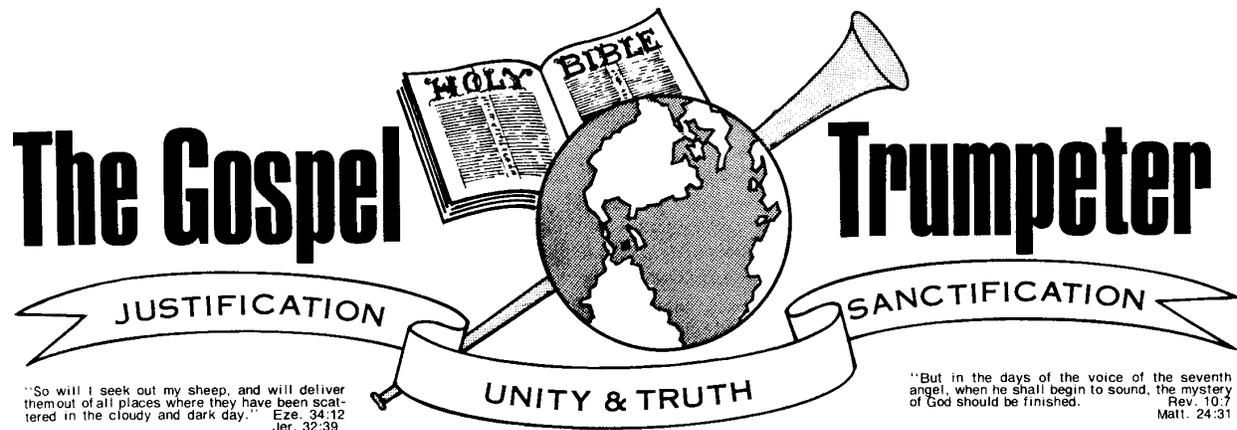


The Gospel Trumpeter



JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"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 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 49 March 2019 No. 3



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?"

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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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items.

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Vol. 49 March 2019 No. 3

WINTER 2018 CAMP MEETING REPORT

Sitting in Heavenly Places

It is unbelievable, but another year has come and gone. Another Winter Camp Meeting has passed into eternity. We now reminisce over the refreshing times that we spent with the precious saints. It was a wonderful time to be able to worship together with God's people. The Spirit of God blessed our hearts again and again as we feasted on the wonderful Word of God and heard the precious singing that went forth. In the meeting we shared rich fellowship among the saints of God. These times of refreshing only come about because of the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians, Chapter 2, Paul said the Lord has quickened us and raised us up to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Surely we can say that we, too, experienced that beautiful blessing the Apostle Paul spoke about. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy being together during the Winter Camp Meeting.

The meeting at God's Acres was opened with prayer Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. Then after heartily welcoming everyone to the meeting, they were encouraged to worship the Lord. Although the winter meeting was short, God surely prepared many good things for us to enjoy. Our hearts were blessed in seeing souls move to an altar of prayer seeking help from God. Some came to be saved from sin, while others committed their lives to a deeper relationship with Christ. Surely it was a time when we all endeavored to anchor ourselves more securely in Him. This is a time when the saints need to stand more fervently against the turbulent situations that they face. The Savior's

desire for us is to overcome evil, not succumb to Satan's pressure and opposition.

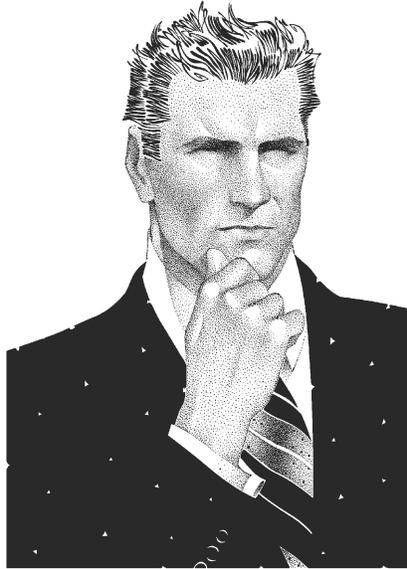
God's ministers faithfully sounded forth the Gospel. It is through the preaching of the pure Word of God that hearts are cleansed from sin, established, and rooted and grounded in the Truth. Many would affirm that God moved in a miraculous way. Brother Prince Moon from Macon, Georgia, was the evening evangelist for the meeting. This was his first time coming to God's Acres and our first time meeting him. He is a fine brother and an excellent preacher. His ability to deliver sound, spiritual thoughts is unique. The effects of his ministry moved many souls to an altar of prayer.

Brother Moon began Wednesday evening with a message on the subject of "Divine Expectation." He laid out the need for saints to increase in righteousness in their daily living. Thursday evening he dealt with the thought of "A State of Confusion." Friday evening he spoke on the need of finding and showing mercy in a message entitled "The Blessing of the Mercies of God." Then Saturday evening he challenged souls to give heed to "Divine Opportunity." Sunday evening's sermon climaxed with God's thoughts, "He Came Down to Deliver."

Other brethren also delivered outstanding messages on ways to live a more effective Christian life. Brother Calvin Foster spoke Thursday morning on the soul-stirring topic of, "God Knows the Desire of Our Hearts" He reminded us that we follow after that which we desire most. Brother

[continued on page 22]

Do You Know That You Are a Christian?



Brother Roger L. Decker

Passing From Death Unto Life

Today almost anyone religious seems to qualify as being a Christian in the eyes of nominal religion. Anything from a great unusual event taking place to being baptized, to speaking in tongues, to almost anything that happens abnormally, people view as a moving of God. Some say they believe in God and have a knowledge of God, but with all these things that I mentioned, there is no clear witness in any of them that they are Christians. A lot of churches say that if you do this and do that, you will be saved. However, people need to get past playing church and denominational requirements and do what the Bible says. When an individual does what the Bible says to do, he can know for sure that he is a Christian.

Almost everybody claims to be a Christian today. If a minister gets too close to people in his preaching, they say he is trying to unchristianize them. A preach-

er cannot unchristianize people when they are really Christians. Knowing something is true is much better than hoping that something is true.

You dare not come before God at the Judgment with a hope-so experience, but rather you need to know that you are saved. When you pass from this life, it is too late to change if you are wrong. Two resurrections are mentioned in John, Chapter 5: a spiritual resurrection and a general resurrection. In a spiritual resurrection, you have a choice; in the general resurrection, the choice is gone. You will come forth as you went in. You need to know for sure that you are a Christian.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." To Paul, it was going to be a day of joy when he could leave the human body. He

regarded the body as a temporary dwelling place in which he sojourned until the day came when his earthly tabernacle was dissolved and he could enter into the eternal abode of souls.

Paul began saying in verse 6, "Therefore we are always confident. . . ." Again, in verse 8 he said almost the same thing when he said, "We are confident. . . ." How confident are you that you are a Christian?

The Apostle John made the statement in 1 John 3:14a, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." In other words, he was clear of wrong attitudes, unforgiveness, and little grudges against others. John knew that he had passed from death unto life because he loved the brethren. If you do not love the brethren, you have not passed from death unto life. John continued in 1 John 3:14b, "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." Again, I want to mention that the Apostle John used the words "we

know." In using this expression, you can see that John did not have any doubt. It is a positive statement that needs no clarification regarding its meaning.

You can know for sure that you are a Christian. Some say: "I believe there is one God, and I believe that He is all powerful. I believe that He is the Creator and that some day we will stand before Him in eternity." Friend, believing those things is not enough; that is merely having a head knowledge of God. That is no assurance that you are a Christian. Why is that? The devil also believes those things.

Christianity Brings a Halt to Sin

James 2:19 reads, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." However, there is no repentance in believing. Although they believe, it will not help them to get in favor with God. Many people feel that if they believe that Jesus is the Son of God, they are all right, but the Scriptures say that the devils believe that. God help people to get above what the devils believe.

James said you do well to believe there is one God. It is necessary to believe, but it is not enough. You must believe in God and come to Him. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

When you come to God for salvation or healing, you must believe that He is. James was saying that believing is a good thing, but it is not proof that a person is saved, or a Christian. The devils believe. If believing alone is not salvation for the devils, then it is no proof for you in believing that you are a Christian.

Having a mere knowledge of

God alone is not proof that you are a Christian. It makes no difference how much a person knows about God and the Bible, it is still no sign that he is saved. Some people can quote verse after verse of Scripture, but that does not make them Christians. A person may talk about the Bible and talk about moral depravity and the bad things of the world, and he may tell others about God and how they should turn to God and tell ones what the Scriptures mean, but it is still no sign that he is a Christian. There are certain things you have to do, according to the Word of God, to be a Christian, and without doing them, you are not saved.

Some rock stars get religious feelings. They get worked up in some of those groups, and next you read in the newspaper headlines that they claim to be born again. There have been some who testified of speaking in an unknown tongue, and because they felt good at the time, they took that as a sign of becoming a Christian. Movie stars, country singers, and nightclub entertainers have testified that some special thing took place in their lives, so they must have become Christians. Someone may ask, "How do you know that someone is not a Christian?" Because of his works. If God saves a rock star, his life will change.

Some do religious works, and they take that for salvation. Others partake of the ordinances and water baptism, so they claim those outward acts as being evidence that they are Christians. Now, we know that water baptism is definitely an ordinance of God's house, but it cannot save you. It is an answer to a good conscience of one who is already saved.

First Peter 3:21 states, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of

the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." A good conscience can only be gotten through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. Without salvation water baptism does only one thing: it gets you wet.

Some people have supposedly spoken in an unknown tongue, so they claim to know they are Christians. False religion says you can still be a Christian but yet have sin in your life. If you are a Christian, you are a changed person. You do not do the things you used to do. False religion wraps people up in a cloak of deception. God does great wonders, but the wonders of false religion use deception. Religion is full of good works, but good works alone are no sign that a person is a Christian.

How does one know that he is a Christian? It is not through believing or by having knowledge or by doing good works. It is not through some miracle, through an outstanding event that took place in one's life, or by having a church membership. So what is the proof that one is really a Christian? Lots of people sit in church pews. How does one know that he is saved? Someone may say, "I go to church and attend Sunday school, I listen to the messages, and I testify." That is not enough. One way you can know is by knowing that you have had a heart change. When I speak of the heart, I am not talking about the physical heart. I am talking about the central part of your affections. Christianity brings an end to sin in your life.

A New Heart

We read in Ezekiel 36:25-27: "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within

you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

What was Ezekiel saying? A change has to take place in your heart and life to constitute being a Christian. You are not the same when you humble yourself before God. You must have a new heart and a new spirit. The change is so distinct that those who are around you and those who know you will see it. This is something that you and others can see. When you get saved, you do not remain the same. You do not frequent the same places, and you do not keep company with the same friends. The change is distinct.

When I got saved, I did not know much about salvation. I got saved, went home, and sat down on the couch. My wife asked, "What's the matter with you?"

I said, "I don't know."

"Where have you been?"

"At church."

"At church? Where did you go to church?"

"I went to the Church of God at the corner of Sixth and Locust Street to a prayer meeting."

She said, "What happened to you?"

I said: "I don't know. Something happened to me. I was told I got saved."

A change takes place with genuine salvation. You cannot be saved without doing what the Bible says. You cannot get saved on your own. You cannot get saved by changing your mind or by changing the plans that you have lined up. You cannot get saved by saying, "I am going to start going to church, and I am going to start doing differently." People do that every New Year's Day. A change of heart has to take place.

Today some feel that they are

all right, but there is no change in their lives. They still smoke cigarettes, they still drink alcohol, they still cuss, and they still do other things that they know a Christian does not do. Yet a preacher has made them feel they are okay. Why? Because they go to church and probably put some money in the offering. Joining a church has no more assurance of putting a soul in Heaven than joining a lodge. Sometimes some lodges have a better standard than some sectarian churches.

When a person has a heart change, something happens. If you are a Christian, do you remember when you got saved? Did something happen to you when you got saved? One thing that happened to me when I got saved was that I wanted to read the Bible. Another thing was that I wanted to go back to church that night, and I wanted to keep going to church. I wanted to learn every doctrine that the pastor preached. I could not wait to study the Scriptures that he brought forth. I wanted to know all about those doctrines.

Something was different in my life. After I got saved, when I left my place of employment each day, I drove my car straight home. Before I got saved, I used to have a problem with that, but after the change took place, my life changed completely.

A Holy Walk

Paul did his best to describe salvation. I do not know of any better Scripture than 2 Corinthians 5:17, which reads, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [or that simply means a new creation]: old things [or the things of the old life] are passed away; behold [or stop and think about it], all things are become new." The whole being of an individual changes when Christ comes in. It affects your soul, your spirit, and your body

if you are saved.

Do you know what a temple is? It is a dwelling place for God. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body [do not light those cigarettes up], and in your spirit [do not show any more nasty attitudes], which are God's." You become the temple of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost will not live in a temple that is unclean. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind over that, because we know it was sin that Jesus died for. It was sin that caused Him to be put to death. There is only one way that a man or a woman can receive a new heart. How is that? That person must be born again; he needs the new birth. Nowhere can you find in the Scriptures that a man must join a church. When you are born again, God puts you in the church. You do not have to worry about joining a church. He puts you in the body of Christ.

Now, a change has to take place inside an individual, not just conforming the outside. The inside has to change first. The Prophet Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 31:31-34: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they

shall be my people.

"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

The Prophet Jeremiah was simply saying that God was going to make a new agreement, or a new covenant, with the house of Israel. The Church of God is the house of Israel. Under this covenant, the Lord was going to put His law in their inward parts. What does that tell you? The whole man was going to be holy and the whole man was going to be obedient. This is not just a law of fleshly ordinances, but a law that changes the inside as well as the outside. All within and without shall be holy. There will be universal light and universal knowledge. They will be saved from the least to the greatest.

It would affect all classes of people. It would take in the Samaritan, the Jew, and the Gentile; it takes in every individual who wants to know the Lord. Sin was going to be forgiven, and a holy walk was going to be required. Ones would serve God. Why? Not because they had to, but because they delighted to serve God.

God's Law Within the Heart

The Psalmist David said in Psalm 40:8, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." The change has to be on the inside, and that is the reason false religion fights the message of holiness. They never had the change that comes about on the inside. When God is on the inside, then you have power to overcome the enemy of your soul. When God is on the inside, do not tell me that He cannot handle you.

When people say you have to sin, do you know what they are really telling you? They are saying that you and the devil are stronger than God is. They will tell you, "You must sin more or less every day," and they will tell you, "There is not a man who does not sin; you have to do it." Well, if you have to do it, then you have more power than God has. The devil is powerful, but God can keep you if you want to be kept.

The change is on the inside first. How do you know that you are a Christian? You know it because you have a changed heart. I want you to notice that I did not say you *had* a changed heart, but you *have* a changed heart. Too many look back to when they were wonderfully saved instead of rejoicing in the fact that they are still saved today. The same God that wonderfully saved you can also wonderfully keep you.

Has your old life passed away and have all things become new? When the change takes place, your fellow employees where you work will know it. You probably meet people who are religious every day, but you see very few who have actually been changed. Those with whom you shop will know it. Those with whom you associate will know.

When I got saved, my co-workers and associates definitely knew it. Before I was saved, I was a union steward, which did not last long after I got saved. I certainly advertised Jesus Christ. Of course, that set some people against me. I will tell you a little something that happened to me. When I was a union steward, if a foreman got after a man, that man would come to me, and we did what we called "cut his throat," not literally speaking, but there was less production off a machine. In other words, a worker stayed on the machine but produced less, and thereby

put pressure on the foreman, because the next day the general foreman would come in and get on that foreman and want to know why he did not get any parts off that machine. It was called retaliation, or revenge.

Well, I became a foreman, and you probably know what happened. I went to work one night, and some workers were upset with me. I knew I was going to get it, and I did get it. The only difference was, I knew how to fix the machines, because I used to do it myself, but I reaped what I sowed. The next day the general foreman spoke to me and inquired about the production off those machines. The men were there all night, but he said it did not do any good to be there if they did not produce anything. Of course, he got after me about that, so the men had their revenge. I reaped some things, but thank God that reaping ended.

When you are changed, you are easier to get along with, or easily entreated. You do not throw your grumpy fits, or throw a hammer, because you have been changed. The fighting spirit and the severe temper will be kept under, not in your own strength, but through the power of God. The deeds of the flesh will be mortified, or killed. I am afraid that many today have never really experienced that new birth.

It is simply amazing all that God can do for a person if he will turn his life over to Him completely. Have you had a heart change? Is it still changed? If not, you need to ask God for forgiveness and tell the Lord that if He will forgive you, you will live for Him all the days of your life. You will be amazed by all God can do for you in your life.

(Compact Disc TR-2048)

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto

him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of

the angel's hand.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

The Angel and the Altar



Brother Allen Polston

The Sounding Forth of the Trumpet

The things described in this Scripture reading precede the sounding of the seven trumpets of the Book of Revelation. Seven may seem to be an odd number to you. Some may say it is a lucky number, but God considers it to be a complete number. He created the earth and all that is in it, including mankind, in seven days, and He also used that quantitative measurement repeatedly in the Bible. You can go all the way back to the Book of Genesis and read to the end of the

Bible and find that seven is used by God repeatedly to represent something that is complete.

In the Book of Joshua, you can read about a great victory that took place at Jericho when seven priests each had a trumpet, and on the seventh day, having marched around the city seven times, God gave them a victory like no other. Again, seven represents a full count, or completeness, lacking nothing.

On the Revelation chart, beginning at A.D. 33, on the Day of Pentecost, you can see seven trumpets pictured along the top of the chart. The seven trumpets

are pictured down through the ages of time, displayed across the top of the chart. The trumpet represents many things in God's Word.

Isaiah 58:1 says, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Here the trumpet was likened to the lifting up of the voice of the prophet, or the preacher, to bring understanding and to bring an awareness to the people regarding the condition they were in. Dear one, you need to know where you stand with God on a regular

basis, because if the devil has his way, he will try to get you off course a little. You have not made it to Heaven yet. Even if you have been serving God for many years, you have a journey yet ahead of you. By the grace of God, I want to make Heaven my home one of these days, so I need to know regularly where I stand with God. I thank God for the Gospel that is sounding forth to let us know where we each stand.

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." What can look down into the depths of your soul and reveal to you where you really stand with God and what the enemy is trying to do? Only the Word of God can do that. The Word of God is always quick and powerful.

Jesus, speaking of the coming of the Comforter, said in John 16:8, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." The anointed preaching of the Word of God will still show people where they stand. It will reveal the true condition of the heart. A lot of people do not like that. They do not want to know where they stand with God because they love being in darkness too much. Most people in this world get attached to darkness, and they begin to love darkness. When a man of God starts telling people about that darkness and where they really stand, often they want to get away from that.

God Holds All Power

The people who love God want to know where they stand with Him, and God wants people to know where they stand. In fact, there were times when Jesus asked individuals a question, as though He did not know the answer. Certainly He knew, but He would ask them a question. For example, in Matthew 15:34 He asked, "How many loaves have ye?" He knew how many loaves they had, but He wanted them to evaluate the situation to know for themselves exactly how many they had so that when the miracle took place, they would know that something divine had occurred.

In another place in the Scriptures, blind Bartimaeus was beside the road begging. When he heard Jesus coming, he cried out to Him, seeking help. You can read in Mark 10:51 that Jesus asked, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" Jesus knew exactly what Bartimaeus wanted Him to do, but Jesus needed him to evaluate his condition. Friend, God needs you to evaluate your needs. He lets you know where you stand so that you can do something about it.

Someone may say: "How did that preacher know about me? How did he know what I have been doing?" He probably did not know anything about you, but God knew. Because God loves you, He shows you these things that you really need through the sounding of the trumpet. If you will take what God shows you, you will get help. God does not shoot blanks, so to speak. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He holds all power in Heaven and in

earth, and He can help you with whatever your need may be.

The trumpet is symbolic of the anointed preaching of the Gospel. John, the Revelation writer, wrote in Revelation 1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." John did not hear a marching band playing a beautiful song. This trumpet was the voice of God speaking to him. God is still speaking today, even though we are living in a very wicked time. The sound of the trumpets down through the ages represents the Gospel going forth.

One of my favorite Scriptures regarding the trumpet being blown is Isaiah 27:13, which reads, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem."

Much can be accomplished when the trumpet sounds. Great things begin to happen at the sound of the trumpet. How are we going to rescue people who are starving, spiritually speaking, down in Babylon? How are we going to reach those who no longer fit in down in Egypt, or in sin? We are going to do it by sounding the trumpet.

Someone may say, "Well, I am not a preacher, I am not a teacher, and I cannot sing." You can support the sounding of the trumpet. How can you support it? There are lots of ways. You can support it by praying, by your church attendance, and by your participation in other ways. You can wave your hand every now and

then and lift up your voice to say amen. Also, you can support it by getting into your pocketbook and giving to the work of God.

Matthew 24:31 says, "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." The answer to all of this modern day folly and filth is not to back up and retreat. You should not decrease your efforts, but you ought to increase them. Also, you should not run in retreat or back up in defeat. Let us sound the trumpet and say "Charge!" Let us go forward as the church.

Romans 5:20 states, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." God has the grace to take you forward. He wants to get you over every hurdle that you are dealing with so that you can be a vessel sanctified and prepared for every good work. You may be battling some very strong problems, but God is able, just as He always has been. He can deliver you. Don't give up! You need to keep calling out to Him, just as blind Bartimaeus did. You need to keep petitioning God until He comes through with the answer, because He has the ability to deliver you.

The Certain Sound of the Trumpet

I thank God for the certain sound of the trumpet. It gave a certain sound one night in April of 1993. I am so glad for the certain sound of the trumpet! It was not a sound that said, "You are always going to be plagued by

sin." No, that was not the sound that I heard. I heard a certain sound of the trumpet that let me know that I could be delivered and set free from bondage. Thank God, that certain sound let me know that my life could be cleaned up and that I could have a good life in this world with Jesus on my side.

First Corinthians 14:8 says, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" The sounding forth of the trumpet will give you the strength and the resolve to press the battle on. I have dealt with things in the past, and sitting under a message that brought out some of God's Word helped me to get a better resolve so that I could say: "I am not going to give in to this. I am not going to let this get to me and overtake me. I am going to go forward by the help of God."

The sounding of the trumpet has been valuable down through the years. I want you to know that when understanding is opened up to you, Satan gets stirred when he knows that understanding is going to be given and you are going to be refreshed and encouraged. I like what the Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 10:32, "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions."

From the Day of Pentecost in A.D. 33, as each seal was opened through the ages, God opened more understanding. Every time, the devil was stirred over it. He never once said, "I am going to sit back and relax and let them have their fun." No, the devil does not work that way. In this seventh-seal age in which we are living,

beginning in approximately 1930, a lot of things are going on. What it really amounts to is a conglomeration of everything the devil has done down through time. He is bringing it all together in the eighth beast so that he can attack with everything he has.

We are living in a very serious time. In this country we might not have to worry so much about getting our heads cut off for worshiping God, but persecution is going on. The devil is not giving up. He is turning up the heat. Church of God, we are a very privileged people to have the light of seven days that we can enjoy, but do you know what Jesus said? In Luke 12:48b Jesus said, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." We have been given much in this day and time. We have the ability to walk in the precious light of God in its entirety. We are a very blessed people, and we are living in a wonderful time. What men do to us cannot take that away.

The opening of the seventh seal in approximately 1930 ushered the people of God into a time of greater light and understanding than ever before. We are living in a time of great potential, but where much is given, much is required. I thank God for the much that has been given to us. There are a lot of things that are going on in this evening light in the seventh seal. We have the light of all these ages, but it comes with a price tag.

A True Ministry

If you study the eighth beast in the Book of Revelation, you will see that he has some of the

same features that the other beasts have in the Revelation. He has features of the Protestant beast, the papal beast, and the pagan beast. All these things have been combined, so we need all seven trumpets sounding. The picture that we see in our Scripture lesson text portrays the trumpet sounding.

Revelation 8:1-2 lets us know that upon the opening of the seventh seal, we get the trumpet messages. Those trumpet messages apply to every age, but they also, every one of them, apply to our age. We cannot leave out any of them. We need every good brother to sound out what God has given to him. We need the regular services, the camp meetings, the fellowship days, and the revivals to spread this wonderful Gospel, because we are living in a very serious time.

Now, I want you to understand what we see in Revelation, Chapter 8, preceding the sounding of the trumpets. It is something that we see in other places in the Word of God as well, and it is important. What is it? John said in Revelation 8:2, "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God." First of all, I want to say that we need to understand that God has a called ministry that stands before Him. They may not have college educations, they may not speak eloquently, they may not be as successful as some men out in the business world, but God has always had a called-out ministry. He has always had men who would sanctify and consecrate themselves to blow the trumpet, and we need that yet today.

If the devil has his way, he

will hinder you from being able to see that God has a called-out ministry. He is working overtime to divide people and to cause arguing, fussing, and bickering. He is working overtime to get you to notice something negative about a minister or a brother. He is working to get you to point out faults in them because he wants to destroy your understanding and take away your confidence in a God-called ministry. Nevertheless, God has a ministry. Thank God, there are still brethren who stand before God. We are living in a time when many professing preachers get caught in all kinds of sinful, ungodly living, and the devil is trying to get people to think that all ministers are that way. On the contrary, they all are not painted with the same brush, so to speak.

God has a true ministry, and you need to realize that. As brethren, we must do our very best to be careful and to live carefully so that people can have confidence in our lives. We have a work to do, and we need to work together. Therefore, we need to be careful that we are not too quick to rush to judgment and take a position against a brother or a sister or a minister or a man of God, because that is exactly what the devil would like. He would like to get you to see the ministry as nothing more than putting forth their own opinions.

If you enter the church services with the mind-set that you already have all that you are going to get, or if it contradicts any of your own thoughts, feelings, or positions, you are not going to accept it. Also, it is going to be hard for God to feed you and take you along further. I

know things are definitely solid and sound in God's Word. You have to keep an open heart and an open mind to Truth and to things that God can open up to you and show you in the Word of God.

The devil is putting forth so much effort to tear down the ministry. The ministry is under heavy attack, perhaps because of the leadership position that God has called them to. Now, that does not mean that God loves the ministry more than anyone else. We all are equal in His sight, but it is the ministry's calling to stand before the people, to lead the people, and to sound the trumpet.

Laying Aside Hindrances

The Revelation writer saw seven angels stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Our Scripture text states in verse 3, "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." At the conclusion of what took place at this altar with that angel, there were good results. There were voices and thunderings and lightnings and an earthquake. We all are interested in good results.

The Revelation writer was not talking about the storms that roll across the landscape. He was talking about good results in the lives of men and women. We need to see more of these results accomplished. We need to see more people get saved. We are living in a very wicked time

when people born with the male anatomy want to go into the women's rest rooms, and they want me to allow my girls and my wife to go into the same rest rooms with them. We need to see greater results. I believe we are living in a time when the fields are white unto harvest.

Someone may say, "I do not understand this altar and golden censer and incense and all these things." Basically, it is a picture of the Old Testament high priest bringing an offering to God at an altar. Now, they did not bring in an old, lame animal or an old, dead animal that was lying around. They had to go out and get an animal that would cost them something. Too many people come to the altar without counting the cost and without laying aside anything.

I am glad that God will honor our sacrifices. He will honor your trip to an altar of prayer if you really mean business and come clean. The altar is a place of sacrifice. You need to lay aside anything that is causing you trouble. If you cannot stay away from bad things or things that cause you trouble, then you need to lay them on the altar and say, "God, if this is what it takes, I am willing to sacrifice these things for You." That friendship or association that you have formed, which continually leads you downward to a place of defeat, needs to be laid on the altar.

Some people have a lot of things that seem to come between them and the Lord, but an altar is a place where they can sacrifice them and let God know they are willing to pay the price. I know that you cannot sacrifice enough to save yourself. You cannot do

enough good to save yourself. Jesus did that, but you have to be willing to bring your best to God.

When I went to an altar of prayer on April 21, 1993, I had the desire in my heart to serve God no matter what. When the service started, I was sitting on the back row with a lot of young people around me, and I felt a lot of pressure. During the altar call, I thought: "Don't go. If my friends go, then I can go." I had to come to the place where I was going to serve God regardless of what others did. I had to be willing to sacrifice if I was going to get through with God. I had to take up my cross and follow Him. There is a cost to discipleship. Thank God, salvation is free, but being a disciple of Jesus Christ will cost you.

The Angel at the Altar

The Revelation writer already had seen the seven angels, which represented the ministry down through the ages. I am glad that even more than two thousand years ago, God had a faithful ministry. When the old pagan dragon arose and began to fight and come against God's people, they were determined to preach the Gospel, even if their heads were cut off.

In the Revelation the ministry is represented as the seven angels, but another angel entered the picture in verse 3. The angel that stood at the altar is necessary if we are ever going to Heaven. He always has been necessary for men and women to be able to access God. There is no other way. The writer of the Book of Acts said in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for

there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The angel that came to the altar and stood at the altar is Jesus Christ, or Michael the Archangel. Daniel talked about Him as a prince, Isaiah talked about Him as the Prince of Peace, and Jude talked about Him as the Archangel. He is the highest messenger there is. Jesus is that angel at the altar, and no matter what you have to give to God, it is going to be entirely worthless if Jesus is left out of the equation. You must reject any doctrine or any message that minimizes Jesus.

Paul wrote to Timothy and said in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." You cannot access God through Mohammed, Joseph Smith, or Mary. It is only through Jesus. He is the angel at the opening of the seventh seal, but it is actually referring to something in the first seal. This picture tells us that Jesus was important all the way down through time, and He is still important.

You must have faith in Christ when you come to God. You cannot come to Him harboring a bad attitude, a bad spirit, or bitterness. He was not bitter on the Cross when He said in Luke 23:34a, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

When you come to God, you have to come as Jesus came. He came in humility. Philippians 2:8 tells us, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Our sacrifice, our actions, our

messages, and our efforts are all in vain without Jesus. He told us in John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." We can do nothing without Him.

We have to keep preaching Christ. In 1 Corinthians 2:2 Paul said, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." When the pagan Roman dragon rose up, the pagans said: "Hey, you need to allow for all kinds of gods to be worshiped. We don't mind if you preach Jesus, but don't tear down our pagan religion. Don't say anything about the sun god, the moon god, the water god, or any other gods that people are worshiping. We will let you preach Jesus, but leave us alone." That is not the message. The message is, there is no other name given under Heaven whereby we can be saved. That is what got them in trouble in the morning-time church.

The devil gets stirred when we do not make room for every religion. When we start putting limitations on things and start telling people there is no salvation in Buddhism, in Islam, or in Roman Catholicism, but only in Jesus Christ, the devil does not like that.

Being in One Accord

This angel at the altar gives a picture of a sacrifice in the Old Testament time, an acceptable sacrifice, but it was also a picture of what took place on a very special day in history. You can read about it in Acts, Chapter 2, in

A.D. 33: the Day of Pentecost, not the church of Pentecost or the Pentecostal Church. What we see in Revelation, Chapter 8, is the very same thing that was taking place on the Day of Pentecost.

We read in Acts 2:1, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." That was a beautiful thing. I believe that is the reason camp meetings are so wonderful, because we get together in one accord in the presence of God, and so many people are praying and seeking God to bless. Even though the devil is trying to divide us, we keep pushing for that one accord. Verse 2 says, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."

What were they doing sitting in that house? What was going on? Acts 1:14 tells us, "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." What were they doing? They were bowing at that altar where Jesus the angel was standing, and they were waiting for God to send the Spirit of God to endue them with power so that they could go out into the streets of that city and preach Jesus Christ. They were doing just what God told them to do.

Jesus said in Acts 1:4-5: "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost

not many days hence." They were waiting, and they were in one accord, bowing and praying at this altar, just as we see in Revelation, Chapter 8. Jesus had already ascended to the Father as the Intercessor. Eventually the time came when the prayers went up and the power came down. It is still that same way today.

Now, I know that today we are not instructed to travel over to the nation of Israel and tarry in that location, but the message is, before these trumpets could begin to sound, people needed to be hungry for Truth.

When you are really hungry, you do not just sit down and twiddle your thumbs. Sometimes when I come home from work and I am hungry, as soon as I can kiss my wife, I say, "What's for supper?" The point is, when you really get hungry, it will motivate you to do something.

On the Day of Pentecost, they were praying, and they were in one accord. You may ask, "Do you think there were ever any issues that brought contention?" I am sure there were, but they did not let those issues stop them or hinder them in the work of God. On the Day of Pentecost, one hundred twenty were praying together in one accord, and God moved. When the Day of Pentecost came, those brethren were changed. They were empowered to go out and preach Jesus Christ as they had never done before.

I want to be so hungry and thirsty for the things of God that I keep on my knees and do not go without praying, meditating, and studying God's Word. I want to have something to share with the world.

Humility and Prayer

Second Chronicles 7:14 reads, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." What is that a picture of? It takes people humbling themselves and praying, and that is what it takes to be in one accord.

If people are ever going to be in one accord, they have to humble themselves once in a while. Husband, if you are going to be in one accord with your wife and keep harmony and peace in your home, there are going to be times when you have to humble yourself. I am not taking away from the man being the head of the home. The husband is not always clumsy and wrong. Often Hollywood likes to make the father figure seem as a big dunce or a klutz, and they portray the woman as one who can survive all by herself, as though she does not need a man. All of that is a bunch of hogwash. The husband is not a big klutz, a dunce, or somebody in the way. He is the head of the home, but sometimes he has to humble himself to make harmony work.

As the church, this is what we have to do: the same thing they had to do in 2 Chronicles 7:14, the same thing that had to take place in Acts 1:2 when a hundred twenty gathered together in one accord and prayed until the fire fell, and the same thing that Jesus has given us a picture of in this end time. We cannot afford to be divided. We have a very vicious enemy. We need to humble

ourselves, be in one accord, and pray the power of God will come down so we can fight successfully against this eighth beast that we are facing today.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians about one brother taking another brother to court, or about going to the law. In essence, Paul said, "Why don't you suffer the wrong rather than disrupt the work of the church by taking a brother to court?" We must do what they did in 2 Chronicles 7:14, what they did on the Day of Pentecost, and what they did preceding the sounding of the trumpets. What are we going to have to do in this day and age? We need to humble ourselves, get hungry and thirsty for the power of God and the presence of God, praying in Jesus' name, and pray as Jesus would.

The sounding of the trumpets was absolutely necessary for people to be saved, to be called out of Babylon, and to overcome. My dad was in the military when I was growing up. When I was a teenager, sometimes he would come into our bedroom early in the morning. He liked to get up very early, about four o'clock, and drink coffee. Then he would come in where my brother and I were sleeping and sing, "It is time to get up; it is time to get up, so early in the morning." He was singing to the little tune that a bugler used to blow when he was in the military. He wanted his boys to get up out of bed and get busy.

Enough of this lukewarmness that is going on around us today! Enough of this lethargy! Enough of this idleness! People need to wake up and get busy for God. We have a world that is dying

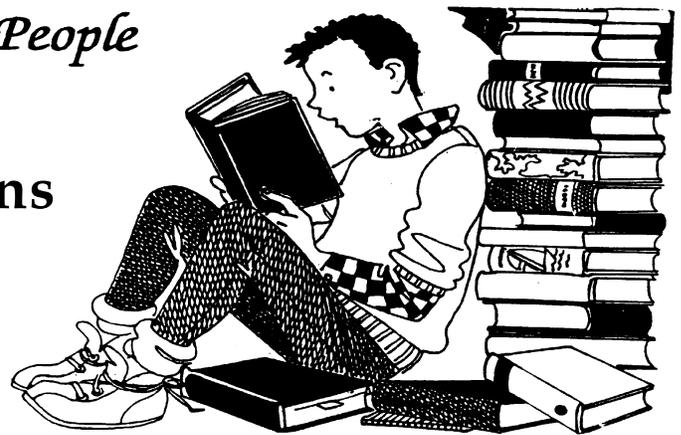
and going to hell. There are people down in Babylon who need to hear the Truth. Some people say, "Well, there are some good people there, and there are some good people where I go."

When God called His people out of Babylon, He said, "Come out of her, my people." God has some people in Babylon, or in false religion, but they need to be called out to come to the Church of God. We have an agenda, and that is to preach the Gospel. There are some good people down there, but the collective body of Christ is where they need to be.

If I could take my arm off and throw it away from me, it would still be my arm, but it could not function away from me. It would still be my arm, but it could not function with the rest of my body. It would be denied the benefit of the rest of the body, and the rest of the body would be denied the benefit of it. What would I need to do? I would need to reattach it. We have to call people out of Babylon. They need to come out and stand with God's people and be a part of the body of Christ, the Church of the Living God. The sounding of the trumpet will help to accomplish that.

Once again, before the trumpets sounded, people humbled themselves and prayed. They were hungry and thirsty, saying: "God, pour it out. Give us Truth. Give us more of Your presence." The same thing needs to happen today.

(Compact Disc TR-1727)



Ezekiel 3:17-21 reads: "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

"Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul."

As I was studying, I thought about Jesus and His burden for young people. Many times he took time for children. In Matthew 19:14 He said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." The Apostle

Paul had a great burden for young people. He talked to Timothy a lot about his youth.

We find in verse 17 of our Scripture text, "... and give them warning from me." Verse 18 reads, "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked. . . ." Verse 19 tells us, "Yet if thou warn the wicked. . . ." Verse 20 states, "... because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin." Verse 21 reads, "Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous. . . ."

In these verses of Scripture, we find that God gave some specific instructions to the Prophet Ezekiel concerning his responsibility as a man of God to warn people concerning their wickedness. In all five verses of our Scripture text, we have the word "warn" or "warning." Seven times these words appear in this Scripture passage. God still sends out warnings, hoping to save people from ultimate ruin and destruction. It is up to you to listen to those warnings.

Sometime back some news articles were published about a very popular vacation spot in the state of Oregon. At Cape Kiwanda, along the Oregon coast, there is a large sand hill that people can scale. It is beautiful. People can climb up there, and when they get to the top, they are several hundred feet above sea

level. It has a tremendous view of the ocean. Many young people have lost their lives on that sand hill because they failed to heed the warning signs. Some young people were in the news because they walked past the first, second, and third warning signs. They failed to heed the warnings. Many fell to their demise and their ruin.

Distressed parents held a town hall meeting to discuss what they could do. The warning signs were posted to warn people to stay away from certain areas. Some said, "We need bigger signs." Others said, "We need to have more police on duty there." Others suggested that they target the signs toward young people, recognizing that young people often do not realize how fragile life is. The town was in an uproar. Even while a news crew was there, they saw young people jumping the fence, paying no attention to the warning signs.

Young person, I want to talk to you about warning signs. A warning is a statement or an event that indicates impending danger or another unpleasant situation. It is a cautionary advance notice of something. We all are familiar with warning signs. We see them at railroad crossings, school zones, work zones, and many other places. They are there for people's protection, and if they do not heed those warnings, they run the risk

of ruin.

God puts certain people in your life to help you and to warn you concerning spiritual dangers. Often pastors warn young people of the danger of moving away from church, marrying an unsaved companion, getting into drugs, and so on. I have seen some who have traveled those roads and have ended in ruin. Many think, "I am going to be the exception," but the Bible tells us that God is no respecter of persons.

On those occasions that we see warnings and admonition, we need to pay attention. God puts Sunday school teachers, godly parents, and godly pillars in the church to warn you. You need to give heed and pay close attention to their warnings. Failing to heed some warnings could mean an accident or even death.

Much about youth is very good and desirable. You generally are strong, have lots of energy, and have good health. You are usually more easily influenced and swayed, which works to your advantage when God talks to you. During an altar call, usually the youth are the first to move. Often, but not always, it is due to being more tender and more easily persuaded. However, the devil sees this too, and he works through these avenues to his advantage.

Something within you, young person, makes you a higher risk for many of the devil's tricks. You are inexperienced, and you are a greater risk-taker. That is the reason credit card rates are so high for young people. The youth often seek thrills and are more easily influenced than adults and tend to bend to negative peer pressure. Therefore, the devil works hard on precious young people.

Young person, I want you to look at some warnings that you should consider. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2:11,

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." In 1 Timothy 4:12 Paul, speaking specifically to young Timothy, said, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Christian young person, you need to be a good example in word, in conversation, in conduct, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

On every pack of cigarettes, you can read the Surgeon General's warning that smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and may complicate pregnancy. That was implemented January 11, 1964. Surgeon General Luther Terry released the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health. In 1966, the United States became the first nation in the world to require a health warning on cigarette packages.

In 1973, the assistant director to research at R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company wrote an internal memorandum regarding new brands of cigarettes for the youth market. He observed that physiologically at eighteen, one is immortal, or so he thinks. Of course, the soul is immortal, but not the physical body. He theorized that the desire to be daring is part of the motivation to start smoking. He stated that in this sense, the Surgeon General's warning on the package was a plus, because young people want to be daring.

Did the Surgeon General's warning work? Well, as reported by USA Today newspaper, nearly forty-two million Americans still smoke. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than five million around the world die each year of smoking related illnesses. Every day more than three thousand teens pick up their first cigarettes. That is sad. If you listen to God and heed His warnings in the Word of

God, you will never get addicted to that sinful habit because you will never start down that road to begin with. It is a despicable, sinful habit.

Long before 1966 and the Surgeon General's warning, God warned in His Word that the body is the temple of God, and your temple must be holy and without defilement. The Greek version says, "without anything that would destroy it." Does smoking destroy your health? Absolutely, without a doubt. First Corinthians 3:16-17 reads: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile [or destroy] the temple of God [your body], him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." Smoking and other drugs will destroy your body. God's Word warns against and forbids such indulging.

Does God's Word warn against alcohol? The Alcoholic Beverage Labeling Act and the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of November 18, 1988, is a United States federal law requiring that the labels on alcoholic beverages carry a government warning. The Surgeon General says women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy due to the risk of birth defects. The consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car, to operate machinery, and may cause health problems. They went on to say with another policy and purpose that alcohol disrupts and damages your health. Alcohol use and driving after drinking have not changed since the implementation of the warning. Again, we find that the warnings have not been heeded, and people are consuming alcoholic beverages more than ever. Should a Christian drink alcoholic beverages? Absolutely not!

Underage drinking presents an enormous public health issue.

Alcohol is the drug of choice among children and adolescents. Annually about five thousand youth under twenty-one years of age die from motor vehicle crashes, other unintentional injuries, homicides, and suicides that involve underage drinking. Suicides are an epidemic in our country. Many young people feel that they have no worth. If you feel that no one else cares, remind yourself that the true saints of God care, and God cares because He loves you. He created you for a purpose. If parents see warning signs in their children, they need to recognize them and act upon them. Do not disregard them. If a child is overly depressed, Christian parents had better pray with them and help them.

Young people deal with many

awful things in the schools. Parents should be there to support, to encourage, and to tell them the truth, that God does not like sin. He loves the sinner, but not the sin. Parents need to call things for what they are and support young people.

I read that some young people get depressed and then they drink, but that is not the answer. Alcohol is a depressant. Findings and studies report that some people drink alcohol and then overdose on pain medication or some other drug leading to suicide. These things work together.

Some people take one Scripture out of context, not rightly dividing the Word of Truth. They disregard a whole host of other Scriptures that warn

against such practices. Drinking alcohol is evil and wrong.

If you are going to argue in favor of something that contributes to at least 44 percent of traffic fatalities in the United States, that destroys the body, that robs people of their finances, that alters the mind, that causes a person to be angry without cause, that the Bible calls raging and a mocker, you are void of sound reasoning. You are beside yourself, and you do not know sound Bible doctrine. You certainly do not have the Holy Spirit. Why would you stand for something responsible for 44 percent of accidents? Are you really going to defend that?

Brother Reggie Stegmeier

Judging the Fruit

Charles H. Spurgeon used to tell this story:

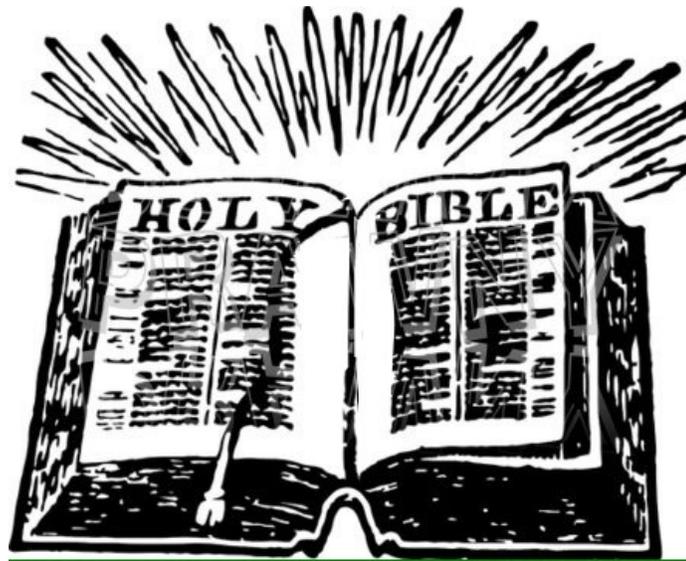
An American said to a friend, "I wish you would come down to my garden and taste my apples." He asked him about a dozen times, but the friend did not come, and at last the fruit grower said, "I suppose you think my apples are good for nothing, so you won't come and try them."

"Well, to tell the truth," said his friend: "I have tasted them. As I went along the road, I picked one up that fell over the wall, and I never tasted anything so sour in all my life. I do not particularly want any more of your fruit."

"Oh," replied the owner of the garden, "I thought it must be so. These apples around the outside are for the special benefit of the boys. I went fifty miles to select the sourest sorts to plant all around the orchard so the boys might give them up as not worthwhile stealing..If you will come inside, you will find that we grow a very different quality there, and they are as sweet as honey."

Those who judge the church by its worst members (those who hang around the edge), those most like the world, make the same mistake.

*Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
4 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*



The Power of a Fresh Start

Brother Larry Dishman

Living in a Shadow Without Hope

No doubt, you have done some things that you truly regret. Maybe it was a comment that you made, such as a cheap shot at someone. Perhaps it was a prank that you pulled on someone. Maybe you uttered some harsh words of criticism that were poorly stated or poorly timed. Possibly you lost your temper and stepped out of line, spoke out of line, or did something that hurt someone's feelings. You might have thrown a verbal stone

that hit someone right between the eyes. Oh, how you wish that you had not said or done that. If you could only take it back, but you cannot. It is too late. Damage has been done. Now you wonder what is going to happen because of the things that you have said or done.

Have you ever wanted to make a fresh start? I am sure that you have. Probably some, if not most people, have made a commitment to a fresh start. Maybe you have something in your life that you want to change. Perhaps you have said: "I am going to be

different. I am going to stop some bad habits" or "I am going to lose some weight" or "I am going to find a new job" or "I am going to be a better person, a better husband or wife, or a better parent." The problem is, however, despite your good intentions, you do not have the will or the ability to make the moves that you should make, and often you fall back into the same habits, the same pattern that put you where you are. When that happens, sometimes you come to a place where you feel helpless.

Some people are merely exist-

ing from day to day, living life in a shadow without hope. David described life without hope like a shadow. In 1 Chronicles 29:15 he said, "For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding."

Your days on earth can be as a shadow when you do not have hope. You do not really live. Are you living a life on earth as a shadow? Are you living a life without hope, merely existing? Do you go from day to day, but you do not really have peace of mind? Perhaps you try not to dwell on the past because you have a lot of hurts. Maybe you have made a lot of bad choices in the past. Have you asked yourself these questions: Why did I start smoking? Why did I start drinking? Why did I start using drugs? Why did I give in to peer pressure? Why did I get a divorce? You may ask yourself why about many things.

The past can be painful. You may not want to think about the past, but the sad part is, you do not think about the future because you do not think there is a future for you. Sometimes people do not want to think about their past because there were too many hurts in the past. The devil has convinced them that they do not have a future.

Did you know that some people are afraid to hope? They get up, work another day, do another load of laundry, clean the house, make dinner, go back to work, and come back home. They do not think about the past, and they do not think about the future. They just do what they have to do to exist, but they are

not really living. It can be scary because when they really hope for something, they become disappointed. When that happens over and over, they become disappointed with people, with circumstances, and with themselves. They are afraid to be disappointed again, so they do not put themselves in a place of hope. They think they would be better off not to hope because they do not want to be let down again. No matter how much a person would like to, one cannot undo the past.

There Is Hope in God

Many years ago I learned that a computer has an undo button. I have erased some things accidentally, but when I push the undo button, it returns to the screen. I did not have to waste time retyping what I had lost accidentally. Do you think Jonah would have loved to have had an undo button in the belly of the whale? Do you think he would have welcomed the ability to push an undo button and have everything back where it was?

Do you think the prodigal son would have loved to have found an undo button when he woke up in the far country and did not have any money, proper clothing, or proper shoes on his feet because he had wasted his substance with riotous living? An undo button would have been wonderful so that he could have found himself back at his father's house where everything was fine. What about Peter when he denied the Lord? Oh, if only he could have pressed an undo button to reverse what he had said. He wept bitterly because of what

he said about the Son of God. If only Judas Iscariot could have found an undo button, but there was no undo button.

God is all powerful. God can do anything, but there are some things that God will not do, and one of them is, He will not change the past. You may say: "My life is such a mess. I have been up and down and back and forth. I have failed so many times, and I do not know what to do." I know what you can do. You need a fresh start. Oh, the power of a fresh start! Even though the Lord cannot change the past, I know what He will do. He will do something better than change the past; He will give you a fresh start, no matter where you have been or what you have been doing.

Down deep in your heart, you know that you need a fresh start. I want to encourage you to have hope. When you have hope in the wrong things, you often get disappointed. When you have hope in others, sometimes you will feel let down. When you have hope in circumstances, you get let down. However, when you hope in the Living God, who sent His Son to die for you and to save you from your sins, you really start to live in this life and live for eternity; then you will have hope for the future and a fresh start.

Living a life with hope is real living. You might have fallen, but I have good news for you. You can get up and go forward. You need to tell God how sorry you are and start afresh. Once you have received His forgiveness, you can serve God with all your heart. God gives fresh starts. It is exciting to have the opportunity to start afresh.

Have you ever felt like starting over? I have prayed with people before and said, "Are you saved?"

"Well, I don't know. My life is such a mess. I am so confused. I got saved years ago and then backslid. I went down to Babylon and saw that was wrong, and then I stayed home."

Do you know what you need? You need a fresh start.

A Solid Foundation

Do you know the one thing that it takes to live for God? It takes having a good foundation to start with. You are never going to live a successful Christian life if you do not have a good foundation. You have to start somewhere. The Apostle Paul had a good foundation. Whenever the devil came against him, in essence, he said, "One day I was on the road to Damascus, and suddenly a light shined about me, and I heard a voice from Heaven." He could point the devil to the place where it all started.

Paul got a fresh start on the road to Damascus, thanks be to God. He dug the foundation deep. I picture a man with a shovel and a pick who dug until the sweat fell, but he did not stop. He dug and dug and dug until he hit the Rock so that he had something solid to build on. Every Christian has to have a solid foundation to start on. Until you get a really solid foundation, you are going to be up and down. Your mind is going to be filled with doubts and confusion, but you can have a good foundation.

You should not let Satan keep

you from the Christian life and keep bringing up your past. Sometimes you are given opportunities for a brand-new, fresh start. How you handle that will determine how you finish this race. You need to respond to God in the present to change your future. The past is past, and it cannot be changed, but your future is unwritten. That is good news! Proverbs 24:16 says, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."

You are not a failure if you fall. You are only a failure if you will not get back up. You are a failure if you will not start over. All you have to do is get up one more time than you fall, and you will be a success. Do you know what that is called? That is called falling forward. God loves you too much to leave you the way you are. Psalm 103:14 reads, "For he knoweth our frame [God knows what you are made of]; he remembereth that we are dust."

God wants you, even if your life is a mess. He is waiting patiently. He is sovereign. He can still make lemonade out of lemons. A fresh start requires a fresh look at where you are, it requires that you take a hard look at how you got here, and it requires that you take responsibility for your own situation. You cannot have a fresh start until you take responsibility and quit blaming everyone else for the position that you are in. In most cases, you are where you are because you have made some bad choices. As long as you blame someone else, you cannot get a fresh start. You had something to do with this.

A fresh start requires you to look at not only where you are

but also where you once were; then you need to take a fresh look at where you are going. You are going somewhere. A fresh start requires you to take a fresh look at where you are heading. Where are you going? Some people call it a vision. You need a vision. Proverbs 29:18 reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

A vision without action is only a dream. Some people call it long range planning. The question is, Where are you heading? Where are you going? If you are really looking for a fresh start, you need to take a fresh look at where you are and look at where you were. That is not all. Where are you going to stay?

A Clean Slate

A fresh start requires a clean slate. God will give you a clean slate. When a little baby is born, he comes into this world with a clean slate. He has no sins on his chart at all. He does not have a depraved nature; he has a clean slate.

Every time someone gets saved, God gives that person a clean slate, or a brand-new start. Isn't that wonderful? No matter how messed up your life is, you can get a clean slate. Someone may ask, "Do you really believe that?" Yes. Psalm 103:12 reads, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." It is a long way from the east to the west, and David said that is how far God has removed our transgressions. Micah 7:19 tells us, "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue

our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Someone may ask, "What about the more serious sins?" Micah said God would cast *all* their sins into the depths of the sea. When you get saved, thank God, you get a fresh start, and God will put all your sins in the depths of the sea. Colossians 2:13 states, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses [every last one of them]." He forgives all trespasses. That is the reason 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

You need to humbly acknowledge what you have done, and what you have not done, and then make the most of the gracious opportunity that the Lord has given you for a fresh start and serve Him in this world. First John 1:9 reads, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from [not some, but] all unrighteousness." Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

A fresh start without a clean slate will not last if you do not do at least two things. First, I have already talked to you about taking responsibility. Second, you must change directions. A fresh start will not do you any good unless you change directions. A lot of people say, "Oh, I want to change and get a fresh start." The question is, Are you willing to

change directions? If you do not change directions, you are going to end up in the same place that you are right now, or maybe worse. A fresh start is not a head start; it is starting over. You need a clean slate and a new game plan. Proverbs 3:1-2 says: "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

The Power of God in Your Life

A fresh start without a new game plan always produces the same old results. The big decision is, do you trust God's advice or your own judgment? That is what gets one in trouble. If you fail to trust God's advice, you will trust your own judgment. You need a new clean slate, a new game plan, and power to keep going. It takes power to keep going, and God can give you the power. Someone may say: "That is what I lack. I want a new start, but I lack the power."

You can have the power, because Philippians 2:13 reads, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." That is good news! It is God who works in you, both to will and to do his good pleasure. Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." A fresh start without the power to keep going is merely good intentions. Therefore, you need not only a fresh start but also the power of God in your life. John said in 1 John 4:4, "Greater is he that is in you, than

he that is in the world."

God is offering you a fresh start. What could be better than a clean slate with no stains on the pages of tomorrow? Isn't that wonderful? You might have had a bad record, but you can have a clean slate. Do you know why? It is not because you deserve it, but because the Lord is gracious and good and willing to give you a fresh start. He is willing to make a new beginning with you right now. You cannot have a fresh start if you are not willing to give Him the reins. You can have a fresh start today.

Maybe you have failed. Who has not failed at some time in his life? Perhaps you have failed, but do not fail to get saved; do not fail to get forgiveness. Do not fail to seek a fresh start. Do not fail to start over. The chorus of a song entitled "Broken Pieces" reads: "*Pick up the broken pieces, and bring them to the Lord, Pick up the broken pieces, trust in His Holy Word; He will put them back together, and make your life complete, Just place the broken pieces at the Savior's feet.*"

God is sovereign, and He can do what He wants to do. He does not have to give anyone another chance or a fresh start, but often He does.

Jeremiah 29:11 reads, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." I want you to think about that. In essence, God said: "I have been thinking about you. I have thoughts about you, and they are not evil thoughts. The thoughts that I have toward you are thoughts of peace, not of evil. I want to give you an expected

end, but it starts with the power of a fresh beginning."

Do you have hope? Would you like to live a life of hope? Living a life of hope means living a life with God. Are you ready to seek God? Are you ready to live a life with hope that will not disappoint you? God has never disappointed me. I got saved when I was eighteen years of age, and since that time, God has not disappointed me. I have disappointed Him, but He has never disappointed me.

A New Creature

A fresh start is not found in a new husband or a new wife. A fresh start is not found in a new church, a new job, or a new activity. A fresh start is with God. You do not need a new home to live in to have a fresh start. You can have a fresh start with Jesus Christ. A fresh start begins with an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. He gives you a fresh start by making you a new creature in Christ Jesus. Being in Christ means you are in a brand-new relationship with Him.

If you are going to have a fresh start, you need to repent, receive Jesus as your Savior, believe in Him and the work that He accomplished on the Cross of Calvary, and believe in the blood that He shed to give you a fresh start. There is hope for a fresh start no matter what your past sins are. No matter what you have done in the past, you can start anew. God loves you, and He wants to give you hope for the future no matter what the past has been and no matter where you find yourself. He will give you a fresh start by making

you a brand-new creature.

Are you ready for a fresh start? Are you ready to repent and believe on Him for the forgiveness of your sins? If you desire a fresh start, just repent, believe, and be born again. You need to tell God that you know you have sinned and that you are sorry. You can enter a relationship with Him and enjoy a brand-new fresh start. No, you cannot go back and change the past, but what you can do is start fresh where you are, because in all reality, there is no undo button in life. My friend, today can be a brand-new day for you, a new beginning, a fresh start.

God gives you hope to start fresh and get right with Him. You have an advocate with the Father. Jesus Christ the righteous is the propitiation for your sins, and not for yours only, but for the sins of the whole world. God is still in the transformation business. You may say, "You do not know my past." God sees in you the potential to be a vessel of honor. You may say, "That is the farthest thing from what I have ever been." You need a fresh start, and God can help you.

Yielding Your Life to God

God does not need silver and gold or a superstar. He says: "Give Me your clay that is all messed up, and I will take you to the Potter's house. What I need to do with you is start over again." God said: "I will bring life out of death. I will bring light out of darkness. I will bring health out of disease. I will bring treasures out of trash. I will bring jewels out of junk. I will bring glory out of garbage. I will bring riches out

of rubbish. I will bring diamonds out of debris. I will bring righteousness out of ruffraff. I will bring worship out of waste. I will bring majesty out of a mess. I will bring deliverance to the drug addict. I will bring praise to the prostitute. I will bring deliverance and hallelujah to the homosexual." God builds His church with misfits and throwaways.

God says: "Give me a murderer like Moses, and I will turn him into a liberator. Give me a dreamer like Joseph, and I will turn him into a commander over Egypt. Give me a captive like Daniel, and I will make him a prayer warrior. Give me a shepherd boy like David, and I will turn him into a king. Give me a child like Jeremiah, and I will turn him into a prophet. Give me a fisherman like Peter, and I will turn him into an apostle. Give me a tax collector like Zacchaeus, and I will turn him into a disciple. Give me a persecutor like Paul, and I will turn him into a preacher. Give me a prostitute like Mary Magdalene, and I will turn her into a faithful housekeeper. Give me an adulteress like the woman at the well, and I will turn her into an evangelist. All I need is some clay."

God will not give up on you. He will not toss you out on the scrap heap. He will not dismiss you as a lost cause and discard you as hopeless. God takes the clay that you yield to Him and starts all over again to rebuild a life. God is willing to start over again and shape you into a vessel as He sees fit. The only condition that you have to meet is to give Him your clay. You have to give Him your life.

God is offering a chance to

begin again to the fallen Christian, to the backslidden failure of a Christian, to the one who started well but yielded to the lure of the world, the flesh, and the devil. God is offering you an opportunity to begin again. You might have missed the mark and have become unworthy to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. Friend, if this is your condition, God is reaching out to you and

beckoning you to a fresh start. You can forget the things which are behind and reach forth to those things which are before.

As surely as pardon awaits the guilty sinner, so forgiveness awaits everyone who has failed God. Friend, now is the time for a fresh start. The day of salvation is today. You must not put off what you know you should do. Do not spurn the grace of God presently

made available to you. What more could a person want than a fresh start with no stains on the pages of tomorrow? That is what happened to me when I was eighteen years of age. Do you need a fresh start? A fresh start is available to you now in Jesus Christ.

(Compact Disc TR-1991)

[Camp Meeting Report – contin. from p. 2]
David Watson taught Wednesday afternoon, covering an overview of the Gospel Day, including what was in the bottomless pit, in a message entitled "The Dragon and the Pit Explained." Friday morning Brother Paul Featherstone brought a sobering message that asked the question, "Where Are You in the Light of Eternity?" Then Saturday morning Brother Josh Thilmony brought an encouraging sermon reminding us of "Three Blessings That God Gives." Brother Richard Talbot preached Sunday morning on keeping your eyes upon God, in a message entitled "We Have Victory When We Obey."

Pastor Roger Decker finished the afternoon teaching services on timely doctrinal issues. The topics he

covered were, "The Real Israel," "The Great Tribulation," and "The Antichrist." Through the teaching of Bible doctrine, the error of false religious systems is exposed and the Truth is made clear. It is Bible doctrine that builds up and establishes the hearts of men and women. It will also reveal the one true church.

We are truly thankful for the beautiful camp meeting that the Lord allowed us to enjoy. The real highlight of the meeting was to see men and women find the Lord. In every service God's presence sent conviction on souls, and many yielded to His call. We certainly want to express our appreciation for the good singing in the Spirit. During every Winter Camp Meeting, the church has a Bible school program

for the children. Sister Karen Wilks faithfully taught these young hearts Scriptural lessons that ingrained sound principles in the little ones who attended.

Since the camp meeting is over and a New Year has begun, we remind you of the camp meetings coming up in June and August. We encourage you to make plans to join us at God's Acres for a time of worship and fellowship with God's people on the old campground in Newark. Also, there will be camp meetings with Brother Allen Polston in Indiana and with Brother David Stegemier in Canby, Oregon, in July. The dates for these camp meetings are posted on the announcement page in this issue of *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

*All that is necessary for the triumph
of evil is that good men do nothing.*

The Devil Wants to Destroy Your Vision



Brother Mike Miller

Think on Good Things

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:4-9: "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are

true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report [there stops the gossip]; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

When you have a positive attitude and you want to do right with God, it is easy to have the

peace of God, but the devil wants to come along and try to take away your peace. I was talking to a good brother in the Lord, and he told me: "The only one who has control over your attitude is you. You choose whether or not to get angry. You choose to let a person have an effect on you."

Certainly, there are times when you have to pray and fast, because the devil wants to upset you. The devil wants to destroy anything that God does; that is his job.

One thing the devil is attack-

ing most nowadays is people's vision, but it is hard to destroy someone's vision when he is thinking on good things. It is hard to destroy one's vision when God is giving him peace and his mind is on the greatness of God. When a person gets his mind off the greatness of God is when things start to get a little on the cloudy side. Proverbs 29:18 reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish [that is the reason the devil wants to destroy your vision]: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

What are some things the devil may use to try to destroy your vision? I thought of someone trying to sell something. Did you know that we all are sales people in one form or another? As Christians, we are trying to sell people the gloriousness of God.

A Glorious Church

God has a magnificent church. He has a church that is on fire and has great power. The church represents the people, and God represents power. We should be encouraged in wanting to sell this great salvation that God has given to us. This is a great blessing that He has brought down and handed to each and every one who will accept it. If you need peace, He is right there to give you peace. If you need joy, He is right there to give you joy. If you need anything, He is right there to give it to you.

The most wonderful thing that you can talk about is His beautiful church. In Ephesians 5:27 the Apostle Paul said, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

When God looked down, He saw a glorious church. If that is what God calls it, I do not want

to call it anything different. That does not mean there are not problems here and there, because wherever the glorious church is, the devil is going to work. Do you focus on the 2 percent of the problems more than you focus on the 98 percent of everything else doing great? Too many people focus on the 2 percent, or that little bit, and forget about how God is still doing great things.

God is still saving souls. He is still healing, and He is still working miracles. The Scripture says that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is a never-changing God, so why do some people try to change Him? The same power the saints had back in the morning time is the same power that we have today. God has not changed.

God put us here at this time for a reason. It is to do a great work for Him. We have a mighty work to do, saint. What the devil wants to do is come in and destroy your vision for the work of God. He wants to beat you down and get you to feel gloom and doom and to get you to think negatively, to where you have no victory and no hope. Do you know who will perish spiritually if you lose your vision? You, your friends, and your children will perish.

My wife and I have this custom in our house that if either of us starts to become negative, one of us immediately stops and says, "I want ten positive things," because it is easy to get caught in negative thinking. Sometimes it is good to have a saint right there to remind you to think on good things and to say, "Okay, what about some positive things?" If you are trying to sell this great thing of God, but all you talk about are problems, who is going to want it?

God does not want you to dwell on negative thoughts. He wants you to think on good, positive things. If you were able to

get up out of bed today, that is a positive thing. If you were able to get dressed, that is another positive thing. I am sure there are many other positive things that will happen today as well, so why focus so much on the negatives?

God is truly good to each of us. If you were to sit down and actually write down the blessings that God has done for you, you would never leave your seat, yet sometimes it is so easy to forget the great things that God does. The devil wants to bring in negativity. He wants to constantly get your mind on looking at the bad. He wants to destroy your vision, because if he can destroy your vision, you and other people will perish. There is a danger in this. Satan wants to rob you of being a part of God's glorious church.

The job of the saints has always been to encourage, to uplift, and to strengthen others, not to beat them down. The devil does a good enough job with that.

My great grandmother was Church of God, and she used to walk approximately five miles to the church services. Her husband left her, and she had five children. She took her five children to services with her. Sometimes she was able to get a ride, but not always. She did not have much. She grew up in the time of the Great Depression, but she had a big hat to keep the sun out of her eyes that she wore when she walked to church. One time when she got to services, someone made fun of her hat. It discouraged her to the point where she said, "I don't know if I want to come back."

Another saint looked at her and said, "You will be back because you are faithful," and it encouraged and strengthened her. My great grandmother passed what she had down to the generations following her. I remember sitting in her house, and

she always had the Bible next to her. I wonder where I would have been today had she become discouraged and quit.

Clouded Vision

Without a vision people do perish. The devil wants to destroy the vision of souls. The devil will tell you, "People are not being saved like they used to." God is still saving, and He is still working in people's lives. You may not always see it, but God is in charge of the world. We get only a very small glimpse of what He sees and what He is working on. God has a mighty work, and He still wants to save souls. He needs the saints to be encouraged to work and labor and to win souls.

Acts 2:47 reads, "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." The Lord is adding to the church daily. He is still healing and working miracles in people's lives. He is still doing the impossible, and He has not changed. The devil wants to discourage you by saying, "Things are not what they used to be." He wants you to give up hope, but God does not want you to lose hope. He wants you to be a confident saint who will turn around and say, "God has great

power today."

God can move today just as much as he did in the past. I have witnessed it. I have seen God do miracles. I have seen Him heal, and I have seen Him work out financial situations. I have seen God move on situations where it seemed there was no hope, and suddenly there was a phone call and God blessed with the exact amount of money that someone needed. This was not a hundred years ago; this was recent. If it has not happened in your life yet, give it some time, because God is a God of miracles.

How is your attitude in how you present things? Do you wake up in the morning with a positive attitude or a negative one? Do you know that the world watches your attitude? They may not say a word, but they watch your every action. You will know that they are watching you if you slip up once. They will be the first to point it out and to remind you of what you should have done.

The devil wants to destroy your vision. When you start looking at the church as not being glorious and start thinking that souls are not being saved, it will bring you down, and then you will not want to put effort into it anymore. The devil will say to you, "What is the point?" Do you know what he is really going after? He wants to get you to lose

hope. He is trying to destroy your hope. He is trying to beat you down so that you lose hope for your family, your friends, your coworkers, and your neighbors. A defeated attitude will cause people to perish.

When doubt comes in, there is something else that follows, and that is unbelief. When Jesus went to His own people, He could not do miracles as He could in other places because of their unbelief. The devil wants to cloud your vision and cause you to have unbelief and doubts. If he can get you to succumb to those things and get you to say, "What's the point?" where is the hope in that? Where is the rejoicing? Where is the praise? Where is your vision? It does not have to be that way. God has a better way.

God wants you to remember that His church is glorious. God wants to remind you that He is still saving souls and that He can still heal the nations. He can still heal people. He can also heal the bitterness that has crept into your life. He can restore hope in your life. He can remove the cloudiness covering your eyes and open your eyes to see the greatness that He has for the church. Do not let the devil destroy your vision. Souls are at stake.

(Compact Disc TR-2019)

Scripture gives four names to Christians:

SAINTS for their holiness.

BELIEVERS for their faith.

BRETHREN for their love.

DISCIPLES for their knowledge.

WINTER 2018 CAMP MEETING RECORDINGS

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-2199	12-26-2018	Divine Expectation	Bro. Prince Moon
TR-2200	12-27-2018	God Knows the Desire of Our Hearts	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-2201		The Dragon and the Pit Explained	Bro. David Watson
TR-2202		A State of Confusion	Bro. Prince Moon
TR-2203	12-28-2018	Where Are You in the Light of Eternity?	Bro. Paul Featherstone
TR-2204		The Real Israel	Bro. Roger Decker
TR-2205		The Blessing of the Mercies of God	Bro. Prince Moon
TR-2206	12-29-2018	Three Blessings That God Gives	Bro. Josh Thilmony
TR-2207		The Great Tribulation	Bro. Roger Decker
TR-2208		Divine Opportunity	Bro. Prince Moon
TR-2209	12-30-2018	We Have Victory When We Obey	Bro. Richard Talbot
TR-2210		The Antichrist	Bro. Roger Decker
TR-2211		He Came Down to Deliver	Bro. Prince Moon
TM-414	2018	Winter Camp Meeting Songs #1	
TM-415		Winter Camp Meeting Songs #2	
TM-416		Winter Camp Meeting Songs #3	
	2018	Winter Camp Meeting Choir Songs All Songs in MP3 Format Morning Messages, Afternoon Teaching Services & Evening Messages in MP3 Format	

All messages and music recordings are available only on regular CD's or MP3 format. The suggested donation for regular CD's is \$3.00 each and for DVD's is \$5.00 each. (DVD's are not available for the afternoon teaching services.) The suggested donation for MP3's is \$10.00 each. The postage is \$3.00 for one CD or MP3 and \$0.35 for each additional one. Recordings may be ordered by writing *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling (740) 345-1312, the Print Shop. Please make check or money order in U.S. funds, payable to *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife."

Mark 10:5-6

Meeting Announcements

MT. PLEASANT, PA

April 20

Fellowship Meeting: Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA
Service time: 10:30 a.m. A meal will be served by the local congregation.
MOTELS: *Holiday Inn Express*, 724-547-2095 (This is on the same road as the church. Please mention that you are there for the church meeting.);
Super 8 Motel in New Stanton, 724-925-8915 on I-70W, 10 miles north of the church); *Melody Motor Lodge*, 724-628-9600 on 119N in Connellsville).
For further information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666. Telephone: 724-547-2151

SUMMERSVILLE, WV

April 29-May 5

Revival & Fellowship Meeting: Church of God, 74 Armstrong Rd., Summersville, WV 26651
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, MS
Service times: Mon. - Thurs. 7 p.m.; Fri. 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Meals will be provided by the local congregation Friday thru Sunday following each service.
Discounted lodging may be obtained at the Econolodge by calling 304-872-6900
Tell them you are there for the Church of God meeting.
Visit the website @ www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders. Telephone: 304-872-4047

MT. PLEASANT, PA

May 6-12

Revival: Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, MS
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. each evening; Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666. Telephone: 724-547-2151

NEWARK, OH

June 16-23

Camp Meeting: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055
The first service begins Sunday 10:00 a.m. Three services daily: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For lodging/camper reservations, please contact Bro. or Sis. Bush at 740-345-1213.
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker. Telephone: 740-344-2543

MUNCIE, IN

July 10-14

Camp Meeting: Ninth Street Church of God, 125 S 9th Street, New Castle, IN 47362. The camp meeting will be held at the Central Friends' Campground, 5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana. Service times: The first service begins Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. For lodging/camping reservations, please contact Sis. Michelle Gingerich @ 765-808-8705
For more information contact: Pastor Allen Polston. Telephone: 765-521-8284

CANBY, OR

July 22-28

Camp Meeting: Church of God, 522 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013
The first service begins Monday at 7:00 p.m. Two services daily: 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier. Telephone: 503-266-9297

NEWARK, OH

August 4-11

Camp Meeting: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055
The first service begins Sunday 10:00 a.m. Three services daily: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For lodging/camper reservations, please contact Bro. or Sis. Bush at 740-345-1213.
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker. Telephone: 740-344-2543

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