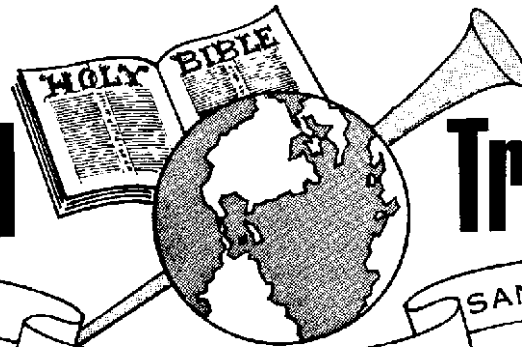


The Gospel



Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Mal. 2:13

UNITY & TRUTH

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 40 May 2010 No. 5



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

Psalm 122:1

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

Guest Editorial

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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Vol. 40 May 2010 No. 5

*For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears
are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they
should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and
understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I
should heal them.*

Acts 28:27

Becoming Insensible

While the Apostle Paul was in
prison in Rome awaiting trial, he
had opportunity to speak with
many of his countrymen about the
things of God. He confirmed the
fact that Christ was the promised
Messiah. He found that some
accepted the message and be-
lieved, but others refused to em-
brace the Truth. Their rejection of
Christ and the message that He
bore stirred Paul's heart. In our
Scripture text Paul referred to the
words of the Holy Ghost given to
Isaiah the Prophet in Isaiah 6:9.

Becoming insensible to the
moving of God's Word and Spirit
is a very dangerous place to get
into. People hear the *message* from
the man of God, but they are un-
able to comprehend it. Unfortu-
nately, multitudes fall prey to this
terrible entrapment and end up
lost. Let us look at the word *insen-
sible* to see what it reveals. It
means "unresponsive to feeling,
indifferent, numb, unaware, and
not susceptible to agencies or
influences." When this takes hold
in the heart, it leaves one with
little or no hope of ever being
reached with the Gospel. Physical
death or the Second Coming of
Christ could find the dear soul
unprepared to meet God and,
therefore, being eternally lost.

The Apostle Paul gave sound
advice when he penned the words:
"Let us not sleep, as do others; but
let us watch and be sober. For they
that sleep sleep in the night;

and they that be drunken are
drunken in the night" (1 Thessa-
lonians 5:6-7). People who are
asleep spiritually are insensible to
the saving Gospel of our Lord. It
is similar to one who is asleep
physically. He is unaware of what
is taking place around him. It is so
important for the saints of God to
be alert, awake, and on guard
against such a deceitful and de-
structive spirit. The unsaved soul
must also be aware of the dangers
of disregarding God's call to re-
pentance.

This spiritually dull, sleepy
condition catches many souls un-
aware. One does not fall over-
night, but rather it is a slow, grad-
ual process that takes place in the
heart. It comes as the result of
hearing the Lord's commands and
seeing His requirements, but sim-
ply refusing to heed, believe, and
respond. Sad to say, too often
many people try to minimize
what God says through His Word
and His Spirit. When He speaks,
He expects a man and a woman to
fully obey His command. Man is
not given the privilege to take or
reject that which he chooses.

Some individuals may feel an
insensible condition only happens
to those who are lost in sin. God
certainly includes the unsaved
in this message. Anyone standing
in need of salvation surely
must heed God's call to repen-
tance quickly. Refusing to

[continued on page 7]

Luke 22:31 *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

32 *But I have prayed for thee, that*

thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking*

whom he may devour.

2 Corinthians 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

The Fall of the Christian Home



Brother Roger L. Decker

Satan's Devices

If you have never seen the devil in action, you might have a difficult time believing that there is a devil, but the condition of many homes ought to convince you that the devil is real. One of the most beautiful things that God placed on this earth is the Christian home. It is the oldest institution in the world, and I believe it is the most attacked by Satan. How the enemy of souls desires to disfigure and openly and violently turn the occupants of the home against one another!

A home should be a peaceful haven from the world. I can truthfully say that when I got salvation, home became the place where I desired to be. When I got off work,

whether it was morning, afternoon, or evening, that is where I wanted to go. It is a place where there are fond memories, and it is a place where the family has witnessed the power of God many times. It is a place where there are home-cooked meals, family discussions, and a family altar. Often those things are taken for granted, but they are precious.

The home is a place that Satan desires to destroy if he can. The devil is not a respecter of persons. The more spiritual a home is, the more the devil desires to tear it apart. The greater a family's witness is of what a Christian home should be, the more under attack that home will be. May God help us to be wise concerning these things.

One of the greatest witnesses for

Christ is the Christian home. That is the reason the enemy works so hard to bring down that witness. A Christian family is a great witness to raising a child in the fear and admonition of God. Sadly, today many children are allowed to do their own thing. It is a wonderful witness to see children in obedience to their parents and to see children respect other people's property.

Peter said in our Scripture text that the devil "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Sometimes Christian couples start right, but little by little, those homes suffer decay and destruction. The enemy pulls out one block of Truth after another until the foundation of the home begins to crumble.

We want to look at some reasons

that homes are suffering. The number one reason is the lack of salvation, or the lack of spirituality. When spirituality begins to dwindle, the flesh gets stronger. Something is going to be strong in your life. It is either going to be the Spirit of God or the flesh. When the flesh gets stronger, it is going to demand to have its own way. Your only hope of keeping the flesh where it needs to be is in having the Spirit of God. It takes the Spirit of God to keep the flesh under.

Romans 8:5 says, "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." Romans 8:13 says, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Paul said if you live after the flesh, you will die. When you begin to die spiritually, the spirituality in your home will go down with it.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I want you to consider what the Apostle Paul was really saying. He was saying the thing that he feared the most, the thing that could derail him from being an Apostle, was himself. It was not the fear of persecution from the Jews or the fear of a sword being run through him. It was himself that he feared. He said, "I keep under my body." He stated plainly that he brought his body into subjection. Why did he have to bring his body into subjection? He had to do so because the flesh does not want to be brought into submission.

The flesh that houses your soul does not want to submit to the will of God. Paul did not say that if he did not handle this or that right, he would be a castaway. Why? He knew that if he kept his flesh under, he could stand against other temptations and trials. When you begin to get weak spiritually, the flesh no longer has to be as strict as it once

was. The next thing you know, you will start saying things and start allowing things that you once condemned, because the flesh has become strong.

The Necessity of Having Discipline

Another reason that homes are suffering is that they have succumbed to the spirit of lukewarmness. You should not accept the spirituality of your home being below the Bible standard. Life is a battle. We know that a flabby soldier cannot win battles and a lazy runner cannot win races. We must regard ourselves as men and women who are engaged in being champions pressing toward the goal.

When Paul was coming down to the end of his life's battle and about to leave this world, he said in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." In 1 Timothy 6:12 he wrote, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:4, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

Saint, you have to be careful, because some legitimate things can rob you of your peace. For example, you can become overindulged in sports or in politics. You may fuss and carry on all you want about this and that, but the only way you are going to change anything is down on your knees. Your favorite sports team is not always going to win, and the man for whom you vote in an election is not always going to win. You can get so wrapped up in these events that you leave the fight to stay spiritual. People can become carnal about these things.

These things are not sinful in themselves, but they can cause you to act in such a way that the Spirit of God becomes grieved. Paul said that

no man who wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life, so that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier. Likewise, someone driving a car down the highway cannot just watch the landscape.

God still rules over this universe. He lifts people up, and He sets people down. When Israel of old desired a king, God gave them one. Today if people want ungodliness, homosexuality, lesbianism, and feminism, then He will let them have these things by allowing someone to be elected who will lead them in that direction. If people want something bad enough, God will give it to them. Old Israel desired a king to rule over them, so God gave them a king.

Winning the Christian fight and being victorious in the race demands discipline. You have to discipline your body. It has been said that one of the neglected facts of the spiritual life is often spiritual depression, springing from nothing more than physical unfitnes. If a man is going to do his best in anything, he must bring to it a body as fit as he can make it. You have to discipline your mind. One of the tragedies of life is that men may refuse to think until they become incapable of thinking. You can never solve problems by refusing to see them or by running away from them.

You must discipline your soul. You can do so by facing life's sorrows with calm endurance, its temptations with the strength that God gives you, and its disappointments with the courage that God gives you. You need to know your goal. A distressing thing is the obvious aimlessness in the lives of so many people who are drifting along instead of going somewhere. Some people lack having goals in life. The goal of those who are saved is to be more like Jesus.

Someone once drew a cartoon showing two men on Mars looking down at the people in this world. The people were scurrying here, there, and everywhere. One man

said to the other, "What are they doing?"

The other one replied, "They are going."

"But," said the first, "where are they going?"

"Oh," said the other, "they are not going anywhere; they are just going."

To go just anywhere is a certain way to arrive nowhere. You need to know the worth of your soul. The great appeal of Jesus was rarely based on penalty and punishment. It was based on the declaration, "Look what you are missing if you do not take My way." The goal is life, and surely it is worth everything to win that goal.

It is going to take work to keep Satan from destroying your home, and not just the work of one member, but the work of all. If ever people needed to be workers together, it is in the home. Wrong attitudes, envy, strife, malice, and bitterness have to be conquered. If they are not, these things will destroy the home. Just as a nest of termites goes after a building, Satan goes after the home. When termites first begin their destructive work, you cannot see the building decaying. Those termites keep working on one piece of lumber after another. If they work on a building long enough, eventually it will begin to tilt, and finally it will collapse. That is just the way Satan works to destroy homes.

When the flesh gets strong and the spirit gets weak, things will begin to take place, just as when false religion comes against the two witnesses (the Word and the Spirit) and their operation of directing the church, things contrary to the Word of God begin to take place. The flesh wants its way and needs to be brought under. Many times the order of the home changes; nevertheless, God still has an order.

Many people seem to think they are all right if things are changed around a little, but God has divine order. The man is still the head of the woman. That is right in the Bible. First Corinthians 11:1-3 states:

"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."

Working Together in the Home

Colossians 3:18 reads, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." Ephesians 5:22 tells us, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." There is an order to the home. I did not place the order there; God set it in place.

According to the rule, the husband is to be the breadwinner. He is to go out and find work to support his family. There are exceptions. For example, with the way the economy is now, a man may not be able to find a job. In such cases, a family might have to do whatever it can possibly do so that it does not have to file bankruptcy.

The Bible says the wife is a helpmeet. That does not mean that the man is to rule over the wife with an iron fist or a clenched fist. He should not try to knock her from one side of the room to the other. He should not scream and yell at her either. A godly man loves his wife as the Scripture says. He should not make her feel as though she is a second-class citizen, or as though she is beneath him. She is not a doormat, so to speak, for all who come in to wipe their feet on her and treat her disrespectfully.

The wife should be considered in the decisions concerning the home. Before the husband buys something major, both the husband and the wife should talk over the matter together. Sometimes the wife has more wisdom. The woman's home is her castle. She knows how she wants the kitchen, the living room, the laundry room, the bedroom, and the closets. Therefore, she

should have quite a bit of say when it comes to fixing up the home. She knows how she wants it fixed.

The man should not have to come home from work and fix supper, do the laundry, run the sweeper, and attend to the baby (if there is one) any more than the wife should have to change the oil in a car or fix a flat tire. Now, if the man wants to help his wife, that is wonderful! However, it should not be considered a part of his nightly chores.

Sometimes the wife feels cooped up all day long with children who are crying, needing to be changed, needing to be fed, and so on; but the husband may feel frustrated as well. As he works on the job, he may wonder if he is going to get laid off or get sick and be unable to work. Maybe he has a boss who is unreasonable and very demanding, so he has pressure as well. Couples need the Lord to help them, otherwise they can be just like two pressure cookers blowing off steam toward each other. He has been out in the world under pressure, and she has been in the home wanting to get outside the door for a little while. He cannot wait to get inside, so there may be tension when they meet.

At such times, both the husband and the wife have to work hard to keep their flesh under. The duties of a wife are to be held in great honor. She is the hub of the home. When our children call our house, often they say, "Is Mother there?" Mothers have a way about them that is a gift from God, and they can listen to a child or maybe two or three children at one time. I do not know how they do it and still hear everything and make decisions for each of the children.

The devil would like to turn God's Word around and cause people to do their own thing. The Word of God says in Judges 17:6, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." When God's people try to do what is right

in their own eyes, there will always be utter chaos. God has a beautiful plan, and that plan will work if we all strive to make it work; but it takes keeping the flesh under.

Obedience to Parents

The children have an important place in the home. God's Word talks about the children. Their behavior is so important that God placed a special command for them in the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:12 instructs, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

Paul felt it necessary to remind the morning-time church of the commandment, so he mentioned it in Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." There is an actual promise attached to this commandment. The promise of that commandment is this: "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." When there is dishonor in the home, you should not be surprised if things do not go well.

Let us look at this obedience. First, long life is a blessing. God put within you a desire to live. Long life affords a longer space to prepare for eternity, and it enables a man to be more useful. It furnishes a longer opportunity to study the works of God here on earth. It is not improper to desire it, and we should make use of all the means in our power to lengthen our days and preserve and protect our lives.

Second, it is still true that obedience to parents is conducive to length of life and that those who are most obedient in early life, other things being equal, have the best prospect of living long. The reason is, obedient children are saved from the vices and the crimes that shorten life. No godly parent would com-

mand his child to be a drunkard, a gambler, a spendthrift, a pirate, or a murderer; but all these vices, resulting in most cases from disobedience to parents, shorten life. Those who commit them are almost certain of an early grave. Parents may say: "Don't do this" and "Don't do that"; "Stay away from this" and "Stay away from that." When those things are obeyed, you will be protected, and you will add days to your life.

I read an interesting little note in the news. It asked, "What age group watches television less than any other age group?" Surprisingly, teenagers watch it less than other age groups. Why is that? They have music, video games, and other vices that take the place of it. Technology is making it awfully easy to lose your spirituality.

Obedience to parents is connected with virtuous habits that are conducive to long life. It will make a child industrious, temperate, and sober. It will lead him to restrain and govern his wild passions. It will lead him to form good habits, which in the future will save him from the snares of vices and temptations. Church of God, you must make your children obey. I cannot stress that enough.

You may say: "I am going to raise my child differently than I was raised. I am not going to spank him. I would never treat him the way I was treated." Well, you are still alive. Many a life is lost early by disobeying a parent. A child who disobeys his father will go into a liquor store or a bar and become a companion of the wicked. His character will change, and his life on this earth may be shortened immensely. Children in the home should obey the laws of the home. God is pleased when He sees children honor their mother and father.

Restoring the Basic Foundations

Psalms 11:1-7 states: "In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? For, lo, the wicked bend their

bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright."

When the foundation of a marriage is destroyed, what can the righteous do? What are you going to do when the foundation of your marriage is destroyed? The great principles of Truth and righteousness that hold a marriage together are no longer respected when the security and principles of the home are no longer practiced. What can the righteous do? What source of safety or confidence do the righteous have when things begin to crumble? Verse 4 tells us, "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

There is something that you can do before your home goes under completely, and that is take it to the Lord. The Lord has not changed. He still sees what is going on, and He is still in His holy temple. The Lord's throne is still in Heaven. You can go boldly to the throne of grace. God sees everything that is going on, but do not be so stubborn that you do not take it to God and admit your own problem.

Most people always see the other person at fault. Friend, you ought to admit that you are wrong. Remember, it takes two to tangle. The Lord is still on His throne. He is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). If any changes have taken place in the home, someone has changed. The foundations cannot be destroyed

unless you allow them to be destroyed. The foundation for a home is a rock-solid experience with the Lord.

Is your home being destroyed? If so, do not let the devil pull out the last block and cause your home to crumble completely. You need to do your best to put it back in order in accordance with the Word of God. A home that is out of order is not a happy home. In fact, it is just like a time bomb that is ready to blow up completely at any moment.

As I said earlier in the message,

the number one reason that homes are in disarray is the lack of salvation, or the lack of spirituality. If you stop making God the number one priority in your life, sad things are going to happen in the home. When two people who profess to be Christians are joined together, they have no thought that their home could eventually be destroyed; but if there is a letdown in spirituality by one or both parties, the home will begin to be destroyed. Dear one, do not allow your home to go under. You need to do all you can to save

your home. You can do that by going right back to the basic foundations of the home. Do not let the foundations be destroyed.

God is still in His temple. Won't you humble yourself and tell God the truth about your condition? You need to tell God the facts that He already knows. If you will humble yourself, God will restore the basic foundations that you need for your home, but you must put Him first in all that you do.

(Compact Disc TR-369E)

Two Marks of a Christian

GIVING

and

FORGIVING

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]

give diligent heed can cause the Lord to turn from a person, never to visit him again. There is great danger in failing to heed the Savior's faithful pleadings. To override His invitation continually will end in being lost eternally.

Professed saints need to be ever ready to hear and to heed the Word of God. Satan is ready to make one feel that he does not have to do this or that to be a Christian. Giving ear to such a suggestion will leave the soul in great peril. Dear one, do not be deceived. Becoming insensible can happen to a child of God if he is not alert. Satan seeks for the Christian who is becoming careless or lukewarm in his relationship with the Lord. Along the way, some have loosened their grip on living the holy life by no longer taking God's Word as seriously as they ought to take it.

How can a person (a saint or a

sinner), recognize that this condition is working in his life? Usually it comes as the result of being brought face to face with God's Word and will and then choosing to go one's own way instead of choosing to go God's way. It certainly is true that the Lord is long-suffering and patient; however, the time will come when His mercy will no longer be extended. When God speaks, it is important that you move quickly in response to His call. You must remember that rejection to His appeal brings a hardening process in the heart. After a time, His faithful prodding will become fainter and fainter, until it is no longer recognizable. This is when one becomes insensible to the Lord's voice. Men and women must be obedient and respond to the light while it is available!

Dear unsaved friend, has the Spirit of God spoken to you repeatedly regarding your need to be

saved from sin? It is so important that you respond to His voice when He calls. May the writer remind you that God is not obligated to continue wooing at your heart? He can decide to leave you in your lost state, never to call again.

Christian friend, if you are slipping in your experience with the Lord, it is urgent that you awaken! Perhaps the Lord has revealed weak areas in your life or things that you need to change. Perhaps on numerous occasions He has shown you places where you have erred from right principles or veered from the old paths. He chastens those whom He loves, desiring to have them draw closer and to be all that He wishes them to be. We surely want to encourage you not to turn a deaf ear to the Lord when He speaks to your heart.

Selected

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his

servant David.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set

at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Salvation



What It Is and What It is Not

Brother Paul Prinkey

Understanding What Salvation Is Not

The Bible tells us that God authorized salvation for all mankind through Jesus Christ. Zacharias' prophecy in Luke and what Peter said in Acts clearly define that God has provided the work of salvation through Jesus Christ His Son. You need to know what salvation is and what it is not. First of all, the word *salvation* means "the act of saving; being saved from danger, evil, difficulty, or destruction; rescue;

deliverance from sin and from the penalty of sin." Salvation is deliverance from sin and the penalty of sin.

Child of God, every day as you go out into the world and come in contact with sinners, God opens doors of opportunity for you to be a witness for Him. Jesus told His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. He told them that they would receive power to become witnesses. God has authorized every child of God to be a witness for Him.

God gave us power for mainly

two things: to be witnesses and to live above sin. These are the two greatest things that God gave us power to do through the person of the Holy Ghost. Sometimes to understand what something is, you need to understand what it is not. Therefore, before I deal with the subject of what salvation is, I would like to name some things that salvation is not.

First, you cannot obtain salvation by shaking a preacher's hand. Second, salvation is not being indoctrinated with what a church

believes, no matter what church it is. Merely learning about the Bible will not save your soul. Third, you cannot obtain salvation by attending church regularly, although that is important. Fourth, salvation is not going to the church of your choice and having your name on a membership role. I am not saying these things to offend you, but you need to understand what salvation is not. Many people have faith in things that God has never ordained.

You cannot obtain salvation by going through the ordinance of water baptism. It is an ordinance of God, but you cannot get saved by taking a dip in the water. It does not work that way. Getting wet will not save you, but getting saved will cause you to follow through with the ordinance of water baptism.

Salvation is not doing good works. In the Bible you can read about people who named a whole list of good works that they had done, but Jesus said, "I never knew you; depart from Me." Doing good works will not get you into Heaven. Salvation is not holding a position in the church, no matter what position it is. Holding a position in the church will not save your soul.

Salvation is not having saved parents and being raised in a Christian home; that will not save your soul. It will help you, but it is an individual decision. Salvation is not living the outward standard of holiness. You can dress modestly from top to bottom, front to back, and side to side, but that will not save your soul.

Some people do not know what the rod of correction is. They were cheated. Many younger parents do not know how to administer the Bible form of discipline. When I talk about my parents administering the rod of correction to my hind quarters, some people think that is physical abuse. No, they straightened me out and kept me from going down the wrong road. My mother and father missed some wrong things that I did. So anytime they corrected me when I did not think I needed it,

they just made up for the times they missed. I am not preaching on child rearing, but I believe that every child born needs the rod of correction sometime in his life. The child may not receive it, but he needs it.

Being saved is not having spiritual friends and acquaintances or being friends with the pastor and his wife. I have known people who wanted to get as close as they could get to the pastor and his wife; that is not going to get you through and that does not make you saved.

Being saved is not singing in the choir, saying a nicely worded prayer, or giving a testimony. Being saved is not marrying someone who is saved. You need to get an experience of salvation before you marry; then you will avoid much trouble. Last (there are more, but this is all I can cover now), being saved is not a sackful of good intentions.

Godly Sorrow Works Repentance

Now that you understand what being saved is not, I want to let you know what salvation is. If you want to be saved, here is the stipulation according to God's Word. Second Corinthians 7:10 states, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." One of the first steps to salvation is having godly sorrow. Some people are sorry that they got caught doing wrong, but they do not have godly sorrow. What is godly sorrow? First of all, you will be sorry for hurting God and for sinning against Him. Every sin is against God, and every sin hurts Him. God does have a personality.

Has anyone ever hurt you, wronged you, told a lie about you, cheated on you, or backstabbed you? It hurts, does it not? Many people hurt God every day. I did when I was a sinner. I lied to God, cheated on Him, and cut corners when I could, yet I thought I could get away with it. However, when I got under the conviction of the Holy Ghost, I was sorry that I had ever

sinned against God. I was sorry that I had hurt Him by sinning against Him.

Godly sorrow will cause you to be sorry that you hurt God, and godly sorrow will also cause you to be sorry for hurting people. We did not just sin against God when we were in sin; we sinned against others. The first two people I had to ask to forgive me after I got saved were my mother and my father. Why? I had sinned against them, and I had wronged them. As a sixteen-year-old boy, I had wronged my mother, but there are younger ones than that who wrong their mothers and fathers.

I owed my parents an apology, and they got one. I did not wait two years to apologize to them. I apologized to them on the way home from church on the night that I got saved. I was sorry not only for hurting God and for sinning against Him but also for hurting others and for the way I was ruining my own life. I was tearing my own life to pieces, not caring what I was doing and not caring how it was affecting me. I could not pull my life back together without God, but with God's power working through me, thank God, He enabled me to pull my life together! Where did it start? It began with godly sorrow. If you are ever going to get salvation, you must have godly sorrow.

Confessing and Forsaking Sin

First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Next, real salvation is repentance. You must come clean of *all* wrongdoing, not just some of it or what you think is the worst. You cannot make deals with God when you get saved. You cannot go to an altar of prayer and bow down before God and say: "Listen, Lord, I've examined my life, and I know that I need to get right. Here are the things that I think are my worst sins. These other things are not so bad." First of all, you cannot

fix your problems. Second, you cannot make deals with God. You cannot get saved on your own terms.

When you come to God, you must lay your whole life out before Him and put it all on the altar. Let God pick and choose what you can keep in your life and what you need to get rid of that is not good for you. You need to let God do the choosing, because you will make a mistake if you do it. You have already been doing the choosing, and look where it has gotten you. Now you need to give everything to God and let Him control your life. You will not get into trouble that way. God will keep you clear of trouble if you let Him do the picking and the choosing.

When you repent, you need to lose all self-righteousness. You may say, "I'm not so bad." Have you looked in the mirror of God's Word lately? Sin is ugly, and God is angry with the wicked every day, not just a couple of days out of a year. What does it take to get God off your back? Friend, God will follow you to the ends of the earth. David made this clear in Psalm 139:2 when he said, "Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off." You cannot hide anything from God.

Hebrews 4:13 tells us that "all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." You cannot hide anything from God, and you cannot hide from Him. God knows where you are. What does it take to be saved? It takes losing your self-righteousness. I had to acknowledge when I came to God, "There's nothing in me that is good." I laid it all out before God, and I let God put my life together the way He wanted it, and He has done a mighty fine job.

What is salvation? God will cleanse you of all unrighteousness, but there is a condition to that promise. What is it? You must ask for forgiveness. God will not automatically grant forgiveness. You must humble yourself, confess, and for-

sake your sins, and then you will obtain mercy. Many people are willing to confess their sins, but some people have a very hard time forsaking them.

Luke 19:5-10 states: "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Making Restitution

Another part of salvation is restitution. The Church of God still believes in it and practices it. Restitution is what Zacchaeus was talking about. He came down from the tree, and Jesus was there to meet him. Jesus told Zacchaeus that He was going to abide at his house that day. Something happened to Zacchaeus from the time that Jesus called him to the time his feet hit the ground, because in essence, he said, "Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. If I have wronged any man, I will return to him fourfold what I have taken wrongfully."

Restitution is important. Just because God saves you and forgives you, it does not mean that He cleaned up your dirty tracks. This is the reason Paul said to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. There are some things that you need to work out, and restitution is one of them. If you have wronged someone or taken something wrongfully, you must straighten it up.

You may say, "Preacher, you need to understand something. I'm fifty years of age. I did some things twenty or thirty years ago, and the business that I stole from is closed. What should I do?" Well, if there is no way possible to make it clear, you could put the money in the offering plate. There are ways to make amends. You should not let the devil talk you out of making restitution and say, "I got off easily; they closed down."

I wonder how many people have walked up and grabbed one or two bags of ice from an outside ice freezer at a convenience store and walked over to their vehicle and threw it in without paying for it. They are going to hell for less than \$2.00, unless they make it right. They are selling their souls awfully cheap. The devil will cause you to steal things that you do not even need. If you have done wrong, you must make it right. God will bring it to your mind. God is faithful. He will remind you of the things you did wrong that you need to make right. When you make a restitution, you need to do it God's way. You should not do it your way or you might have to go back and do it again. If you do it God's way, you will be happier, and God will be pleased.

Raised to Newness of Life

What else does salvation consist of? John 3:5-8 tells us: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

Romans 6:3-4 reads: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were

baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Paul made it clear that we are raised to newness of life in salvation. He stated in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." What does that mean? You become a different person when you get saved. You are not the same as you used to be, thank God. God made a visible change inside and out in my life when I got saved. I am not the person I used to be. The theme of all these Scriptures is that salvation changes your life. When you get saved, there will be a change. Jesus said that you cannot see the wind, but you can see the effects of it.

One fellow went to a bar and hung out with his friends and got drunk. Sunday morning he went to church and got under conviction and got saved. When he went back to work on Monday, one fellow said, "I saw you Friday night at a bar getting drunk."

He replied, "No, you didn't see me."

"What do you mean? I'm sure it was you," said the fellow. "There can't be another man who looks like you."

"No, it wasn't me," he said. "I'm a different man. I went to church yesterday, got under conviction, and got saved. I gave my life to God. I'm not the same fellow I used to be. God made a change in me, and old things have passed away and all things have become new."

God will change your life. You cannot get saved without being changed. Away with the idea that you just believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. That is not all there is to it. A preacher in a denominational church was in a restaurant talking to a couple of people. He learned that they were not Christians, so he asked them if they be-

lieved in Jesus Christ. They said they did; then he told them: "You are saved then, because that's all it takes. You don't have to change the way you're living or make any adjustments. Just believe in the Lord Jesus Christ." Contrary to what he said, when you get the goods, you will know it, and people around you will know it. You will be different. You will walk differently, dress differently, talk differently, act differently, and react differently.

Principle Teachings

One fellow sang a song that said, *"I've got rough edges all over me, I can't change not even for you; You can chisel and mold, but I'm brittle as coal, These edges will never be smooth."* That is how some people are. They are rough when they get saved, and it takes a lot of work. Some people have to work on things more than others, but what a change the Lord makes! It is a joy to work with those who are saved. There is something about the fruit of the Spirit called temperance that helps people to control themselves.

Two categories in your life will show that you have changed. First, when you get saved and God changes you, you will immediately stop doing everything that you know is wrong. You may not know that some things are wrong when you first get saved, but God is not worried about what you do not know. You need to take care of what you do know.

The second category is that you will start doing everything that you know is right. These are the changes that will take place. For example, you know that smoking is wrong. I have heard sinners try to justify it, yet they know it is wrong. Even the body knows it is wrong. The first time a person takes a puff on a cigarette, he will cough. The body tries to say: "Put it down! This is not good for you. It will kill you." If you do not listen, the body will cough and cough to try to say, "It's not good for you." God did not design the body

to serve as a chimney. You need to get rid of all tobacco products; throw them away."

I have watched guys take a pinch of snuff and put it in their lips, and soon they were not walking straight because they were feeling dizzy. Why? The tobacco companies but fiberglass in snuff, and it lacerates the inside of the lip so the nicotine will get to the blood stream quickly. If you use it, you need to get rid of it. It is not good for you.

You know it is wrong to drink alcohol. You know that certain things are wrong; therefore, as soon as you get saved, you ought to stop consuming them. That will be evidence that you are saved. You must quit doing all the things that you used to do that you know are wrong.

There are some things that every sinner knows are right. How do I know that sinners know some things are right? Because they will try to judge the Christian on those things. They may say, "Now, wait a minute! You said you were a Christian, so you're not allowed to do that." People know more than they let on. They may act as though they do not know, until you do something that they think is questionable; then they say: "Wait a minute! You sinned right there. You told me that you were a Christian, and I didn't think Christians did that."

Every sinner knows he ought to be in church every time the doors are open. That is a principle teaching. Everyone understands that is the right thing to do. When you get saved and God changes your life, you will start going to church every time the doors are open. You know that you ought to read your Bible; all Christians do that. You know that reading the Bible is the right thing to do, whether you are saved or lost.

Another thing that is necessary in salvation is praying. That comes automatically, because if you ever intend to serve the Lord, you must cry out for His help and mercy. You should do as David did when he

said in Psalm 34:6, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." We all have troubles. In Job 14:1 Job made that clear when he said, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble." I do not know of anyone who is exempt from that verse. Adam is the only one that bypassed that, but he is gone. The rest of us have been born of a woman, so we have troubles. What do you need to do? You need to pray. You know that is right.

Salvation Involves Separation

When God saves you and changes you, you need to stop doing everything that is wrong and do everything that you know is right; this is the place to start, and God will lead you from there. Last of all, salvation involves separation. Second Corinthians 6:17 says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

When you get saved, a separation takes place. Your life will no longer mesh with what the world is doing. Your life will be in opposition to what the world is doing. What the world is doing is in opposition to the way God wants you to live your life. What has to take place? A separation must take place; it is inevitable.

I did not have to make an effort to sever relationships with some people after I got saved; it transpired automatically. They no longer wanted anything to do with me. A separation took place when I began to live for God. I was determined that I was going to do what God said and not what others said. God's way is right, and it did not matter to me what their opinion was. I believed God's Word, and that settled it for me. I was doing what God said over the top of what anyone else's opinion was. As I began to live for God, because the direction that I was going was the opposite of their direction, our paths

separated.

A separation took place when you got saved, Christian friend. Those old friends parted ways with you. Why? They did not want to live the same way the Christian lives. Now God comes first in your life, not meeting up with your friends and running around. Sometimes when a young couple gets married and has children, the husband will run around with his buddies as if he is eighteen years of age. What is he thinking? He is still living as though he is single. He has responsibilities in the home. He needs to grow up.

You cannot live for God and keep that up. God is going to point out where you belong. You belong at home with your wife and children, raising your family. Someone may ask, "Are you saying that I can't get together with some fellows every now and then?" No, I am not saying that. I am talking about people trying to live as if they are ten or twenty years younger. They have never changed their lifestyle. You have to part ways with some people. If you are going to be saved and maintain an experience with God, you have to separate yourself.

You must abstain from all sin and uncleanness; that will cause you to separate yourself from many people. Why? When you are saved, you no longer live the way they live, and you do not talk the way they talk. I did not realize until after I got saved and listened to their talk how filthy it was. What happened? I was the one who changed when I got saved. I did not belong with them anymore. Before I was saved, I used to spend every lunch period at school with the wild crowd outside, getting into trouble, telling smutty jokes, and cursing. After I got saved, I spent the lunch periods in the library reading the Bible. I gained much more by doing that than by hanging around outside with all the wild boys and girls.

Has Your Life Been Changed?

Again, Paul said in 2 Corinthi-

ans 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." This is not the pastor's idea; it is God's idea. It is time to sever some connections. There are some places where you should not go back to after you get saved. When your old friends catch up with you and say: "What happened to you? I didn't see you down at such-and-such place," you should reply, "I'll tell you what happened to me. About two weeks ago, I went to the Church of God and got saved. I've never been in a service like that before! God got hold of me that night, and I realized that I needed to get my life straightened out. I was heading down the wrong road."

You may lose them after you start talking about going to church, but you should tell them how God changed your life and invite them to church. You never know, that person may be another hungry soul. On the other hand, as long as you keep company with them and act the way they do, you will not win them to the Lord.

One fellow said that he went to church and got saved, and when he went back to work and told everyone what happened to him, he said, "I never realized that I worked with so many Christians until after I got saved." What did he mean? No one openly professed to be a Christian until he said he got saved. All those fellows were doing the same things that he used to do. They were living the same way, and then they each said: "I'm a Christian too. I go to church." The problem was, their lives had never changed; they had empty professions.

God will change your life. I thank God for salvation. If you will let salvation work the way God wants it to work, it will do everything it needs to do for your life. You will not lack anything if you let God have full control. I am glad for salvation! I am thankful that I am a child of God.

My aunt sings a song that says, "There's nothing in this whole world that I would rather be called than a

child of God." If you are a child of God, your life is a success story. When someone gets saved and lives God's way, that individual is successful. Lazarus was far more successful than the rich man, but it took death to reveal it.

How are you living? Are you a Christian? If not, do you want to become a Christian? If you do, you must yield to the Lord. The important thing is that you must have a broken and contrite heart. This is the important ingredient that you need.

God will supply the rest if you will humble yourself and pray. God will supply everything that you need. Won't you let Him have His way in your life?

(Compact Disc TR-232E)

Kenya Camp Meeting Report

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to join the saints in Kenya for a camp meeting once again. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and rejoicing in the Lord. Our daughter Jeni accompanied us on our journey. Brother David Stegmeier joined us in Amsterdam, and we traveled to Nairobi, Kenya.

We left the United States on November 30, 2009, and arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, the evening of December 1. We then continued to the town of Embu and arrived about one o'clock Tuesday morning. The camp meeting started Tuesday morning, December 2, and continued through Sunday, December 6. There were two services daily, one in the morning and another in the afternoon following lunch. There was also a children's service each morning.

The services were well attended, with about thirty-five pastors and others from the fifty-two congregations that Brother Mbui oversees. Brother David Stegmeier preached a series of messages from the Book of Daniel, which were very enlightening. The people were quite attentive and happy to sit and listen, regardless of whether the message lasted one hour, two hours, or longer. A young man from the Embu congregation, Brother John, did a very good job interpreting the messages. There were many songs and specials in each service. The children sang the songs that they had learned in English. A dear sister from the Embu congregation, Sister Esther, led the young people's choir. They sang songs from the *Treasured Hymns* songbook. They also sang songs in their native language, most of which we recognized. Brother David Stegmeier, Brother Jan and Sister Jill Romine, and Sister Jeni Romine sang in most of the services. The fellowship was so sweet, and God's presence was felt in a great way. How good God is! We thank God for His people everywhere.

The daily children's service began after the singing in the morning service. Sister Jill and Sister Jeni, along with Sister Esther and Brother Mbui's daughter Juliana, took the children outside to a big tent and taught them new songs in English and a Bible lesson. Also, they learned memory verses, had an activity, and were given a treat. The children were well-behaved and attentive. We enjoyed working with them very much! It was amazing how well they understood and how quickly they learned. Sister Esther and Sister Juliana are doing a wonderful job in

teaching the children.

Brother John also helps lead the children in singing during the services. Before we went to Africa the first time in 2002, no one was working with the children like this. We began working with them, and Sister Esther and Sister Juliana have been teaching them in Sunday school ever since.

On Monday following the camp meeting, Brother David Stegmeier spoke only to the pastors in a couple of teaching services. About thirty-six pastors attended. Between the services, a meal of rice, beans, stew, ugali, cabbage, and soda was served. It was very good! Sister Jill and Sister Jeni worked with the ladies in the kitchen, washing the dishes after the meal.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after the camp meeting, we all traveled to other congregations for services. A few members of the Embu congregation went with us. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and singing. Brother Jan Romine preached at Siakago and Renynjes. Brother David Stegmeier preached at Kiroro.

On Friday we visited the orphans, whom Brother Mbui supports and takes care of. There are about forty of them. We took them some supplies, for which they were very grateful. They were so happy to see us, and they sang a song of welcome when we arrived. Brother Stegmeier planted a tree in memory of their visitors.

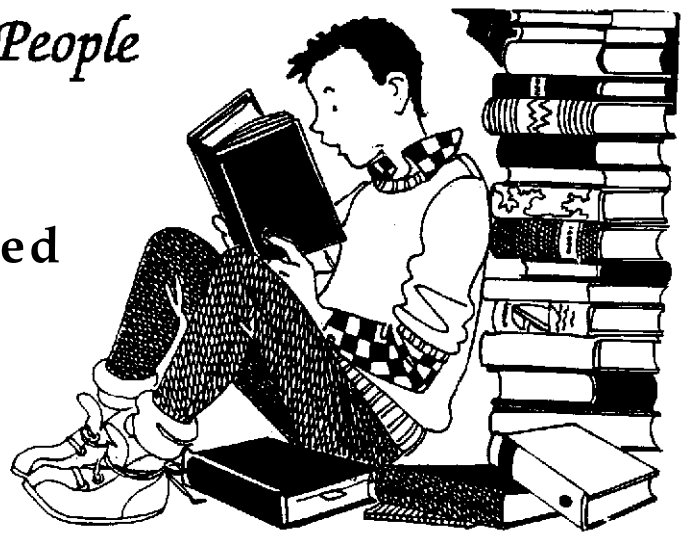
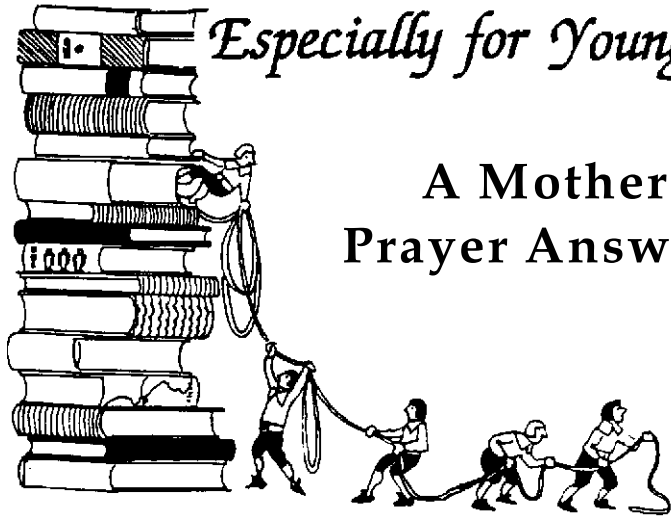
The last service was held on Sunday morning, December 13, in Embu. Brother Stegmeier preached a good message entitled *The Call of the Seventh Trumpet*. It was a long service with much rejoicing. Many saints spoke, telling us how much they appreciated our coming. We spoke to them as well, encouraging them to continue with the Lord. After many goodbyes, hugs, and quite a few tears, we departed for Nairobi.

We left Kenya on Monday, December 14, and arrived back in the United States on December 15. We thank God for the privilege of being able to go to Kenya and for His protection while we were there. For those who have been praying for rain in Kenya, the Lord has answered prayer! Everything was green, and the crops looked very good. Praise the Lord!

Brother Jan and Sister Jill Romine

Especially for Young People

A Mother's Prayer Answered



Like most boys who become great men, Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China had a good mother. She had prayed for him and asked God to make him a minister of the Gospel. However, when he was fifteen, he went to work in a bank, and there he grew careless about his habits and forgot to pray and criticized folks who called themselves Christians. This was a great grief to his mother and to his sister, Amelia. Amelia made up her mind that she, too, would pray for her brother until he became changed, and they were all happy together.

One day his mother went away on a visit to a friend some seventy miles distant. Having nothing special to do one afternoon, his mother went to her room, locked the door, and began to pray for her boy who was wandering away from her love and from God's love. She did not know what her son was doing at the time. It was a holiday, and she did not know where he was.

Hudson Taylor was at home, and being alone, went to his father's library and began to search for something to read. He found a little tract entitled "It Is Finished." He knew that it was what would be called a Sunday school story, and so he decided to read the story and let the sermon part go. However, he became so interested that he read both the story and the sermon.

Hudson did not know that on that very afternoon his mother was praying for him. She prayed on for hours, and then something told her that she had prayed enough, and she began to sing. She was sure that God had answered her prayers. Her prayer *was* answered, because Hudson Taylor learned from the tract that there was nothing for him to do but to love and to trust the dear Lord Jesus with all his heart. Hardly aware of how it came about, he found himself upon his knees, saying: "O God, I thank Thee for your great love and for your plan which has included me. Forgive me, Lord, for my sins, for my blasphemy, and for my unbelief."

There among the books in the library, he began to sing a hymn:

Nothing either great or small,
Nothing, sinner, no!
Jesus died and did it all
Long, long ago.

In two weeks Mrs. Taylor returned. She could hardly wait to see how her prayer was answered, and Hudson could hardly wait to tell her. He had told Amelia but had pledged her to keep it secret so that he himself might tell it to his mother when she came home. He was the first to meet her at the door, but before he could say a word, her loving arms were around his neck, and as she kissed him, she said: "I know, my dear boy! I have been

rejoicing in the glad news that you have to tell."

He was disappointed and said in surprise, "Why! Has Amelia broken her promise? She promised she would tell no one."

Then his mother told him that she had not heard from Amelia or from anyone else, but that God had whispered it to her heart when she had prayed for him one afternoon two weeks ago.

From that day, Hudson Taylor began to prepare himself to be a messenger of the Gospel. Today hundreds of missionaries and thousands of Chinese hearts have been reached because of the ministry of Hudson Taylor and the work that he began in China. Praise God for the seventeen-year-old young man who started to read only half a tract and became the great missionary pioneer to China and founder of the China Inland Mission.

Selected

**Works, and not
words, are the
proof of love.**



40th Anniversary Celebration

Commemorating the Ministry of

Pastor and Mrs. David Stegmeier

Canby, Oregon

My father grew up in Western Montana, where he became a born-again Christian at an early age. As he was growing up, he was very active in his local congregation. After receiving his teaching degree, he started a career in the field of education. However, before embarking on his teaching career, he visited the Fall Camp Meeting at God's Acres, Newark, Ohio, in August 1963 where he became enamored with Millie Prior, the church's talented piano player.

My mother grew up in Newark, Ohio, where she, too, gave her life to Christ at an early age. After studying piano at a local university for a period of time, she felt that she wanted to spend her time in the service of the church and teach piano privately. Millie grew up in the Newark congregation where she was very active in the music ministry.

After a courtship of five years, my parents were married during the Fall Camp Meeting at God's Acres in 1968. Soon after they were married, they began a ministry of evangelism, traveling on the West Coast and in Canada, holding revival meetings. While holding a revival meeting in the Canby, Oregon area, God gave my father a vision of a Church of God congregation in that area.

For approximately a year and a half, my parents prayed earnestly and sought the counsel of Pastor Emerson A. Wilson and others con-

cerning the calling that my father was receiving. In June of 1970, my parents began pastoring a small congregation of about sixteen people here in Oregon.

Throughout his ministry, my father has continued to teach school. For the past thirty-four years, he has taught as a substitute teacher at Canby High School. Five years ago, he received the award of Oregon Substitute Teacher of the Year 2005.

My mother has taught piano privately in their home for the past forty years. She has had as high as seventy students at one time. During all these years, she has assisted my father in the music of the church; my father has been the adult choir director, and my mother has been the accompanist. Mother has also served the church as a Sunday school teacher for forty years.

During the history of their ministry, they have traveled to a number of foreign countries,

including Haiti, Africa, Honduras, and Canada. Soon they will be traveling to assist in the Church of God Convention in Honduras.

God has blessed my parents with seven children and sixteen grandchildren. Almost all of them are active in the work of the Church of God in Canby.

At the present time, the congregation consists of approximately 120 members. My father has said that building a true New Testament Church of God congregation in this era of time is very difficult. The church battles against lethargy, worldliness, materialism, and humanism. Over the years, he has kept the following Scripture foremost in his mind: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

Korine (Stegmeier) Boyd

Special Commemorative Services

May 28-30

Church of God, Canby, Oregon

Guest Speaker: Brother Roger Decker, Newark, OH

Service times: Friday-Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

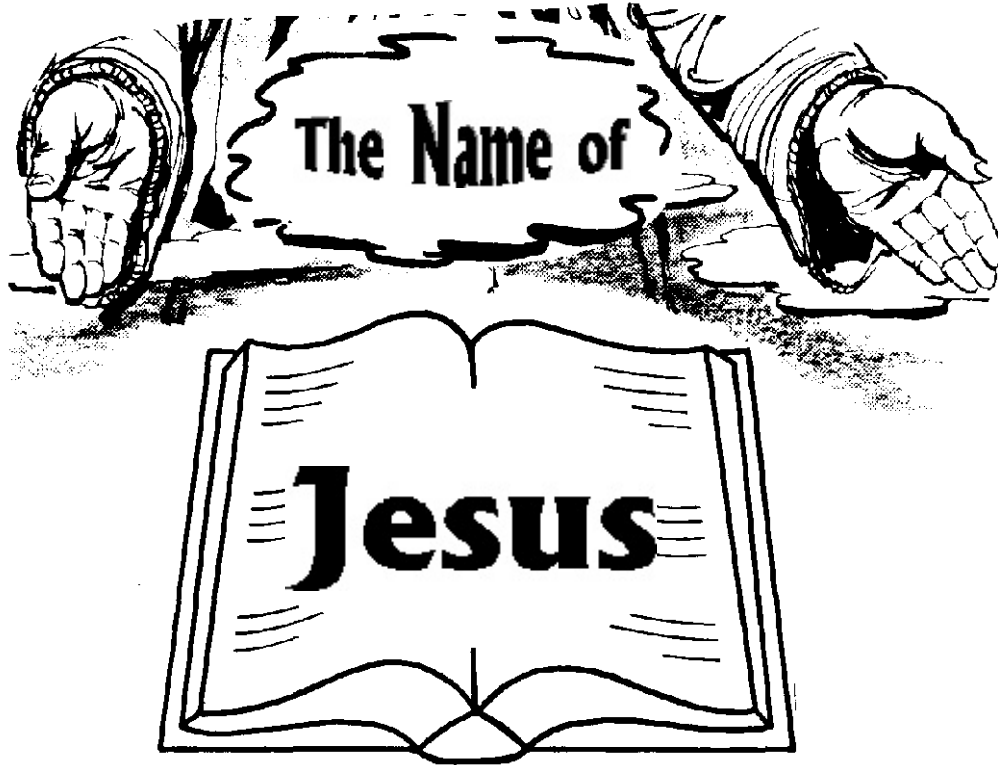
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact:

Pastor David Stegmeier, Telephone: 503-266-9297

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.



Brother Calvin Foster

The Importance of His Name

If you come from a broken home or if you are unsaved, I want to give you some knowledge that was given to me many years ago about the name of Jesus. If it were not for Jesus, I do not know where I would be. The devil hates the name of Jesus. One songwriter wrote: "*There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth. It sounds like music in mine ear, The sweetest name on earth. Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus Because He first loved me.*" The name of Jesus is something that you can hold on to.

Why were the men and women in our Scripture text baptized? They believed what was spoken to them

about the name of Jesus Christ. The name of Jesus had great importance to the early church. The name of Jesus excited people. His name generated faith, love, and expectations. When people heard that Jesus was coming to town, they expected something to happen. His name should be of great importance to us as the church in these last days of time. May God help us to always have great reverence for His name.

True worship always includes the name of Jesus. If you are going to worship God, you do not have to be in a church building. You could be in another building or outdoors, but you must include the name of Jesus. I thank God that His name was spoken to me as a young man. I

was told about Jesus, and I am so glad for His name. It is impossible to worship God in Spirit and in Truth and leave out the name of Jesus. You cannot do it. It is a great privilege to worship in the name of Jesus.

In John 14:12-14 Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

Jesus gives us the authority and the right to use His name. He said, in so many words, "I want you to exercise the powers of Heaven as I

did when I was here, but you must use My name." It is a blessing to be able to use the name of Jesus. The devil gets nervous when we get on our knees and pray, because he knows that when we get through praying, we are going to sign that prayer at the bottom "in the name of Jesus." I thank God for His name. Worldly men hate the name of Jesus. They do not want you to mention His name.

In John 15:16 Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." We pray to God in the name of Jesus.

John 16:23-24 reads: "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Jesus encourages us as His to use His name. This may not seem important to you, but with the way the world is going now we may see a day when others will try to completely stamp out the name of Jesus. However, there is no power or force in this world that can stand against the name of Jesus. Men have tried to put down the name of Jesus, but they cannot stand against it. Jesus' name will rise.

The Authority of His Name

Acts 4:10-12 says: "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." There is no other

name under heaven whereby we must be saved but by the name of Jesus.

Many people do not want to hear the name of Jesus, but I am crying out His name. Jesus saves! Some people claim to love Jesus, but they do not want to talk about Him. They want to lift up men. No great man of the past, whomever he might have been, can stand beside Jesus. You may not want to hear that because you have some great men in mind that you want to hear lifted up. Nonetheless, there is no other name under heaven whereby you must be saved but the name of Jesus. You may lift up a man's name who lived and walked on the earth, but when he dies, that man cannot come back. Jesus died, and He came back. No other man's word will stand as the Word of Jesus does. Man's word will fall by the wayside, and heaven and earth will pass away; but the Word of God will never pass away. You and I will die, but the Word of God will march on. The Word was made flesh and dwelled among us. I love to lift up the name of Jesus!

Some people want to get together and blend religion with other things, but I am going to obey the Scriptures. Again, Acts 4:12 states, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." You should not allow your appreciation for the use of the name of Jesus to become dull. Some beautiful songs have been written about Jesus. I believe the finest songs that have ever been written are songs of praise to Jesus. A song that says, "*Where would I be without Jesus*" is a beautiful song.

Jesus gave us the authority to cast out demons and to pray for the sick. It is in the name of Jesus that God has invested power. The devils begin to sit up straight, so to speak, when you come in the name of Jesus. You cannot have power to overcome the devil in anyone else's name. When I speak in Jesus' name, it causes a reaction in people. Some

become startled. It will make them alert. If they have respect for Jesus' name, people will think about what they are doing and how they are acting. If they do not have respect for His name, you will see an opposite reaction. Wherever I am, whether I am at work, in the grocery store, or at school, if I hear the name of Jesus, it gets my attention. If someone is talking about Jesus, I want to get in on that conversation.

A Name Above Every Name

Luke 10:17 says, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." The devils pay attention to the name of Jesus. Saint, you have power when you are living a clean life and walking with Jesus and you mention the name of Jesus. Again, the disciples said, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." The mighty power of God is in the name of Jesus.

In Ephesians 1:21, speaking of the name of Jesus, Paul said, "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Jesus' name is above all of that. His name is above kings, presidents, governors, and all other names in the world. There is no greater name than the name of Jesus. Far above all principalities and power is the name of Jesus. Someone might think that the devil's power is right up next to God's power, but it is not. God's power is far above all principalities and power.

When you really believe in Jesus, it will cause you to obey Him. God acts every time Jesus speaks. I believe in the Father, in the Son, and in the Holy Ghost. God is in the name of Jesus. The name Jesus Christ means Immanuel, which interpreted means "God with us." God is in the name of Jesus.

Some people want to lift up Jesus and leave God out. You cannot

do that. I like to make it really plain to people. When I am talking about God, I am talking about the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am not talking about just any god. You need to know about whom I am speaking. Many people are talking about a god, but what god are they speaking of?

Jesus Christ is the name by which all your sins can be cleansed. You can be healed by His name. In Acts, Chapter 3, Peter said to the lame man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). Some people want to lift up an organization or a business program and then throw God and Jesus in the mix. Today people use the holy name of Jesus without respect and reverence. However, 2 Timothy 2:19b tells us, "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Matthew 1:21 says, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." The Scripture says to let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. If you have sin in your life and you say that you are a Christian, what are you doing with sin in your life? Are you following a preacher who is telling you, "Sin you will, sin you must, sin you cannot help yourself"?

Christ did not come to leave you in your sins; He came to save you from your sins. What are you doing living in sin? You had better check to see who you are following. Are you following God or are you following a man? Are you following the Word of God or are you following the doctrines of men? The Pharisees were teaching the doctrines of men as the commandments of God. They did not like Jesus when He cried out against them. That is happening today in many places. Men are teaching the commandments of men for doctrine. Many people do not know any better.

The cover of my Bible reads, "Holy Bible." That means it is God's Holy Word. If you obey it, you will

be holy, because God is holy. Some people's Bibles are dusty, and they do not even take them to church. We must have respect and reverence for the name of Jesus. Before the Apostle Paul's conversion, he fought the name of Jesus, but later he defended the name of Jesus after God got through with him.

Do All in the Name of Jesus

Let us read about when they arrested Peter and the other Apostles. Acts 5:28-29 states: "Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." They told them not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore. Saint, if anyone tells you not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore, what are you going to do about it? Peter said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

John 3:18 says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned [believing on Jesus means that you obey Him, follow Him, and continue to believe on Him]: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Jesus is a name that you can come to for salvation, for healing, and to get your soul and your mind blessed. I am not talking about coming to a man or to a building; I am talking about coming to Jesus. You can be at home or at work and come to Jesus. No matter where you are, you can come to Him. Jesus is a name that you can take with you. In John 6:37 Jesus said, ". . . him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Jesus will not turn you away; He wants you. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Your future and my future are tied up in the name of Jesus. Life

everlasting is in the name of Jesus. Philippians, Chapter 2, says there is honor in the name of Jesus. Verses 9-11 read: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." One day every knee is going to bow to Him.

Colossians 3:16-17 reads: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Jesus should be constantly on your mind in everything you do. You should not go to a picnic and not have Jesus on your mind. Wherever you go and whatever you do, you should have Jesus on your mind. God is watching you in whatever you do and wherever you go. Many people say, "I am going to put my religion down for a while." You should not put Jesus down. You ought to take Him wherever you go.

Serving God is a lifestyle. You either want this lifestyle or you do not want it. Some people hear the Word of God, but they do not want this lifestyle. The saints have Jesus on their minds. Some people like to be in places where they think it is all right to lay their religion down. When they get angry at someone, they lay their religion down and pick it back up when they are no longer angry. Salvation does not work that way. That is not salvation; it is merely a form of religion. You can be religious and yet go to hell. I am talking about a Jesus who truly saves!

I want to give you what Jesus gave to me. Now that you have been introduced to Jesus, what are you going to do with Him? What are

you going to do with this knowledge? As it was said when Christ was on the earth, what do you think of Christ?

"The Conclusion of the Whole Matter"

In John 5:39 Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Many verses of Scripture tell us to search for God and to search for Truth. When people really want to live right, be right, and do right, God will show them the Truth and will lead them into Truth. On the other hand, when people do not want to do right, do not want to serve God, and do not want to see the power of God work in their lives, they want to hold on to something wrong and be a little crooked. Consequently, they will never find the Truth and they will never find God.

Some preachers will tell you that it is all right to falsify a little information. They say it is all right to tell a little lie, because God understands what they are trying to do in their hearts. Friend, you will never hear that from a true Church of God preacher. You cannot tell even a little lie and still be saved. You might hear that somewhere else, but the Bible lets us know that all liars are going to end up in hell. I did not say that; the Holy Bible says that.

Psalm 9:17 reads, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." The world does not want to hear about Jesus, but I like to tell about Him. There is something about His name! I like to end my prayers in the name of Jesus. Some people have a problem with the name of Jesus, even in America with all the churches that sing about Jesus and talk about Jesus. You can talk about some man's life, but if you talk about Jesus for very long, they want you to get off

Jesus and start talking about a man.

I had an experience once in which I began to lift up the name of Jesus, and it became quiet. If you were to go to work and say, "Praise Jesus!" you would see that many people want to fight the name of Jesus. Some people know what Jesus stands for. They know the old stories in the Bible, they know what God cries out against in the Bible, and they know what the Bible teaches. However, if you tell them about it, they do not want to hear it. You may need to call on the name of Jesus. Your children may need to get saved. You should give them the knowledge so they know how to call on the name of Jesus and say "Jesus, have mercy on me." Do not call on any other name. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 states: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

I just love to hear people sing about Jesus. If you have a long way to drive, you can sing to yourself songs such as "Oh, how I love Jesus" or "If it wasn't for Jesus, where would I be?" Those are some of the best songs ever written.

Second Corinthians 5:10-11 reads: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of

the Lord, we persuade men. . . ." The name of Jesus is in your future.

You may say, "I don't care. I still don't want to hear that, and I don't want to think about that." Nevertheless, the name of Jesus is in your future. Do you know Him? One song says, "Do you know my Jesus?" That is the most important question. If you know Him, you need to thank God, and you need to hold to His hand tightly.

The woman with the issue of blood in Mark, Chapter 5, had such great faith that Jesus marveled. She pressed her way through the crowd. In Mark 5:28 she said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." She touched the hem of His garment. In verse 30 Jesus said, "Who touched my clothes?" In verse 31 the disciples said, in so many words, "Lord, people are all around You, and You ask who touched You?" Jesus felt virtue go out of Him.

You can touch Jesus, and you can feel His power come into your life. This is not about joining a church; this is about touching Jesus. Jesus told that woman, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." God can save anyone and heal any condition. Do not give up your faith; hold onto God. He can heal you. Man has given up many people to die who are still living; God healed them. Please take what I have given you, the name of Jesus, and be faithful to Him.

(Compact Disc TR-222E)

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Psalm 1:1-2

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed

from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things

that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Planning for a Wonderful Future



Brother Allen Polston

Considering Your Future

It is a good idea to do some planning in your life. Sometimes people get carried away with certain kinds of planning, such as financial planning. That is certainly important and necessary as long as you do not get out of the will of God. There is another kind of planning that I would like to speak of.

The definition of the word *future* is "the time that is yet to come; a time that is forthcoming." We all have a future in this life as well as in eternity. Death does not have any regard for age, so our lives can end at any time. However, for the most part, young people have quite a future ahead of them. Young person,

you need to do some planning, and you need to think about your future. You need to consider your latter end and the time between now and your latter end. Even if you have only a few hours left before you will be called out of this life, you have a future.

If you are not right with God, you need to ask God to forgive you and come into your life. God is interested in your future, whether you have many years, many days, or only a few hours. He wants to be directly involved in your life, not indirectly. He has a job for you to do that will benefit Him and the Kingdom of God, so it would behoove you to be concerned about your future.

As a young person, the days that you spend are generally carefree. You do not have to worry about many things, such as paying bills and supporting a family. However, even in the midst of your enjoyment and fun, you need to be concerned about your future.

The Ecclesiastical writer let us know there is a time for laughter and fun. On the other hand, when we are in the church services, that is the time to lay aside that carefree attitude and listen. You need to let the Word of God do the work that God wants it to do. Through the preaching of the Gospel and the reading of your Bible, He will direct your future. You may not hear Him speaking to you audibly about what

He wants you to do, but He will direct you and reveal to you what His desires are for you.

A brother asked me once: "How was it when God called you to preach? What did it feel like?" I replied, "God never spoke to me in an audible voice and said, 'You are going to preach.' He began to reveal it to me over a period of time. I talked to my pastor, my uncle, Brother Larry Dishman, and others and expressed what I was going through. They advised and counseled me as God instructed them." It was by being faithful, by staying in the things of God, and by putting the things of God first that God began to reveal to me where He wanted me to be. He is still revealing to me how He wants me to conduct my life.

Taking Heed to the Word of God

As I studied and prayed about this message, I began to think on Psalm 119:9, which reads, "Where-withal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." As I pondered that verse of Scripture, I thought of a similar Scripture in Ephesians 5:26, where the Apostle Paul said, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." The thing that will do a work in a young person's life is the same thing that will do a work in the life of an adult. It is the Word of God.

When God designed His Word and sent His Son to be a sacrifice on the Cross, He set it up so that it would meet the needs of the adults, the elderly, and the young people. It is where your power lies. Your strength lies in finding God's will for your life and in being what God would have you to be.

Youth does not keep you from being successful in the eyes of God and with God. I am not insinuating that those who have been walking in the path of righteousness for years ought to turn things over to the youth. The youth still have to look to the elders. Age has brought them

some wisdom and has shown them some things that young people do not know yet.

As a young person, you can have a solid experience with God, just as those who have been serving Him faithfully through the storms and trials of life. They have been faithful, and they are still standing for God. You do not have to be up and down or in and out. The same Word of God and Spirit of God that helps, strengthens, and encourages them will help you. The same Word that feeds their souls is the same Word of God that can feed your soul.

The preaching of God's Word can refresh and revive you and help you to be a good Christian young person, right in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 2:15 that you could be the sons of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. He did not say, "You have to be more than twenty-five years of age before you can be victorious," young person. Today you are facing many things that younger generations in times past have not faced. Nevertheless, God can help you to be victorious.

In the midst of a crooked and perverse high school, in the midst of a crooked and perverse neighborhood, and in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, you can still be a child of God and have an experience of salvation that will last. You do not have to give up your salvation over anything or back away from anything. God is powerful, and He can help you.

Living for God

The devil is presenting himself in a lot of tricky ways that look appealing to young people. Young person, he will show you other groups of young people supposedly having the time of their lives. He will show you those who are popular and part of the in crowd. You should not let those kinds of people affect you and make you

think they are the only ones having fun. They need what you have, if you are living for God. They need the completeness that comes only by knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

I do not know what lies ahead, but I know Who holds the time that lies ahead. I do not know what my future holds, but thank God, I know Who holds the future. God holds the future for each of us, and we can have a wonderful future. Some devastating things may occur in your life, but you can still have a wonderful future because you have a God who designed you. When He is living within you, it is wonderful.

One brother wrote a song that reads:

*What a wonderful change in my life has
been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart;
I have light in my soul for which long
I had sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

*I have ceased from my wand'ring and
going astray,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And my sins which were many are
all washed away,
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

*There's a light in the valley of death
now for me,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And the gates of the City beyond
I can see,
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

*I shall go there to dwell in that City
I know,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And I'm happy, so happy as onward
I go,
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

*Since Jesus came into my heart,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea
billows roll,
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

Living for God is a wonderful experience. You do not have to be

up and down in your Christian experience. You do not have to be involved in all that sin has to offer. Choosing the good and refusing the evil is a wonderful way to live, and it begins by allowing Jesus to come into your heart and life.

I trust that if you have never given your heart and life to God that you will be saved. Young person, God cares for your soul. His desire is for you to be saved. If you have been hypocritical about the matter of serving God, if you will turn from that and really make the sacrifice that it takes to give your heart and life to God, He will help you to be victorious.

In the Book of John, you can read about some people who had given their hearts to God and believed on Jesus. However, when Jesus began to preach about certain things, some of the people turned away. Jesus turned and looked at His disciples and said, in essence, "What about you? Will you leave Me also?" In John 6:68 you can read that Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

Young person, there is nowhere that you can go and nothing that you can become involved in that can bring you the satisfaction, the peace, and the joy that God has for you if you will stay right in the things of God and remain dedicated to the things of God. You should not allow anything to hinder your experience with God, not your companion, a job, school, college, or anything else.

Choosing to leave a true Church of God congregation and going another place for education or work can be a very detrimental choice. If you are not careful, you could lose out with God. You have to be a very strong Christian person to place yourself in an area where you cannot hear the preaching of God's Word. You will face temptations and evil on every hand. If you choose to be away from anointed messages that come down from Heaven to you, there is a real danger in that.

When I went to college, I was not saved. I had been raised in a Christian home, yet I was already well into the things of sin. One day my uncle, Brother Larry Dishman, came to me and said: "A lot of influences will try to drag you down deeper in the things of sin. Humanistic influences will work on you to try to reason God out of the picture." Although I was not saved, I remembered those words. I went to college, and guess what? That was the very thing that happened.

Young person, you have to be careful where you choose to go to college. If you choose to leave the congregation and go to another part of the world, for whatever reason, you may be putting yourself in a place where you will lose your soul. What is more important, an education or your soul? It is your soul. I repeat, you have to be careful of the moves you make. Christ is the only One who has the words of eternal life. What would be the profit of getting a college education and a fine-paying job only to lose your soul? You must be careful that you do not get out of line with God.

Forsake the Life of Sin

The initial step in planning for a wonderful future is to give your heart and life to God. Salvation is a relatively simple process, but at one time I really did not understand it all, so let me explain it. All you have to do is decide within your own heart and mind that when you come to God, you are going to turn completely away from everything that is wrong. Too many people say they will *try* to turn away from sin. You must be determined in your heart that you are going to turn away from all that is wrong and say, "I am not going back to the life of sin."

It really does not accomplish much when people have the attitude, "I'll try salvation for a while." You must go to Christ with the determination: "I am turning away from the sinful life that I am living. I am turning away from everything

that I know is wrong and turning to what is right." If you will really settle that in your mind before you come to Christ and believe with all your heart that He will save you and keep you, you can be saved.

If you come to Christ thinking, "If I don't like it or if it doesn't work out for me, I can always turn back and do what I've always done," you will not receive anything. You ought to come with the attitude, "This is a new day in my life, and I am making a new start. I am turning away from all that is wrong and seeking what is good and what is right. I am going to live the way God's Word says to live." Settling the matter in your heart is the first step. You must settle the matter and turn from the wrong and let Jesus come into your life.

Just as a school teacher would dismiss an unruly student from her classroom, you ought to dismiss any thought of ever turning back to sin. If a school teacher were to allow an unruly student to remain in the class, he would disrupt the other students to the degree that the teacher would not be able to teach. Similarly, if you allow your mind to ponder the way you used to live, things that are not right and things that you know the Bible teaches against, you are causing trouble for yourself. You need to dismiss those things that hinder you and get them out of your mind. That is the reason God tells us in His Word to think on things that are good, things that are honest, things that are of a good report, and things that are lovely. You can think on messages that you have heard.

God instructs us to read His Word so that we will have something to think on, and you can sing songs. His Word says to make melody in your heart. The Word of God was not written merely to fill the pages of a book. He tells us these things in His Word because they are useful to us; they are beneficial to us when the devil tries to work on us. If you want to plan for a wonderful future, you need to make sure,

beyond a doubt, that by God's grace you have turned away from all wrong and that you are never going back into sin.

The Result of Rejecting God

After you have taken the initial step in giving your heart and life to God, Romans, Chapter 1, reveals something that you need to be cautious about. If you continue to read the rest of this chapter, you will read of a people who had rejected God, and because of their rejection, their lives ended up in turmoil, confusion, and dishonor. The Bible lets us know they were involved in all kinds of unrighteousness. The things those people got involved in caused guilt, condemnation, grief, sadness, and troubled hearts. Also, it caused their consciences to be destroyed.

Romans 1:22-32 says of them: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit,

malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

No matter how good people claim it is to live in sin, they have an emptiness in their hearts and lives that cannot be filled by alcohol, drugs, tobacco, adultery, fornication, the party life, or even living a good moral life. Only God can fill that emptiness. He created us, and He is the only One who can fill us. In Colossians 2:10 Paul said, "And ye are complete in him." We can be complete only in Jesus Christ. You will never be complete in the life of sin. Nothing you can get involved in will bring real lasting peace and joy and satisfaction except God. Do not allow people to make you think that you are the one missing something good. They are the ones who are missing out.

Sometimes people ask me, "How can you enjoy the life you are living?" to which I reply, "How can I *not* enjoy this life with all the wonderful blessings? I have been set free from sin, and I have God's power when things come against me." As a young person in the schools or on the job site, when things come against you, you can have the power to say: "No, I don't want any part of it. I am living for God."

The Righteousness of God

Those who are out in sin do not have salvation, and they are missing out on having a wonderful future. This very day, you can begin to plan for a wonderful future. I am encouraging you to do some things spiritually that will help you to have a wonderful future.

Paul said in 1 Timothy 4:8, "For

bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Living for God has the promise of a good life. It is the only way to live. Obtaining salvation and keeping it up to date is the most important thing that you can do.

Paul stated in Romans 1:16, ". . . for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." This salvation is for every one who believes. No one is excluded or left out in any way if he will believe. Young person, if you will believe and turn from that which is wrong, you can have the power of God unto salvation in your life.

Paul went on to say in verse 17, "For therein is the righteousness of God." Within salvation is the righteousness of God, and the very righteousness of God becomes part of your life. Within His righteousness are wonderful fruits. The righteousness of God will produce fruits in every area of your life. Even as a young person, you can dig deep into the Scriptures and delve deeply into the things of God. The more fruit you produce, the more your fruit production pleases God.

There is the other side that Romans, Chapter 1, speaks of. Verse 18 tells us, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." If there were no fruit to be produced and no righteousness to be obtained, it would be worth going the way of salvation because you would escape the wrath that God will reveal against the ungodliness and the unrighteousness of men. I would much rather produce fruit for God than to receive the wrath of God. I would much rather live pleasing to Him (knowing that when my life comes to an end, I will have a home in Heaven) than to live displeasing to Him and hope I do not die. Salvation is wonderful!

We need to consider two things in verse 21 in planning for a wonderful future. Paul said, "Because that, when they knew God,

they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Those people had some knowledge of God, but they glorified Him not as God.

Glorifying God

No doubt, you have some knowledge of God. Perhaps you have a good experience with God, but you have to be careful that, while you know God, you glorify Him as God. You should not exalt and glorify things in your life higher than God. He demands the highest place in your life. You must exalt Him above all things.

God wants to be lifted up in your life. He wants you to lift Him up in the way you talk to others and in your conduct. Whether you are at home, in your car, or with other people, He wants everything about you to glorify Him. Why? It will cause others to stop and consider how wonderful the Christian life can be. He wants others to notice that something is different about you. The Christian is not to live to please himself. He is to lift up God and glorify Him as God.

Paul told us in verse 23 that the people changed the glory of the incorruptible God. They began to lower Him down to a level of earthly things. God has already told us in His Word that His kingdom is not of this world. The things of God are higher than this world. If you do not lift Him up in your life, yet you claim to be a Christian, He will not stay.

Young person, you need to glorify Him as God. He is the incorruptible God, and He will never die. He is never going to change, and He has all power in Heaven and in earth. He has everything you need to live a wonderful life. In your planning for a wonderful future, you need to glorify God so that His presence will be with you. You glorify Him when you select modest clothes to wear. You need to think more about God. Are you glorifying

God in the clothes that you wear or are they borderline, causing people to wonder about you? You ought to glorify God with the clothes you buy. Are you glorifying God with what you listen to over the radio or is something else being lifted up?

Are you glorifying God when you go to a book store or a library to select the books that you are going to read? You see, we preach against the evils that come through the television (I would not recommend one to anyone), but you can read the same types of things in books. You can read about adulterous relationships, drinking, and all kinds of ungodliness. You need to glorify God in your reading literature. If certain educational programs or college courses are going to cause you not to glorify God in any way, you should not participate in them. You must glorify God and exalt Him in all that you do.

Many times since I got saved, I have asked myself: "I wonder if this is glorifying God? Are these clothes getting too tight? Are they loose enough? Do the sleeves show my underarms? Am I really glorifying God by wearing these things?" He wants you to glorify Him and lift Him up so others can see Christ. Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Looking on the lives of others who were glorifying God caused me to say: "I want what they have. I would like to have the peace and the contentment that they have."

I used to get out of town, or at least get out of the house when my uncle, Brother Larry Dishman, would come; but in the back of my mind, I was saying, "I would like to have the same peace and joy that he has." I was all mixed up in sin. You need to glorify God for your own benefit and for the benefit of others. The people that you read about in Romans did not glorify Him as God. Reading about their future and how destructive it became causes me to see the grave danger of not glorifying Him as God.

Be Thankful

The second thing that I want to mention in verse 21 of our Scripture lesson is that the people were unthankful. The verse says, ". . . neither were thankful. . . ." We are living in an unthankful time, a time when people are unthankful for the things they have. That same spirit is trying to overtake each of us. We need to be thankful for the Truth of God's Word. In order to do that, we need to have a love for His Word, a love for the Truth. We must be thankful that God has given us His precious Word that can deliver us, keep us free from sin, and inspire us to live holy and righteous lives.

We need to be thankful for the camp meetings and the revivals. You should be thankful that God has afforded you another opportunity to examine yourself by His Word. You ought to use the talents that God has given you as He directs you to use them. If you are not careful, you will become unthankful, and then later you will look back and say, "I should have been more thankful."

Sometimes young people decide they want to move out of the house of their parents to get out from under the rules. They decide they want to ditch Mom and Dad's ways and go their own ways. Once they get out in the world, they find that it is a different story. Young person, you need to be thankful for parents and for what they have given you. You need to be most thankful for the things of God, for what God has given you, and for the blessings that He has afforded you.

If you have talents, you should be thankful for them and use them for the glory of God. Do not waste them. You should not become proud and arrogant. You need to be thankful for your talents, help others, and share them with others.

There are two areas that you need to remember in planning for a wonderful future. Verse 21 of the Scripture text says that the

people became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. If you fail to glorify God and become unthankful, then you will be left to your own imaginations, and your foolish heart will become darkened.

These are two areas that we all, and especially young people, need to be reminded of. You need to be careful that you do not begin to live in a way that fails to glorify God. As you make plans and prepare to do this or that and go here and there, are you including God in your plans? Are you thankful for what He has given you and for what He has done for you? The people in our Scripture lesson failed to consider these things. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Paul said to rejoice, in verse 17 he said to pray, and in verse 18 he said, "In everything give thanks."

You may ask, "What does the Scripture mean when it says the people became vain in their imaginations?" It simply means that the people had no real purpose to their

thinking or their actions. They had no real purpose in life. God gives life a meaning. He gives you a reason for living, and He gives you inspiration. Without Him you become vain in these things and have no real use in your thinking and no real use in your living. Young person, do not allow the devil to trick you into thinking that you are not useful. God has a purpose and a place just for you.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, Paul talked about the body of Christ. You become a part of the body of Christ when you get saved. He places you in the body as it pleases Him. God wants you to be a part of the body of Christ and to labor as He wants you to, and that will cause you to have a very blessed future.

You need to glorify God as He really should be. Are you thankful for what He has given you and for what He has done for you? The devil tries to get young people sidetracked with concerns about getting a companion. Also, he tries

to get them to be overly concerned about what they are going to do in life. You have to pay some interest to those things, but Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

I have been left out of a few gatherings because I chose to be involved in the things of God, but God has blessed me with a wonderful wife and family, a wonderful job, and a calling in the body of Christ. I do not regret missing out on those worldly things. I am glad that I was able to hear God's Word and seek first the Kingdom of God.

If you are not glorifying Him as God in your life, you need to let God help you start from this day forward. If you have not really been as thankful as you ought to be, God can help you.

(Cassette C-3635A)

Meeting Announcements

Gilboa, WV
May 31-June 5

REVIVAL: Church of God, Off SR 39 on Hutchenson Creek, Gilboa, WV
Evangelist: Brother Earl R. Borders, Summersville, WV
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Preaching from the Book of Revelation nightly.
For further information contact: Sister Dorothy Johnson at telephone number 304-872-2564 or Brother Earl R. Borders at telephone number 304-872-4047

Newark, OH
June 20-27

SPRING CAMP MEETING: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055
Service times: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. The first service begins Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Three meals served daily in the dining hall, plus the snack stand is open in the dining hall after the evening services. Bedding is supplied; please bring your own towels. For lodging reservations contact Brother Dave or Sister Ruby Bush by calling 740-345-1213 or by writing Church of God, Attention: Lodging, 725 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker, 87 Decrow Ave. Newark, Ohio Telephone: 740-344-2543 or 888-730-0461

2010 Camp Meetings at God's Acres

June 20-27 August 1-8 December 26-29



In Memory of Pastor Woodrow Smithson



Sunrise July 21, 1926 – Sunset February 8, 2008

After being raised in the hills of Tennessee and serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Woody Smithson moved to Middletown, Ohio, where he worked as a security guard for Armco Steel. This is where Woody Smithson came face to face with our Lord and Savior. Living in the depths of sin, he was at work and at two in the morning, at the foot of an old sycamore tree, he surrendered his life to Christ. He was about thirty-four years of age at the time.

During all those years that he was away from God, he had a praying mother. Also, a dear mother at the boarding house where he stayed was praying for him. Many times, as he came and went, this dear woman would say, "I'm praying for you, Woody."

A preacher named Clifford Hutchison played a part in Brother Smithson's salvation, as well as Pastor Carl Brewer. They worked and worshiped together for many years as longtime friends, and then they became spiritual brothers.

It was during this time that Brother Smithson met Vicki Moon. They were married June 1, 1963. They lost four babies at birth or due to miscarriages. At God's Acres Brother Emerson Wilson, other ministers, and some elders of the church anointed them with oil and prayed for them.

Soon God blessed Brother and

Sister Smithson with their son Joseph "Joey" Daniel, who was born on Brother Emerson Wilson's birthday. Then, three years later, this little boy made a request for "a little, blue-eyed, redheaded girl." Jane Ann, weighing in at 2 lbs. 14 oz., was born prematurely. Joe said, "Lord, I didn't mean so little!" Thankfully, Jane Ann and Joe were pictures of health as they grew.

The Smithsons went to God's Acres and heard the choir singing, "Oh, I Want to See Him." Brother Smithson told his companion, "Honey, this is Heaven on earth!"

Brother Smithson had helped some with the Remnant paper, preached there, and even laid a few bricks in the building of the tabernacle.

Brother Smithson obeyed the call to pastor the congregation at Findlay, Ohio. Sister Grace Henry had approached Brother Smithson, and after much discussion and prayer, Brother Smithson became the pastor of the Church of God at 119 E. Lima Street, Findlay, Ohio. He was the pastor for thirty-eight years.

Brother Smithson owned and operated Frontier Window Cleaning. He had severe hip problems and was told not to lift anything heavier than ten pounds; yet Brother Smithson lifted many buckets of water while climbing ladders, all the while asking the Lord to let him

work so that he could provide for his family. God helped him, and he was able to labor and do God's work.

Eventually Brother Smithson had to have surgery. It was during this operation that he suffered two strokes. Then Parkinson disease began to take its toll. During all of this, we never heard that Brother Smithson complained. He was always thankful and polite to those who cared for him.

Brother Smithson portrayed the life of Christ within while residing at Fox Run Nursing Home, where he lived from August 29, 2005, until the Lord called him home. Brother Smithson loved God, his family, and the "little flock," as he always called us. He was a man of prayer, with great concern for his fellow man.

Scriptures read at the funeral by Brother Smithson's request:

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Acts 20:27

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

The following is Jane's tribute to her father:

*I stand before you today with tears on my face,
For my father has gone home; he's finished his race.
The angels are rejoicing, singing a melody,
One of theirs has returned, to spend eternity.*

*Born in Bristol, Tennessee,
He loved the hills and all to see.
Six brothers and a sister,
Seventh in line was he.*

*Enlisted in the Navy in 1944,
Served his country proudly through two unending wars.
Had a time of wild and sinful ways,
Till Jesus saved him, Oh, happy day!*

Met my mom Victoria, and swept her off her feet.

*The love they showed each other,
made them both complete.*

*Through happy times and valleys low,
Mom always stood beside him,
wherever life would go.*

*To have a child was a prayer
After four returned to our Savior's care.*

*A son was born in '69,
To carry the name of a father so fine.*

*Dad taught him how to be a man,
To love and respect the Bible was where it all began.*

*A little girl was ordered, and in 1972
His prayer for a little, blue-eyed daughter did indeed come true.*

*We watched him preach the Gospel
To his faithful, loving flock,
Never swaying in his convictions,
Feet planted firmly on the Rock.*

*Through trials and tribulations,
His prayers were sure to be,
Taken to the Lord on our behalf,
Down on bended knee.*

*We will surely miss him
Here on earth below.
Thank you, God, for such a Dad!
We owe you, Jane and Joe.*

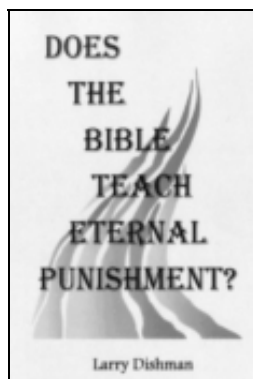
Brother Smithson is greatly missed here in the flesh, but if we stay true, we will be rejoicing with him in Heaven some sweet day! Until then our hearts will go on singing!

Sister Linda Hagerman

New Printed Publication

Does the Bible Teach Eternal Punishment?

by Larry Dishman



Hell is certainly out of fashion in this age of tolerance. It represents the ultimate intolerance. By its very definition, *hell* means someone is wrong and will have to suffer the consequences of his or her error. For the majority, the old idea about hell has faded out, and pastors of cultured churches refuse to revive this subject.

There are those who believe that hell will not last forever, or they say that eternal punishment is a myth. On such a subject as the one that is before us, an ounce of God's revelation is worth more than a thousand tongues of man's speculation. Let us examine this subject in the light of God's Word.

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