They had given up. Friend, if you have given up on life, if you think life has dealt you a bad deal, Jesus Christ is ready and willing to save you from all your sins. It does not make any difference how long you have been on drugs, how long

you have been committing adultery, or how long you have been committing fornication, God, through Jesus Christ, can save you to the uttermost. He came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Sinner friend, you might have been a murderer or a cheater, but you can become a child of God and be ready for Heaven. It never ceases to amaze me how Jesus can change a person's life. He can change your heart and change your way of living.

In John 3:2 you can read that Nicodemus went to Jesus by night and said, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." Jesus said in verse 3, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

We all were in such bad shape in sin that we had to be born again. Jesus did not patch us up. Paul declared in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away [I do not know where they went, but they passed away]; behold, all things are become new." God makes all things new. You cannot do any of this on your own.

Ephesians 2:8-10 says: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Isn't that something? When you repent God's way, it does not take Him long to save you and to make you a new creature. Thank the Lord!

Jesus came preaching repentance. To repent is to be sorry for your sins. You must be sorry that you wronged God and ask Him to forgive you and to take away your sins. You do not have to name your sins one by one. You can say, "Lord, forgive me for all my sins," God will forgive you just as if you had never sinned. Salvation is wonderful!

Deny Ungodliness and Worldly Lusts

Paul said in Titus 2:11-12: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." The devil cannot stop you. No one can stop you from living right if you truly want to. God can enable you to live right. All the devils in hell cannot keep you from getting saved if you want to be saved. God has made a way for you to get saved if you want to be saved. What a wonderful God we serve!

The Lord told Peter in Luke 22:31-32: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Peter did that on the Day of Pentecost. He preached that great sermon on the Day of Pentecost. When the Jews heard the Word of God, they were pricked in their hearts.

Acts 2:37-38 reads: "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Peter did not ask the people how they wanted to come in. He told them to repent. When they heard the Word of God, they were pricked in their hearts, and they repented and got salvation the old-time way.

This great salvation is really something. It will cause you to straighten up your life and do that which is right. It will cause you to be true to your husband or your wife, and it will cause you to be honest with your fellowman. If you should see a woman drop her pocketbook, instead of trying to steal it, you will tell her, "You dropped your

pocketbook."

It means something to be saved from all your sins. You will lay aside all the foolish things you used to do. If you get saved, you will not want to do them anymore. You will want to please God. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Thank the Lord!

Endeavor to Keep the Unity

If you do things God's way, you can be a part of the Church of God. She marches on as a mighty army. Doing things God's way will put an end to splits and divisions. God did not intend for His church to be divided and not to have fellowship with one another. That is the work of the devil. God wants His people to be one, as He and the Son are one. The literal Jews were God's people at one time, but when He got ready to bring in the Gentiles, He broke down the middle wall of partition between the Jews and the Gentiles and made them all to be one in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:14-16).

To do things God's way, you must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. In doing things God's way, you will love the brethren. John said in 1 John 3:14a, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." John was not speaking of only loving someone if that person does something for you. If you really love someone, it is hard to fall out with them. John was talking about *agape* love. This is the same kind of love that God has for us.

People are too quick to fall out with one another. The Bible teaches unity for God's people. If we all obey the message, it will bring God's people together. The Holy Ghost brings people together. The Christ in me will not go against the Christ in you. He will not do that! If you make it to Glory, you must do things God's way, not the way you want to do them. Heaven is where we all

want to go. Nothing is worth losing your soul for. Your soul is your most precious possession. Jesus asked the question in Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Christ esteemed men's souls very highly. He esteemed men's souls so highly that He was willing to give His life that He might save our souls.

First John 3:15 says, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." If you hate someone, according to God's Word, you are a murderer. Dear one, God wants you to be free and happy, but you must do things His way.

Totally Surrendering Your Life to God

In our Scripture lesson, when Peter did things God's way, he caught more fish than he had ever caught in his life. In my own life, when I did things God's way and repented God's way, He made me happier than I had ever been in my life. I never had such peace! He gave me peace like a river.

We read in John 7:37-38: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." To have Jesus on the inside is really wonderful! You will no longer find yourself doing wrong; you will do what is right.

First John 3:9 states, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." That is the evidence of being born again. You want to please God. That is what saints do. They want to do things God's way. They want to have peace in the home and on the job. In other words, they are peacemakers and not peace breakers. When you are doing things God's way, you will make peace instead of

breaking peace.

Jesus said in Revelation 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending." No mortal can make that statement and tell the truth; only Jesus can say that. In verse 18 Jesus said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." God's people follow the One who has the keys. He has the solution to life, and He has the solution to death. Jesus has the keys.

When Jesus built the church, He said in Matthew 16:18, "... upon this rock I will build my church [the church is His one possession]; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Satan cannot overcome God's church. God's church is going to stand. The thing to worry about is *your* staying in the church. The church is marching on like a mighty army. Some people are around the church, but they are not in the church. If you are living in sin, it does not make any difference if you have your name on every church roll book that is around, you are not in the church. You are not a Christian until you stop sinning.

Romans 6:18 states, "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." God did not give Israel the Law of Moses until they got out of Egypt, and God will not give you His law and understanding until you accept His Son as your personal Savior. You must surrender your life to Him to do that.

Even many church members have not surrendered their lives to God. They do not put God first. You must totally surrender your life to God. You must give up and say, "Use me, Lord, as You want to use me." You are doing it God's way then. It is remarkable what God can do with a person when that one totally surrenders his or her life to Him and is ready to do whatever God would have that person to do. Oh, I thank God for the power that He has given His people. I thank God for His Word!

Follow God's Instructions

Jesus said in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd." He is everything that you need, and He has given you all things that pertain to life and godliness. He has given you the things you need to make this journey. When God tells you to do something, He sends help right along with it through His Holy Spirit. God will not tell you to do anything that you cannot do.

When He tells you to be perfect, if you follow God's instructions and do it His way, you can be perfect. You can be perfect in love and in your spirit, and you can have the right spirit to do God's will. That is what God looks at. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. He knows whether or not you intend to do His will. If a person wants to do God's will, God is going to make provision for that individual to do His will. God does not force salvation on anyone, but if you want it, it is available to you.

Do you know what honest-hearted people will do? If they find that they are not doing something God's way, they will ask the Savior to help them. They will say, "Lord, I want to do things Your way, not my way. I was wretched and undone when I was doing things my way. My way did not get me anything but trouble and heartaches. I want to do things Your way." When God sees that deep down in your heart you want to do things His way, He will help you. He knows whether or not you want to do things His way. If you have done something that displeases God, you need to get it straightened out.

The Bible says in Proverbs 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." John said in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God does not bless pretenders. It takes honest souls to make it into Heaven. You have to be honest with God and

say, "God, I need Your help." God will not turn you down when you are honest with Him. God can work out the problem that you have been trying to figure out. Thank the Lord!

Lay Aside Every Weight

What a friend we have in Jesus! The songwriter could not think of an adjective that would adequately describe his Friend, so he said, "*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in pray'r! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in pray'r.*" Do you realize that you can talk to God anytime? The line is never busy. Instead of getting angry about something, you can talk to the Lord about it. Instead of saying what you will do to someone, you can talk to the Lord about it. You can talk to God anytime.

Doing things God's way will put you into Heaven. If you miss Heaven, you will have to stay in hell throughout eternity. That is too long to suffer. If that should happen, you will be thinking about where you could have been and despising where you are. Nothing on God's green earth is worth losing your soul for. No matter what someone does to you and no matter what Satan offers you, you need to go God's way. Christian friend, you need to stay with the Lord. It may seem tough at times, but the Lord will always make a way for you. In some cases, He has already made the way, but you have not accepted it.

I thank God for saving me from a miserable life of sin. I was wretched and undone, without hope and without God on my side, but God saw fit to save me. As one songwriter said, "*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!*" It is no secret what God can do. What He has done for others, He will do for you.

The Gospel is good news! You do not have to continue to live in sin. That is news that you can use!

Jesus said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." You know, it means something to be able to gain everlasting life through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:1 says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." It is worth it to run this race that is set before us with patience. It is worth it to look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

I thank God that Jesus Christ was willing to give His life to save people from their sins. God is so merciful to us. I thank Him for being such a good God; He is a God of love, of comfort, and of understanding. He is a God that you can cast all your cares upon. He cares for you. Friend, won't you do things God's way?

(Cassette C-5252E)

The Way of the Lord

*There is a way, a narrow way,
A way where we should walk.
All those who meekly take this
way,
Can live with Christ, and talk
To Him who always giveth cheer,
To tired and burdened souls;
Then we shall find the valued
prize,
Which Heaven for us holds.*

*O brethren, let us live each day,
Right down at Jesus' feet;
Let's prove that now we love Him
best,
That He's to us more sweet
Than all the earthly joys we see,
Or hope to e'er possess;
Let's live and walk at His
command,
With His own righteousness.*

Selected

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you

is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye

were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Monitoring Your

Christian

Conduct



Brother Irwin Sesher

The Necessity of Monitoring Your Spiritual Walk

As Christians, while living in this sin-filled world, we need to be careful of what we do and say and of how we act. Many people look to the church for help. If we fail to be the true representation of the church, we cannot help them. We have an awesome responsibility to truly represent Jesus Christ. The Church of God is a glorious church, and it is the only one mentioned in the Bible. Therefore, we need to monitor our Christian conduct very carefully.

Friend, if you are not careful, you can easily get caught up in wrong behavior and then be unwilling to accept the blame for your actions. You need to monitor your spiritual walk each day while you are on this side of eternity.

In our land today many things are checked and monitored. At the airports, to get on a flight, you and your luggage are checked and sometimes searched. Monitors and security systems are in many places. Why do people go to the extreme of having monitors and security systems? It is to keep them safe.

Some refrigerators have moni-

toring systems on them to check the temperature. An alarm will go off if the door is open too long. Many people have monitors in their homes to check for radon gas, and then there are smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and many other monitoring devices. Stop and think about the monitors and security devices that are in houses. It is almost unbelievable.

Monitors are on various vehicles to warn others when the drivers are backing up. Also, some vehicles have a monitoring system to warn the driver when he is getting close to something. Monitors in some

vehicles also sense the temperature, the humidity, and the wind direction. Automakers are coming out with a device that can check the air pressure in the tires while a driver is traveling down the road. All these devices and monitors make your physical life safer and better, but what about your spiritual life? Are you monitoring your walk with God? When the Lord tries to deter you from certain situations or circumstances, do you ignore His warning?

Many times people deliberately avoid the Spirit of God when He tells them not to do something, yet they go ahead and do it anyway. They think that God does not really mean what He says. Friend, if the Lord instructs you to do something, and you know it is definitely God speaking to you, that is not the time to mull it over and rethink it. When God tells you to do something, you had better do it. It is not the time to seek the advice of others. God knows your circumstance, and He will instruct you to do what you need to do. Many times human thinking and reasoning will cause one to seek the opinions of others. However, you may seek one who is weak spiritually.

The Need to Monitor Fleshly Desires

Friend, you need to monitor your fleshly desires. They will lead you down the easy road. The flesh yearns to stay in bed on Sunday morning rather than go to church. That is the reason many people do not go to the house of God. Oftentimes they get so busy Monday through Saturday that they do not want to go to church on Sunday. A child of God wants to be in the house of God to receive spiritual strength.

The world is evil, friend, and you need to be in the house of God whenever possible. If you allow the flesh to have its way, you will go somewhere else. Many people want to feed the flesh, but they do not

want to feed the spiritual man. Often it seems that they want to do everything else on Sunday except go to church. Child of God, that is where you ought to be on Sunday. One day the things of the world are going to pass away, and you will wish that you had gone to the house of God.

Romans 8:5 reads, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." After I got saved, I wanted to do spiritual things, to be around spiritual people, and to hear spiritual preaching. We are fighting a spiritual battle.

In the military service one must go through basic training to prepare for the battle. Saint, you are in a spiritual battle, and the enemy of your soul is trying to beat you down so that you cannot do anything for God.

As a child of God goes through this life, he keeps his spiritual monitors on and in good working order. He is well aware that he cannot coast into Heaven. He stays prepared for a heated battle. The Lord will allow you to be tested periodically to see if any defects have occurred. You must keep your prayer life tuned up to make sure everything in your life is in good order. It is good to have system checks and monitors for things in the world, but you also need them for your spiritual well-being. Are your spiritual "monitors" up and running in your soul so that you can be aware of all the obstacles that the enemy is trying to put in front of you?

Friend, you are going to be tested in your Christian experience. First, the Lord sends little tests. If you cannot pass the little tests, you cannot pass the big tests. It is good to go through the little tests first.

How Can You Check Your Spirituality?

I want you to consider some ways to monitor your spirituality. First, one way to monitor it is to

check your witnessing. Many people have problems with witnessing. I look at it this way: if you really enjoy what you have, it should not be hard to witness to others about what is down deep in your soul.

Perhaps you are shy and find it difficult to talk to others about their souls. However, I have noticed that most people do not have a problem letting people know where they stand politically or letting people know what their views are about other things. Friend, God can help you to get out what is down deep in your soul. You can simply express how good God has been to you, where He brought you from, what He keeps you from, and how He blesses you.

I am concerned that many who claim to be Christians do not do that often enough. Do you know more about the political scene than you know about the Scriptures in the Bible? If someone were to ask you a serious question about salvation, do you know enough Scriptures to help them?

A world full of precious souls is dying and going to hell. As Christians, we are responsible for being the true representation for the Church of God. No one else can show them the true way. Thousands of people out in the world are searching for something better than what they have. Christian friend, do you have what it takes to lead them to Christ? We must be ready to help those individuals who are looking for an answer. If someone were to come to you seeking Christ, would you have to say, "I really don't know what to do"?

Another way to check your spirituality is by your conversation, not only with your brothers and sisters in Christ, but with people out in the world. Have you ever heard the old saying, "It's a small world"? When you talk to people, sometimes it is amazing to hear who knows whom; therefore, you need to be careful of what you say and to whom you say it.

The way you speak and act

around people out in the world should be as courteous as when you speak to the saints of God. Your conversation can draw others to God or drive them away. You should not be snippy or cut people off or tell them off. That is not godly. When dealing with others concerning business affairs, you ought to be careful of how you act and how you speak.

Let me give you an example of what can happen. Suppose you were to ask an associate at work, "How's your day going?" He replies, "Well, a man called and chewed me out. He really let me have it because his bill was calculated wrong. I have never heard anyone be so rude." As you are listening to this, the sales associate mentions the man's name. You say, "I know that individual. He attends the same church I do. Did he talk to you that way?"

You see, it is important how you act and what you say. It is amazing what people spew out without regard to whom they are speaking, yet they claim to be Christians. That is not right. The enemy of your soul wants your spiritual battery to go as low as possible, to the degree that you become spiritually dead. Often Satan uses little things that you do not think amount to anything. Your actions and your speech affect others.

Warning Signs

You know what happens to devices when the batteries become weak. They do not operate properly. Your spiritual battery could run down to the point that you cannot be effective for God. This can happen if you neglect to pray and read the Bible as you ought. Many people do not move forward spiritually because of neglect. The enemy knows that they would not go to a barroom, so he tries to get them to neglect their Christian duties. Neglect is sending countless people to hell. Hebrews 2:3 reads, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was

confirmed unto us by them that heard him."

As a child of God, you can only be effective when your spiritual "battery" is recharged daily. The Lord has given you all you need to fight this battle. If you become weak spiritually, the fault lies within you. If you neglect your salvation, you are hurting yourself. It is not the fault of the pastor, your brothers and sisters in Christ, the Sunday school teacher, the song leader, or the choir director. You need to look in the mirror and say, "It is I, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer." Saint, you need to keep your spiritual monitors in good working order.

Let us consider another way to monitor your spirituality. How is your spirituality when it comes to the Bible dress standard? Sad to say, many people do not want to hear anything about modesty. If you are waiting for the Lord to change the dress standard, you might as well forget about it. It is not going to change, and a true child of God does not want it to change.

A true child of God wants to dress modestly. Something is wrong in your soul if you want to fuss and complain about the standard. First Timothy 2:9 states, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." Notice that the Scripture says "modest apparel," not modern apparel. It appears that many have adopted the latter version.

Someone may say, "I just can't find anything modest in the stores to wear." Have you truly looked? If that is the case, I suggest that you take a course in learning how to use a sewing machine. If you cannot do that, then perhaps you can find someone who will show you how to sew or who could make clothes for you. Some are determined to dress their own way. They do not care what the Bible says. Friend, it is serious to rebel against the Word of

God.

How is your spiritual monitoring system? Is it working properly? God provides ways to monitor your soul's welfare. The enemy is trying to get you to ignore the warning signs to get you to coast along and go with the flow of things in life. He does not want you to get excited about your soul. The true child of God must swim upstream as fast as he can to stay afloat, so to speak.

Those who become spiritually weak have not done the things they know they need to do to stay close to God. The devil tries to get them to start laying aside spiritual things and then saying, "What's the use?" Christian friend, God does not want you to live that way. You can have victory in Christ. When the Lord saved your soul, He did not expect you to make it on your own. No, there is power in Jesus Christ. He will give you the power, the strength, the knowledge, the determination, and everything else you need. You do not have to go the way of the enemy. You can say no to the enemy and yes to God in every situation. You can go to Him in prayer and say, "Help me, Lord; direct me and show me what I need to do to stay true."

"Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind"

What happens when your spirituality starts to get low? You become weak, discouraged, and depressed. Then the enemy will work on your mind and say to you, "People don't care about you. Why don't you give up? Go back in the world and do the things you used to do." Friend, that is not the answer. There is nothing good out in the world of sin.

Young person, you need to get established in your Christian experience while you are young. Jesus will help you and direct your life. If you feel that you do not know which way to turn, do not turn to the world for help. Godly people care for you and love you. Do not neglect talking with God.

Friend, it is time to awaken to your true condition and to make sure that you are spiritual. The enemy is working to cause you to become depressed and discouraged. Jesus Christ can help you. The world cannot satisfy the soul. What great opportunities are passing you by!

The Hoover Dam, located at the Nevada-Arizona border, has thousands of cubic feet of water behind that dam. As the water is channeled over turbines down below the dam, it produces hydroelectric power. Men have installed many system checks on that machinery for safety. Dear one, what are you doing to keep your soul safe? Is everything all right with your soul?

First Peter 1:13-14 reads: "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance." Is your conduct pleasing to God? Only you can answer that question.

Are you awake spiritually to the things around you?

Sad to say, the enemy has lulled many to sleep spiritually. Friend, the enemy would just love to lull you to sleep. He has done it to many individuals. Oh, they go to the house of God; they do what they need to do to get there. The devil wants you to merely fill a seat. He does not want you to get involved with the work of God. Some have this attitude: "I put in my time years ago; let somebody else do it. I don't read in the Bible that I have to stay in His service until I die. It's not necessary to do that."

Living this close to eternity, you had better have all the spiritual sensors operating at all times. The enemy would just love for you to come down to the end of your life and lose your soul because of neglect. He wants you to start to coast a little.

Friend, it is not a time to start letting down. It is time to be on high alert. We are in a spiritual battle.

You need to be ready when it is your time to go. This is not a time to give up. You need to say, "Help me, Lord; direct me. I need Your help. So many other times I've failed You, Lord, but I need You to show me what to do."

The enemy is trying to destroy you. He knows that he does not have much time left, so he is working overtime to get people to give up on God. Friend, it is not time to give up or to get lean in your soul. It is time to move forward with God. If you have a need, won't you seek the Lord and say, "Lord, I need You to direct me in this problem I'm having in my life." He can direct you concerning what you need to do about a job, school, or whatever area of your life that you need direction in. However, in order for you to receive direction, you must be willing to fully obey Him. If you need salvation, He is ready to save you.

(Cassette C-5295M)

Dying in Despair

A man who had indulged the hope of final salvation, regardless of character, was on his deathbed. In the prime of life, his cup of pleasure drained to the dregs and exhausted nature refused to recruit her wasted energies. Pale and wan, with an awful sense of an uncertain future, the horrors of remorse distracting his inmost soul, the bitter cup of despair persistently held to his lips by the unrelenting hand of an abused and now fully awakened conscience, his hope that all would finally be well with him was forever swept away. No hope; no trust in God; his bed was no bed of roses, although surrounded by every comfort wealth could furnish.

With the dread realities of eternity before his eyes, he cried: "Oh! I can't die! There is no mercy now for me. God can't forgive me now. Oh, how I wish I had lived differently! If I could only live, I would lead a different life." I encouraged him to hope in the mercy of God in Christ Jesus and earnestly besought him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart, and he should be saved. "Do you think that God will forgive me for Christ's sake, such a sinner as I have been?"

"Yes! Oh, yes!" said I. "He came to seek and to save just such ones as you; be willing to have Him save you now, just as you are." "Oh, no!" said he, "It is too late now," while tears streamed down his young face, pallid with disease and suffering. I had never witnessed such a scene before, and I never shall forget the awful

expression of that dying sinner's face to my dying breath.

I told him I would pray for him, and that he must pray for himself, and left the room. I could not bear to witness such fearful despair. I went downstairs, and soon one of his spasms of pain came on, and unable to bear it, with no hope, no peace, no Jesus to sustain him, he gave way to the fiends, as it seemed to me, which possessed him.

With fearful curses, frightful imprecations and horrid oaths, he drove his faithful wife from the room, and he lay there alone to battle with the raging hand of disease, cursing God and screaming with rage and pain, so that he could be heard in the neighboring houses. I could do nothing for him, and the curses and maledictions of that hour ring in my ears like the wail of the lost in the dark regions of despair. Soon he was dead, gone to the bar of God.

God save us from such a passing away as that; torturing fiends instead of soothing angels. Black despair in lieu of the overshadowing wing of angelic hope. Death and judgment staring him in the face instead of peace in believing and joy in the Holy Ghost. Horrid blasphemies instead of "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" A fearful looking forward to the future in lieu of "I know my Redeemer liveth, and because He lives, I shall live also." Too late, too late! Instead of "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." Such is the fearful end of those who die without Christ.

Selected

[Annual Financial Report—continued from page 21]
 encourage us. What rejoicing it brings! Souls are just waiting to hear something good and longing to read something inspiring to their hearts and to see the love of God manifested. It is so vitally important for each of us to be at our post of duty, to keep ourselves in the love of God, and to be ready to do all we can for the Lord and for souls. It is necessary to have God's Holy Spirit lead and plan in this great work. Without Him being the motivating force behind our feeble efforts, this periodical could never be a success! How desperately we need Him and His guiding hand! Satan is always nearby, ready to hinder and stop our progress, if possible.

Some may wonder about the cost of publishing this religious journal each year. We submit this report to inform you of the expense involved and to allow you to see that your financial giving is vital to its continuance. Finding suitable paper products to print on as reasonably as possible is crucial. The cost of materials and postage are always high. We strive to conserve and want you to realize this. Also, we want you to realize how vital your contributions are to the furtherance of promoting the Gospel.

The total cost of operation for the past fiscal year was \$123,289.00, of which approximately 12.5 percent of that amount was received through gifts from our readers. A small portion of that sum is accredited to the sale of tracts, booklets, letterheads, and promotional material for other Church of God congregations. The remaining balance of \$107,826.16 was paid out of the general fund of the Church of God congregation here in Newark.

Your financial giving and your earnest prayers are much appreciated and extremely important. As we all work together, sowing the

seed of the Gospel, we all will reap in the blessings for our labor. We must never forget that rewards are given to all who have a part in winning souls to the Lord, including the one who carries a fervent burden to God in prayer, the publishers, the helpers, the givers, and the ministry who preach the wonderful words of life.

If you are not already carrying a burden for this work of printing the Good News, we sincerely ask you to join us. Your prayers and support are needed. Again, we say a sincere "Thank You!"

Statement of Condition

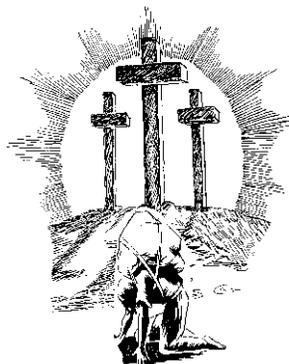
for 12 months ending January 31, 2005

	Income	Expenses
Supplies		\$ 27,010.70
Labor/Payroll Taxes		26,228.82
Donations/Offerings	\$15,462.84	
Equipment		157.48
Postage		59,800.00
Maintenance & Repairs		<u>10,092.00</u>
<i>Subtotals</i>	\$15,462.84	\$123,289.00
<i>Balance paid out of the general fund of the</i>		
<i>Church of God congregation at Newark, OH</i>		\$107,826.16

This Wonderful Friend

*Jesus, my Savior, set me free,
 Out of my bondage lifted me
 Into His glorious liberty,
 This wonderful Friend of mine.*

*Never a time but He is near,
 Ready to comfort, help and cheer,
 Driving away all thought of fear,
 This wonderful Friend of mine.*



*Bearing my burdens day by day,
 Holding me fast lest I should stray;
 How can I e'er His love repay,
 This wonderful Friend of mine.*

*Striving His blessed will to do,
 Safely my journey I pursue,
 Knowing my Lord will lead me thro',
 This wonderful Friend of mine.*

*This wonderful Friend, this wonderful
 Friend,
 Who unto my life new joy doth lend,
 I know He will keep me unto the end,
 This wonderful Friend of mine.*

[Espec. for Young People—continued from page 15]

the waiter for his father's card, and then sat studying the attractive menu.

"I think I'll have—" He mused or a moment, then said, with a laugh, "Well, I'm about hungry enough to eat the whole thing. Bring me the—"

Then he recollected, paused, and reluctantly pulled out envelope No. 8, and broke the seal. "Just a minute," he murmured to the waiter. Then his face turned scarlet, and he stammered, under his breath, "Why—why—this can't be—"

Envelope No. 8 ought to have been bordered with black, judging by the dismay its order to a lecture hall to hear a famous electrician caused. But the Woodbridge blood was up now, and it was with an expression resembling that of his grandfather Cornelius under strong indignation that Cyrus stalked out of that charming place to proceed grimly to the lecture hall.

"Who wants to hear a lecture on an empty stomach?" he groaned. "I suppose I'll be ordered out, anyway, the minute I sit down and stretch my legs. I wonder if Father can be exactly right in his mind. He doesn't believe in wasting time, but I'm wasting it today by the bucketful. Suppose he's doing this to size me up some way; he isn't going to tire me out so quick as he thinks. I'll keep going till I drop."

Nevertheless, when, just as he was getting interested, he was ordered to go three miles to a football field, and then ordered away again without a sight of the game he had planned for a week to see, his disgust was intense.

All through that long, warm afternoon, he raced about the city and suburbs, growing wearier and more empty with every step. The worst of it was, the orders were beginning to assume the form of a schedule, and commanded that he be here at 3:15, and there at 4:05, and so on, which forbade loitering, had he been inclined to loiter. In

it all, he could see no purpose, except the possible one of trying his physical endurance. He was a strong boy, or he would have been quite exhausted long before he reached envelope No. 17, which was the last but three of the packet. This read:

Reach home at 6:20
p.m. Before entering the
house, read No. 18.

Leaning against one of the big white stone pillars of the porch of his home, Cyrus wearily tore open envelope No. 18, and words fairly swam before his eyes. He had to rub them hard to make sure that he was not mistaken:

Go again to Kingston
Heights, corner West and
Dwight Streets, reaching
there by 6:50. Read No. 19.

The boy looked up at the windows, desperately angry at last. If his pride and his sense of the leaning of that phrase, "My word of honor," as the men of the Woodbridge family were in the habit of teaching their sons, had not both been of the strongest sort, he would have rebelled, and gone defiantly and stormily in. As it was, he stood for one long minute with his hands clenched and his teeth set; then he turned and walked down the steps away from the longed for dinner, and out toward L Street and the car for Kingston Heights.

As he did so, inside the house, on the other side of the curtains, from behind which he had been anxiously peering, Cornelius Woodbridge, Senior, turned about and struck his hands together, rubbing them in a satisfied way.

"He's come—and gone," he cried softly, "and he's on time to the minute!"

Cornelius, Junior, did not so much as lift his eyes from the evening paper, as he quietly answered, "Is he?" But the corners of his mouth slightly relaxed.

The car seemed to crawl out to Kingston Heights. As it at last neared its terminus, a strong temptation seized the boy Cyrus. He had been on a purposeless errand to this place once that day. The corner of West and Dwight Streets lay more than half a mile from the end of the car route, and it was an almost untenanted district. His legs were very tired; his stomach ached with emptiness. Why not wait out the interval which it would take to walk to the corner and back in a little suburban station, read envelope No. 19, and spare himself? He had certainly done enough to prove that he was a faithful messenger.

Had he? Certain old and well-worn words came into his mind; they had been in his writing book in the early school days: "A chain is no stronger than its weakest link." Cyrus jumped off the car before it fairly stopped, and started at a hot pace for the corner of West and Dwight Streets. There must be no weak places in his word of honor.

Doggedly he went to the extreme limit of the indicated route, even taking the longest way round to make the turn. As he started back, beneath the arc light at the corner there suddenly appeared a city messenger boy. He approached Cyrus, and grinning, held out an envelope.

"Ordered to give you this," he said, "if you made connections. If you'd been later than five minutes past seven, I was to keep dark. You've got seven minutes and a half to spare. Queer orders, but the big railroad boss, Woodbridge, gave 'em to me."

Cyrus made his way back to the car with some self-congratulations that served to brace up the muscles behind his knees. This last incident showed him plainly that his father was putting him to a severe test of some sort, and he could have no doubt that it was for a purpose. His father was the sort of man who does things

with a very definite purpose indeed. Cyrus looked back over the day with an anxious searching of his memory to be sure that no detail of the singular service required of him had been slighted.

As he once more ascended the steps of his own home, he was so confident that his labors were now ended that he almost forgot about envelope No. 20, which he had been directed to read in the vestibule before entering the house. With his thumb on the bell button he recollected, and with a sigh broke open the final seal:

Turn about, and go to Lenox Street Station, B. Railroad, reaching there by 8:05. Wait for messenger in west end of station, by telegraph office.

It was a blow, but Cyrus had his second wind now. He felt like a machine—a hollow one—which could keep on going indefinitely.

The Lenox Street Station was easily reached on time. The hands of the big clock were only at one minute past eight when Cyrus entered. At the designated spot, the messenger met him. Cyrus recognized him as the porter on one of the trains of the road of which his grandfather and father were officers. Why, yes, he was the porter of the Woodbridge special car! He brought the boy a card which ran thus:

Give porter the letter from Norfolk Building, the card received at restaurant, the lecture coupon, yesterday evening's *Sentinel*, and the envelope received at Kingston Heights.

Cyrus silently delivered up these articles, feeling a sense of thankfulness that not one was missing. The porter went away with them, but was back in three minutes.

"This way, sir," he said, and

Cyrus followed, his heart beating fast. Down the track he recognized the "Fleetwing," President Woodbridge's private car. And Grandfather Cornelius he knew to be just starting on a tour of his own and other roads, which included a flying trip to Mexico. Could it be possible—

In the car his father and grandfather rose to meet him. Cornelius Woodbridge, Senior, was holding out his hand.

"Cyrus, lad," he said, his face one broad, triumphant smile, "you have stood the test, the Hezekiah Woodbridge test, sir, and you may be proud of it. Your word of honor can be depended upon. You are going with us through nineteen states and Mexico. Is that reward enough for one day's hardships?"

"I think it is, sir," agreed Cyrus, his round face reflecting his grandfather's smile, intensified.

"Was it a hard pull, Cyrus?" questioned the senior Woodbridge with interest.

Cyrus looked at his father. "I don't think so—now sir," he said. Both gentlemen laughed.

"Are you hungry?"

"Well, just a little, Grandfather."

"Dinner will be served the moment we are off. We have only six minutes to wait. I am afraid"—the old gentleman turned to gaze searchingly out of the car window into the station—"that another boy's word of honor is not—"

He stood, watch in hand. The conductor came in and remained, awaiting orders. "Two minutes more, Mr. Jefferson," he said. "One and a half—one—half a minute." He spoke sternly: "Pull out at 8:14 on the second, sir. Ah—"

The porter entered hurriedly, and delivered a handful of envelopes into Grandfather Cornelius' grasp. The old gentleman scanned them at a glance.

"Yes, yes—all right!" he cried, with the strongest evidences of excitement Cyrus had ever seen in his usually quiet manner. As the

train made its first gentle motion of departure, a figure appeared in the doorway. Quietly, and not at all out of breath, Cornelius Woodbridge, Third, walked into the car.

Then Grandfather Woodbridge grew impressive. He advanced, and shook hands with his grandson as if he were greeting a distinguished member of the board of directors. Then he turned to his son, and shook hands with him also, solemnly. His eyes shone through his gold-rimmed spectacles, but his voice was grave with feeling.

"I congratulate you, Cornelius," he said, "on possessing two sons whose word of honor is above reproach. The smallest deviation from the outlined schedule would have resulted disastrously. Ten minutes of tardiness at the different points would have failed to obtain the requisite documents. Your sons did not fail. They can be depended upon. The world is in search of men built on those lines. I congratulate you, sir." Cyrus was glad presently to escape to his stateroom with Cornelius. "Say, what did you have to do?" he asked eagerly. "Did you trot your legs off all over town?"

"Not much, I didn't!" said Cornelius, grimly, from the depths of a big towel. "I spent the whole day in a little hole of a room at the top of an empty building, with just ten trips down the stairs to the ground floor to get envelopes at certain minutes. I had not a crumb to eat nor a thing to do, and could not even snatch a nap for fear I'd oversleep one of my dates at the bottom."

"I believe that was worse than mine," commented Cyrus, reflectively.

"I should say it was. If you don't think so, try it."

"Dinner, boys," said their father's voice at the door, and they lost no time in responding.

Selected

Announcements

SUMMERSVILLE, WV

April 18-24

REVIVAL: Church of God, Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV

Evangelist: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, OH

Service times: Mon.-Fri. 7:00 p.m.; Sat. 6:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:30 & 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders, Heath, OH 43056.

Telephone: 740-788-8763

HONDURAS

May 1-8

CONVENTION: Church of God, Honduras

Evangelists: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, OH & Brother David Stegmeier, Canby, OR

For further information contact: Pastor Esau Brooks

Telephone: (Honduras) 011-504-451-514

(Grand Cayman) 1-345-947-2114

MEDINA, OH

May 16-22

REVIVAL: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH 44256

Evangelist: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, OH

Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. & Sunday 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor C. H. Dickerson, 215 Montview Dr., Medina, OH 44256

Telephone: 330-725-6853 or 330-725-5993

Many readers have requested information regarding where they can find true Church of God congregations to attend in their area, so we have compiled a list of congregations and listed the name and telephone number for each pastor where Church of God congregations are standing for Truth in this evening time of the Gospel Day.

Phoenix, Arizona

Telephone: 623-516-0836

Pastor C. H. Ferguson

Murphy, North Carolina

Telephone: 828-837-4011

Pastor James Lovingood

Kensett, Arkansas

Telephone: 501-742-3961

Pastor Calvin Foster

Medina, Ohio

Telephone: 330-725-6853

Pastor C. H. Dickerson

Chicago, Illinois

Telephone: 708-547-5117

Pastor Eula S. Bland

Minerva, Ohio

Telephone: 330-868-6831

Pastor Wayne Hafley

Mechanicsburg, Indiana

Telephone: 765-521-8284

Pastor Allen Polston

Newark, Ohio

Telephone: 740-344-2543

Pastor Roger L. Decker

Newton, Kansas

Telephone: 316-282-0104

Pastor Sandy Killfoil

Canby, Oregon

Telephone: 503-266-9297

Pastor David Stegmeier

Detroit, Michigan

Telephone: 313-872-3483

Pastor Samuel Oree

Lenoir City, Tennessee

Telephone: 865-986-7214

Pastor David Watson

Niles, Michigan

Telephone: 269-687-1045

Pastor Burt Cheney

Summersville, WV

Telephone: 740-788-8763

Pastor Earl R. Borders

Hamilton, Montana

Telephone: 406-612-3956

Pastor Patrick Brower