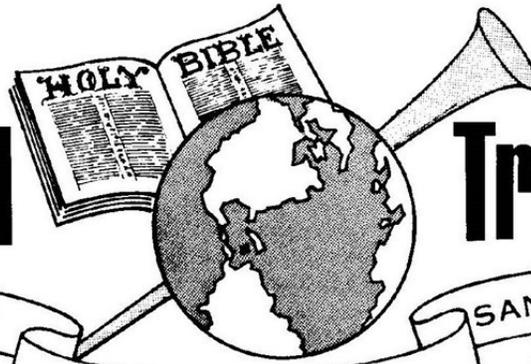


# The Gospel



# Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

"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."

Ezekiel 34:12  
Jeremiah 32:39

SANCTIFICATION

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished."

Revelation 10:7  
Matthew 24:31

UNITY & TRUTH

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 52 April 2022 No. 4



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. 4:3)
- Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
- The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13:1-17; 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)
- The Bible name of the church (Acts 20:28; Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

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We reserve the right to edit and/or decline any material for any reason. We are not responsible for unsolicited articles or items.

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Vol. 52 April 2022 No. 4

# 2021 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT for The Gospel Trumpeter

*The Gospel Trumpeter* is now in the fifty-first year of publication. The Church of God in Newark, Ohio, under the leadership of Brother E. A. Wilson, began printing *The Gospel Trumpeter* in March of 1971 as a bi-monthly periodical. In the beginning, it was only mailed to a few states. Since that time, there have been many changes that have transpired. In 1982, *The Gospel Trumpeter* was changed from a bimonthly to a monthly paper. At that time, the number of pages nearly doubled. Today, *The Gospel Trumpeter* is mailed to many homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities in the United States, and it is also being mailed to twenty-one foreign countries. We are certainly pleased to report that the truth of the Gospel is still pressing its way onward.

*The Gospel Trumpeter* is designed to have a twofold purpose. First, it is a means of reaching lost souls for Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful way of presenting the Gospel to a lost humanity. It is an oracle to introduce men and women to the beautiful plan of redemption. Through the printed page, the love and concern that God has for all souls is revealed. We have received letters from ones who have found and read a copy of this publication that had been discarded, and the Lord used this to lead those lost souls to salvation and victory. Learning of men and women finding Christ has been a great blessing to us. We quickly give all the praise and honor to the Lord.

Secondly, *The Gospel Trumpeter* is intended to reach souls who have been scattered about by false religious systems. Our hope is that the printed page will better acquaint God's people with a greater understanding of the Scriptures and enlighten men and women of the many false doctrinal teachings that hold them captive. We are striving to expose and eradicate the many erroneous theories taught by false prophets. It is also our purpose to eliminate the breaches that separate God's people and bring about healing.

God desires His people to know the unadulterated truth. He wants the hearts of men and women to be free to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Knowing the truth will produce a greater unity. Saints of God will enjoy a richer fellowship with Him and with each other. The Lord has used this publication as a means of bringing believers together in true spiritual fellowship. Pastor Roger Decker and his staff are continuing to faithfully proclaim the Gospel message. We are truly thankful to God for the privilege of being a part of this great work. It is a blessing to be a worker together with Christ in the great Kingdom of God.

For many years we have printed our annual financial report for our readers to view. This report shows you the costs involved in printing the good news of this religious journal. In past issues, we have revealed how prices have substantially gone up. It would be wonderful if the cost of supplies could be stabilized. Unfortunately, this has not happened. This year we again face the problem of the rise in the cost of paper. Another problem we now confront is the ability of finding paper to purchase. We

[continued on pg. 24]

Colossians 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

19 *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

20 *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by*

*him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

21 *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*

22 *In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy*

*and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:*

23 *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.*



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

### **The Power of Jesus Christ**

In verse 18 of the Scripture text, the Apostle Paul mentioned that Christ is four things to the church. First, he said He is the Head of the body, the church. Second, He is the firstborn from the dead that in all things He might have the preeminence. Third, He is the beginning of the church. Fourth, He has supremacy in all things. In other words, Christ is all things pertaining to the church.

We read in Ephesians 5:23,

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." This simply means that He is in charge. It is His church and His body. He is the Head; therefore, He gives the orders, guides the church and feeds her, and He will deliver her up at the last trumpet sound.

Christ is the beginning of the church. When writing to the church at Laodicea, John said in Revelation 3:14, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith

the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God." God created all things—this earth, the people, and so on. He is the beginning of the New Testament, the church, and He re-created you and me.

There is a beginning to all things, including the Church of God. That beginning was when we were brought into fellowship with Christ through the new birth. He is "the firstborn from the dead." In 1 Corinthians 15:20 the Apostle Paul wrote, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and

become the firstfruits of them that slept." In other words, He was the first one to be resurrected to resume the natural life never more to enter the empire of death after having died a natural death. He has supremacy in all things. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is His title, His ownership, to supreme Lordship. By His resurrection, He has shown that He has conquered every opposing power, and there is nothing in life or in death that can bind Him.

Paul mentioned four great facts about Jesus. First, He is a living Lord; second, He is a source of origin; third, He is a constant director; and fourth, He is Lord of all by virtue of His victory over death. Our Scripture text reads in verses 22-23: "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister."

In verse 22 the Apostle Paul used three descriptive words regarding how Christ wants you and me to appear: holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable. He wrote in verse 20, "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." The word *reconciled* means to be restored to friendship or harmony, to settle or resolve. The word is used when speaking of reconciling differences. This reconciliation is to bring one into holiness.

### Living Free From Sin

Reconciliation also has another kind of obligation, and that is standing fast in the faith and

never abandoning the hope that is in the Gospel. Reconciliation demands that, through mountaintops and through valleys, we should never lose confidence in the love of God. Whether you are way up in a spiritual high or down in the valley, Christ is the same. He wants you never to lose confidence in the love of God. Out of reconciliation is born the strength of unshakeable loyalty and the joy of incomparable hope.

First Thessalonians 4:7 reads, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." The call of God always goes out to make you better. God would not put out a call for you to be reconciled and then leave you in a sinful state. We are called to holiness, or holy living, living free from sin. If you fail to live free from sin, you are not going to make it to Heaven. Living free from sin is not a popular subject among many in religion, but what people are really saying when they say they cannot live free from sin is that we should have stayed under animal sacrifices where remembrance of sin was only brought up once a year.

I have asked some people in nominal religion, "What sin did you commit today?" They could not tell me, but because of their teaching, they said, "I don't know, but I must have done something wrong." Church, we have the blood of Jesus for forgiveness, but we have the Holy Spirit as an antidote against sin.

I believe many people live good Christian lives, but because of false teachings or because of the way they were raised, they are brought into a doctrine or creed of "once you are saved, you go on as before and continue to commit sin." They may quit being adulterers or quit some big sins, but they feel that they commit sin, either in thought or deed, or along some other line. They do not really understand

the Scriptures.

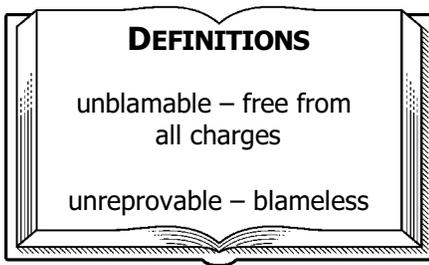
Let us get some understanding. Paul said in Romans 3:25, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." "Through the forbearance" simply means through patience and longsuffering. That means He did not come forth in judgment when sin was committed. Instead, He spared you and me. Though we deserved punishment, He came forth to pardon those sins through the blood of Jesus Christ.

I want you to notice something. We are forgiven of sins that are past, not sins in the future. Nowhere do you get a blanket covering from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. When we were out in sin, through His longsuffering and forbearance, He brought us under the Gospel, pardoned us, and reconciled us. He brought us from the life of sin and forgave us for the sins of the past. There should not be any sin in the future.

I am concerned that many people read that Scripture, and that is where they stop. All that does is clean you up so God can move in. If you say that you have to sin, then your testimony would be, "The devil is stronger than God," but that is not so. What you are saying is, even if God lives on the inside, you would override God and commit sin. Through His patience and longsuffering, thank God, He did not put judgment on us when we were out in sin.

### Continuing in the Faith

In our Scripture lesson, the Apostle Paul used two other words besides holiness, and those were unblameable and unreprouvable. The word *unblameable* means, "free from all charges." The word *unreprouvable* means, "blameless."



What was Paul saying? When you were reconciled to God, He made you holy, unblamable, and unreprovable in His sight; however, there is a condition attached to it. Colossians 1:23 reads, "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister." Continuing to serve God is where the problem lies among many Christians. There is no problem with people getting saved. Often there is no problem with people filling the altar, but do they return the next week?

Paul said if you continue in the faith and the belief of the Gospel, if you continue in holy living, you will be presented unblamable and unreprovable in His sight. Continuing to be saved is impossible unless you live a life that becomes the Gospel. We are living epistles.

You need to be grounded, have a firm foundation, and be settled. You can be as firm as a building founded on a rock. You should not allow yourself to be moved away from the hope of the Gospel or by the tactics of human thinking and the allurements in sin. Some get moved over the slightest things. They become offended because someone did not speak to them or because someone said something about them. Compare that to the life of Jesus Christ.

Some get upset over the standard. One song says, "I don't want to change it or rearrange it, I love it just like it is." Some are

not settled and grounded in the faith. They might have moved to an altar of prayer, but they are barely hanging in there in the services. They need to be rooted, grounded, and settled in the hope of the Gospel.

Others have moved away from the hope of the Gospel. They have done that because of a wrong attitude, unforgiveness, or pinning their hopes on their own understanding. Things are coming on the church today, and the sad part is, some are professing over top of it. We are living in a day of perilous times.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul wrote to the morning-time church to warn them of things that would come upon the church. He said: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof [the power that makes you godly]: from such turn away." This condition has come upon people who profess over top of those conditions that Paul mentioned.

### **Are You Moving Away From the Hope of the Gospel?**

Some people carry wrong attitudes and unforgiveness, but one dare not question them about the condition of their souls. God has a better experience for people than that. Paul mentioned being disobedient to parents. He was talking to young people who profess over the top of being mouthy, or sassy, and disobedient to their parents. Often this is due to children not being disciplined in their younger years.

Discipline is needed when children are growing up and begin to exercise a mind of their own. Parent, you have to remember that as children grow and their minds develop, they get minds of their own. You can do your best to raise them and guide them in the truth and in the right way, but sometimes they make wrong choices.

All kinds of devilish devices are out there to draw children in the wrong direction. Some of the worst tools the devil uses are cell phones, video games, and the Internet. Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram have to utilize the Internet. I am not against these forms of media. These things are wonderful inventions, but the devil always gets in and makes them instruments to commit sin.

Parent, have you ever checked your child's text messages? You may say, "I trust my child." Have you checked to see what he or she is opening on the Internet? Maybe you feel, "My child would never look at anything that is wrong." Do you think that your child is not tempted along those lines?

Video games are always advertising. They captivate your mind. Families used to get together and have good times conversing with one another, but today in some homes, everybody sits there focused on their cell phones. Something is going on continually, and the communication between family members is very low. The cell phone is a wonderful invention, but it can steal away your family time. When television first came out, many programs were morally good, but then the devil got in and has loosened the morals more and more as time went on. Why? Because that is what people want. The same is true on the Internet. Parent, why do your children have the Internet? Do they really need it? You may say, "My child would never go to a site that would be disgraceful."

Do you know that for certain?

You cannot remain holy, unblamable, and unprovable in His sight if you move away from the hope that is in the Gospel. Some become entangled in things they know they should not be involved in. They get moved away from the hope that they received from the Gospel.

Some people move away from a good, sound congregation because of employment, but when you ask where they plan to go to church, they say, "I hadn't thought about that." When people move away from the hope that they received through the Gospel, they are in a sorry condition.

Paul wrote about how we were before the Gospel. He said in Ephesians 2:12, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." Having no hope is bad enough, but being without God in the world is worse.

Some people never advance in the Kingdom of God because they never become settled and grounded in the truth. They are too busy complaining about the standard, complaining about the messages, complaining about a song, or complaining about the services; so they never advance. Therefore, they move away from the hope of the Gospel.

### **Man's Part in Salvation**

Hebrews 5:12-14 states: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to

them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Paul was talking to people who ought to have been instructing others, but they had need of being taught again, which shows that they had been taught once. They were taught the first principles, or what babies in Christ received.

What do babies receive? They receive the sincere milk of the Word. In 1 Corinthians, Paul spoke of problems in chapter after chapter. In 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 he wrote: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." What was wrong at Corinth? If you study the first through the third chapters, you will find there was division. Why? They were leaning to their own understanding.

Babies cannot remain in a baby state. If they were to remain in the baby state, something would be wrong with them. Someone may say, "It has to be the food that they are receiving." Is that what you would say in the family when a baby's siblings are growing but the baby is not growing? The reason the Corinthians were in a baby state was that they could not take strong preaching. They were divided over the preachers.

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, preaching on being grounded and settled, he said in Philippians 2:12, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Salvation is of God. It is God who works in you the desire to be saved. It is also true that your heart arrests you until your heart

rests in Him. The desire for salvation is not kindled by human emotions but by God. The beginning of the process of salvation is always awakened by God.

The other side to salvation is man's part. The Bible says to work out your own salvation. Without man's cooperation even God is helpless in making you holy, unblamable, and unprovable. The fact is, any gift or benefit has to be received. For example, suppose a man is out of work. He might be struggling financially and suddenly a good paying job with good benefits becomes available, and it is just what he needs to get back on his feet. However, what if he were to stubbornly refuse to do that job and say he is not interested? Then he would not benefit from the opportunity.

That is the same way it is with salvation. God presents the opportunity for you to get saved through the Gospel. He lays out the benefits and everything you need to have for salvation, but you do not have to receive it. You can walk away and remain as you were. No man can receive salvation unless he answers God's appeal and takes what God offers.

To remain holy, unblamable, and unprovable, you have to be settled and grounded in the truth. Have you been working out your own salvation with fear and trembling? Have you remained settled, true, and grounded in the things of God? Only you can answer these questions. God knows your true condition. If you are not settled, you need to be. You should not have an up-and-down experience, in one week and out the next week. The week that you are out, you are going to miss something that you need to live holy. You need to stay grounded, settled, unblamable, and unprovable in the truth.

*(Compact Disc TR-2014)*

1 Chronicles 10:6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died together.

7 And when all the men of Israel that were in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, then they forsook their cities, and fled: and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

14 And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.



No  
Man  
Is Unto  
Himself

*Brother Brandon Gonzalez*

### **What You Do Matters to God**

Do you have Christ in your life today? You cannot uplift others with love if you do not have the love of God in your heart. You may try, but you cannot lift them any better than the world can. It was the world that got them in a bad place to begin with. You need the power of Christ in your life before you can lift up other people. I like the song that says, "Lord, give us true warmth and affection; When one fails help us rescue his soul; 'He's not heavy, for he is my brother,' Let us cry as we carry his load."

There is an attitude out there that I want to bring to your attention. It is the idea of a person thinking he is only unto himself, an attitude of, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Sometimes the thought arises: "It is no one else's business what I do. This is my house, and no one else needs to know what goes on here." Friend, God sees the heart, and He knows what is in your house. If you are doing wrong, God does not want to

bring others around to see that. Some people pray, then wonder why more people are not getting saved. Do you ever think that it might be because of what is going on in the home?

Sometimes people do not see things the way God sees them. Why? Because His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. His vision encompasses the entirety of everything. What we each do matters to God, whether it is a personal matter, a family matter, on a congregational level, or concerning the body of Christ on a universal level.

The Bible tells us in the Old Testament that King Saul fell on his own sword, but the real destruction came when he was disobedient to God. What one person does matters to God. It was one man's transgression. King Saul died for his own transgression, but what was the outcome? His personal family perished, and the people around him suffered because of his actions. We all are the body of Christ. What you do as an individual matters. What your family does as a

household matters. What a congregation does matters. We were bought with a price.

One day we each will be held accountable for how we chose to work with what we were given. God does not expect any more from us than what we are given, but for what He has given, He is going to say: "I leased you this piece of ground. What did you do with what I gave you?" He knows what faculties He provided you with. He knows the faculties that you are working with. He is not going to say, "Why didn't you do the same thing so-and-so did?" He might have given that person something different from what He gave you. What you have is what you are accountable for, and what you are accountable for affects the entirety of the business of God.

### **Having Love One to Another**

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:1, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the

vocation wherewith ye are called." You are called to a vocation, or a job. Some people put more effort, more thought, and more concern into their worldly vocation than they do the body of Christ. You would never see them skimping on things at work, and they should not. They are very diligent. Yet, when it comes to the work of God, where are they? May the Lord help us not to be deceived with a lack of priority or an ignorance of understanding concerning what is more needful. You must put the Kingdom of God first and His righteousness.

Verses 2-6 state: "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; [How should we look at one another? It must be in love, with patience, uplifting one another, not quick to judge, and not throwing stones.] Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Verse 13 speaks of coming "in the unity of the faith." God wants His people to be together.

Verses 15-16 say: "But speaking the truth in love, [You show love by helping a brother or a sister and by having love written on your hand, so to speak. Instead of throwing stones with the Word of God, why not edify them with the Word of God? You need to show love in the right way. Check yourself in how you are showing love. Check your tone and your words. The love that you show should edify and build up.] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body [if you are a Christian, you are a part of the whole body, and that is why you matter] fitly joined together and

compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

We read in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." We must love one another in sincerity, not a fake love, not the kind of love the world has. If a girl goes to school, and someone says to her, "Oh, I just love your dress," and then turns around and says: "Did you see that dress she was wearing? I would never wear that. It looks terrible." That is not real love. The world needs to see true love.

### **Edifying the Body of Christ**

I like to keep some food in the refrigerator in the church building for people who come around, whether they are workers or someone off the street, so I can offer them a warm meal. One day, I was working with some people who were sitting at the table, and a couple of them began to argue and bicker. I said, "Let there be no strife at this table when we come to eat." Again, Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Strife in the home will kill love. When you display bickering in the home, how can you come to church and share love with everyone else? Your children are going to say, "When we come to church, we get fed love, but when we go home, we get fed strife."

We do not live to ourselves. Our love is to be a testimony of the love that we have for one another, both in the company of the whole congregation and in the home. Love is important to God. He loves us, and He wants us to share that love with everyone else. You must have that love

within yourself so you can share that love with others. The love of God will not cause you to be puffed-up. The love of God makes you appreciative because you know you are a child of God and that He loves you. Sometimes the most physically beautiful people in the world look at themselves and do not see anything good at all. It is the love of God that helps a person to have love and appreciation. It helps them to be joyful and loving toward others because they know the love of God is in their own hearts.

Paul wrote in Philippians 2:3, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." How are you going to help others if you are not present?

Each individual person matters. Sometimes people think they do not matter. You matter, and not only that, if God has brought you to a spiritually healthy place, you should be in the services because your presence will uplift others and edify the body of Christ. God can use your testimony, your song, or your smile to make others feel better when they feel lonely.

Think about Elijah under the juniper tree. What drew him there? He was running for his life, but it did not help him to be contemplating that he was the only one left living for God. He felt that life was not worth living. What was the edification that God gave him? In essence, God said: "Don't you know there are seven thousand who have not bowed to Baal? The journey is

too great for you. You need strength and food for the journey."

### **Doing All to the Glory of God**

We need to have love for one another, and how we show it in action matters. Whenever you do something for someone, do it to the glory of God. What if you do something good for someone, you have good intentions, but things fall apart? Are you going to be jaded because of it and say, "Well, I won't help again if that is how it is going to end"? If you give the glory to God to begin with and things do not work out, you will still have your reward. The latter part of Isaiah 58:8 reads, "The glory of the LORD shall be thy reward." You can say: "God, I did my best with all my heart. I feel I did the duty You gave me. I am grateful to give the glory to You, and that is my reward."

What you do, how you do it, and why you do it matters to God. Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God. What you do on an individual basis should be done to the glory of God. When He sees the love of family and unity, He will bless.

First Corinthians 13:4-7 reads: "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil [sometimes people surmise things in their minds and think that others have something against them when that is not so]; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Some people need a little help from God to see that it is not always everyone else who has a problem. God has to be kind and

gentle with them. If they choose to have a hard heart after that, it is their own fault. Some do not want to let go of bitterness and other things in their lives. I encourage you not to judge them, but to pray for them. We need to pray and ask God to help them. Some need help getting out of the predicament they are in. Lot lingered in the area of destruction. Sometimes, we may not be able to help them. We may even need to stay away from them. However, we can pray for them.

Consider 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 from a different translation. It says: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud [or rude]. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." Some people like to keep a record of other people's wrongs. If you are doing that in your heart, you need to get rid of them. Did Christ not bury your wrongs when He took away your sins? Are you not supposed to love others as Christ loved you? You need to burn your "book of accounts" of how people did you wrong. You ought to forgive others, otherwise God will hold you for your wrongdoings. If you are unforgiving, He will not forgive you. It is a terrible thing to have unforgiveness in your heart.

### **A Godly Household**

When talking about love and marriage, Paul said in Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." He said in Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Exodus 20:12 says, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." The family unit that God has chosen is to be a showcase for God. Many people in this

world come from broken families and broken lives. Once again, we are not a people unto ourselves.

When we look at a godly household, there should be an unselfish head of the home. Today, there are many fathers and mothers who just do not care. How does that radiate to the children? Paul said in Ephesians 5:22, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." Paul was talking about the spirit of submissiveness because of love, not because of fear or any other thing. What helps a child to be submissive? I work with children at school and sometimes they buck at things. I wonder, Is it because there is a lack of submission in the home? Or is it the wrong kind of submissiveness, where the parents are submissive to the children? Children should be raised in the way that God says. Parent, it may be your own fault that your child is not giving you the honor that is due because you are not being the parent you need to be.

How the occupants of a home interact with one another affects the growth of the church. We read in Proverbs 21:2, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."

### **One Person Can Affect Many**

Let us consider how one person can affect so many. Genesis 6:5-8 reads: "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in

the eyes of the Lord."

One man found grace in the eyes of the Lord. What did that cause? Verse 9 tells us, "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Your individual walk with Christ matters. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:20, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." Think about that. Are you glad that Noah walked the way he did? One person can matter, and it will affect a great multitude.

The Amplified Bible says, "Who once were disobedient, when the great patience of God

was waiting in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is eight persons [Noah's family], were brought safely through the water." Wife, husband, you matter at home. It could be by your actions that your family is saved. Do you know what Paul and Silas said to the jailer? Acts 16:31 reads, "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." The actions of that jailer mattered, not just for him, but for his household as well.

If you came from a broken home, take courage. Your life matters to God. You are very important. You matter to your brothers and sisters in Christ. When you think about this, you should not feel hopeless. You can

be the child of God that you need to be.

When you have a family that has the Spirit of God in them, that is better than a worldly family. You are not going to be confronted with lies, hypocrisy, or anything else that is not uplifting because God does not allow that in His household or at His table. There is no strife in God's family. God will keep it straight. John, Chapter 15, says those who do not continue to bear fruit will be removed. The One who removes them is the Husbandman. God is saying, "You are not going to be unfruitful." God wants good fruit on this vine.

(Compact Disc TR-2653)



**R**ichard Emerson Talbot Sr., age 74, passed on to Glory Friday, December 10, 2021. He was born on Friday, June 13, 1947, in Essex, Maryland. Brother Talbot's family attended the Essex Church of God, pastored by Brother Harold Barber. At the age of 15, Brother Talbot gave his heart and life to God.

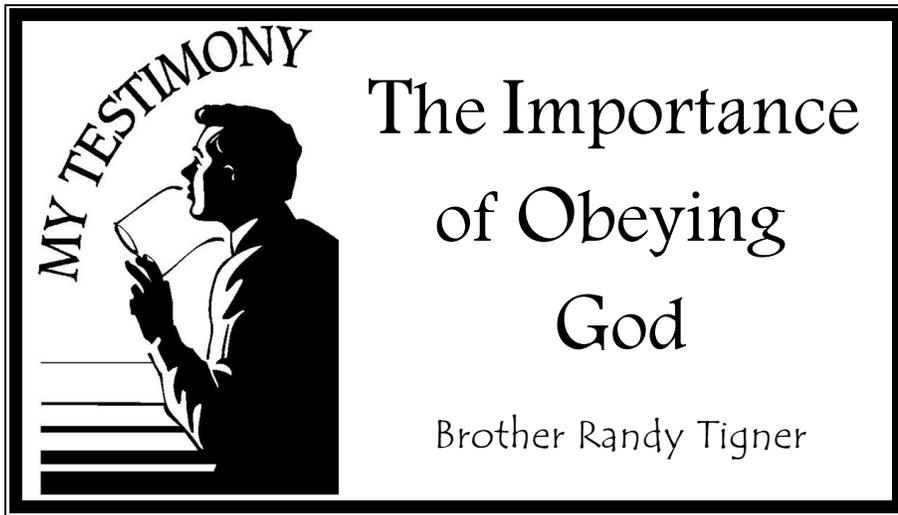
His father, Brother Preston Talbot, became a pastor of the Church of God, and moved the family to Morgantown, West Virginia. While attending this congregation, Brother Talbot met Sister Diana, and at the age of 19, he asked her to marry him. They were married on June 17, 1967, just after Brother Talbot turned 20 years old.

Brother Talbot began his first pastorate in 1970, in Churchville, Maryland. In 1973, God called him to pastor the work in Ovapa, West Virginia. He and his wife labored there for 43 years. While pastoring, he

had a few different jobs. He was a school bus driver for more than 30 years. He retired from school bus driving, resigned the work in Ovapa, and felt led to move to Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, to be near his daughters and grandchildren. While attending the Mount Pleasant Church of God, under Pastor Paul Prinkey, his son-in-law, he was a faithful laborer for the Lord and a strong support to the congregation.

First Timothy 3:1 says, "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." Brother Talbot loved the Church of God. He loved to preach, especially about the church and on the home. He enjoyed pastoring and was dedicated and faithful to the call of God for his life. He recently published a book, *The Office of a Bishop*, to help young ministers and encourage those who desire to do a work for the Lord. He also loved people. Therefore, he had a desire to be a greeter at the local Walmart for the past four years before he passed. Brother Talbot was a true man of God and will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.





How wonderful it is to see young people serving God. In my life, I was not raised in a Christian home. My mother went to church when she was younger, but I was never taught about Jesus or the church. God began to talk to me, and some really extraordinary things happened. When God talks, it is not normal, it is not worldly, it is God. When He talks to us, we need to remember the realm that He is using.

When I was thirty-one years old, I had two little boys (one was five and one was three). Up to that point, I had only gone to church a few times. I did not know anything about the church. I did not know about the things of God. My brother and sisters were praying for me. Without prayer, I would not be here. It is astonishing what prayer can do.

I had a job that was really difficult; it was a very hot job, but I was thankful for it. One day, coming home from work, I was stopped at a red light and an ambulance went screaming by from out of nowhere. I started screaming and crying out loud, sitting there at a traffic light, and then I stopped. I looked in the rearview mirror at my reflection, and there was not one tear. I went on through the light after it changed, and I started feeling lightheaded. We did not live too far from there.

Fear took over my heart. I felt that something bad was going to happen, and I thought, "Lord, let it happen to me and not to my boys." I remember getting home, running out of my car and into the front door, and meeting my two little boys in the kitchen. I got down on my knees and hugged them both. I realized right then what this was about. The problem was me. I did not know God or His voice at the time. I hugged my boys, and my wife looked at me puzzled because she did not understand. The fear had gripped my heart, and it took my strength.

The line of work that I did was electrical, and it was dangerous. I worked around 480 volts of electricity every day. If you touched it in the wrong place, you would be dead. Even 120 volts, if you are grounded in the right place, would be deadly.

I was doing everything I could to satisfy this flesh, to make Randy happy. I was in a band that was playing in the honky-tonks, the beer joints, and the night clubs. We had contracts booked a year and a half in advance. I was working five days a week, one Saturday or Sunday every week, plus overtime. I was very busy; I was too busy for God. Do not get that way. If you feel yourself getting too busy, be careful. Do not get so busy that

you do not have time to pray and read your Bible.

I came home one day and just fell on the floor. I was laying there with my eyes closed in the living room of my house, and the next thing that happened was not normal. I had a dream that I was no longer in the living room of my house, but I was standing on the balcony at God's Acres. I knew where I was; I had been there once before. There was a church service going on. God has a way, even with someone who has no spiritual understanding at all, to communicate with them. He knows how to communicate with people like me and you. The thought came to my mind, "The Lord wants me to go to church." These are the words I said: "I do not want anything to do with this, Lord. I do not want anything to do with religion." Big mistake! When God talks to you, give Him the right answer and obey Him. Everything He does will benefit you. I made a big mistake when I said those words.

Time went on. I was at work, and the main processing center went down; the pulp mill stopped. The boss looked at me and my buddy and said, "The processing center is down, and no one knows why." We went with the boss to try and figure out what was going on. They did not know what to do, so my boss turned to me and said, "Randy, go up and check the chip level." The binder goes to a big pipe. So I went to check on it.

We were on the second floor, and I went to the third floor, up the stairs, and out on the roof. The building was shaped like a cracker box, narrow and long. It looked like it hung in the air, and it was about seventy or eighty feet long and eight or ten feet wide. There was a rubber belt conveyer on the inside of the room. The ladder went all the way up, and I had my tools around my neck so I could climb

up that ladder. It was a steel rung ladder, and there was a protective rung on the outside in case you would happen to fall, and I did not want to fall. I started up the ladder and got all the way to the top. There was no door to this building; it looked like it was just hanging in the air. I came right up through the floor through the building. As I came up the ladder, there was a huge pipe on the end of the building, about five or six feet in diameter.

The device had eight little bolts on it. I had to take those bolts out and pull the cover off to test the bindicator. There was a little arm in there for the purpose of actuating the chip level to keep it working and it was raised up. Well, I decided it would take too long to take all of those bolts off. In my mind I thought there was an easier way. I picked up a square point shovel with a long handle and squeezed between a wall and this big pipe. There was not much room to get in there, so I went around the back and looked down into the pipe. Now, there were bunches of wood chips on this big rubber conveyor, and the chips were going down into this big hole in the pipe. Within that device, it had a little paddle on it that would turn. When the chip level would build up on the inside, they would hit that paddle and a light would come on down at the main panel. Then it would shut down the chips going to the conveyor.

I was standing there, looking into this big hole with a conveyor belt full of chips just pouring in. I took the shovel and put it down in there, in order to simulate a high level of chips. I put the shovel right against the paddle for about ten seconds. I looked at the conveyor, and there was a blank place, which told me the

device was working properly. Technically, a light should have come on down at the main control panel.

The others saw the light down at the main operating panel, but I thought maybe they did not see it, or maybe the light bulb was out. So I decided to stick the shovel down into that hole again. Remember, there were still hundreds and hundreds of chips pouring in there. I took the shovel, stopped the little paddle, held it on there, counted to ten, and pulled it back out. I wondered if they saw that. That was two times. I looked on the conveyor and there was a blank place, which let me know it was

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## **"This cannot be happening. This does not make any sense."**

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working. I was fortunate, at that point, but then something really strange happened. All of a sudden, the whole building shook! I knew the potential and the danger of what could happen on the other end where I was by the big pipe, which would have gone down below the floor and into the other pipes.

The entire building vibrated and shook. It scared me. It did not make any sense because the amount of time that I shut off the chips going in, which I saw on the conveyor a short blank place, would not have made a difference at all. There was not a malfunction in the device. What I did not know was that the big pipe, which came down and went into two smaller ones into the processing on one side, was plugged with chips. I did not know that, and there was no way I could have known that. Evidently, there was a plug on the one side. Also, to my knowledge, my supervisor did not tell the opera-

tor at the operating panel that I was up there.

The operators had to unclog the pipe. Of course, they could not take this great big metal machine apart to unclog the pipe. The operators had to come down from the second floor to the first floor and turn the valves to reverse the steam. The steam, instead of going one way, would go the other way so the wood chips would come back out. Remember, they did not know I was up there, and it would blow back to where I was. That is what happened. That loud noise I heard and all that vibration was from them reversing the steam and blowing the plug back out to where I was up inside the building.

I was the only one up there. As I stood and realized that, I thought: "This cannot be happening. This does not make any sense." But I did not know there was a plug. Then something came into my head and told me, "Just look on down inside that pipe." This pipe had a big opening of five or six feet, and something kept prompting me in my head to look down inside there. Down on the other end, they were reversing the steam, and all of that was going to come back up my way. So I went over and looked down in the hole, and I could see the paddle turning and the bindicator was working.

Then I realized that something was not right. Something was wrong. It came to my mind that I should not look down in that pipe because I knew the danger of it. There was a plug in the system, and I was going to get hit. For some reason, I looked down in that pipe, and when I did, BOOM! The steam pressure was 165 pounds per square inch, and it came right out at me.

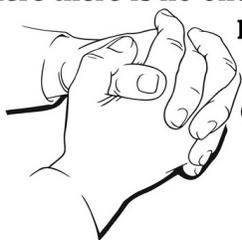
There I was with my head

down over that pipe and the steam hit me right in the face. I felt something holding my head down over that pipe. When the blast hit me in the face, I had cotton gloves on, and I held them over me to protect my face. This happened because I said something that I should not have said. This is why we have to be careful what we say. Saved, or not saved, God hears everything. Do you not think you can upset God? Yes, you can! We can say things that will upset God. We must be careful what we say and what we do.

When that blast hit me in the face, I could feel the burn. Finally, I fell to my knees. I was up there by myself. No one could help me; there was no other human there. The closest illustration I can give you as to the power of that steam is if you were standing behind a jet engine. This was not nearly that hot, but it was very hot. I thought this was the end, but God had mercy.

When I got hit, I went to my knees and was backed up into a corner. I realized I was in trouble. If I had opened my eyes, I would have lost them. The steam was roaring. I got down close to the floor while the steam was blowing, and those small chips were all over the place. As I was on my knees, the thought that came to my mind was something my mother told me when I was just eight or ten years old. She said, "If you ever get to a place where there is no one there to help you, call on God." How did I get there? I put myself there. I

**"If you ever get to a place where there is no one there to help you, call on GOD."**



was the reason this was happening to me.

I took my gloves and put them all around my face to protect my face. I could feel the steam burning my face, and there was nothing I could do. I called on God and said, "God, help me!" I heard a Voice in my head. I did not know God's voice, so I did not realize it was God. The Voice said, "Keep your eyes and your mouth closed." So there I was on my knees, keeping my eyes closed and my mouth closed, and doing everything I could not to breathe. So then, I just had to breathe. When I took a breath, my lips burned. I did not realize the damage that was done to my mouth and to my face. As I was down on my knees, God came to help me.

The next thing I knew, I was not in the corner. I was standing over in the aisle way. I did not know that God had sent an angel, right out of Heaven, and the angel picked me up and carried me through the air over the conveyor and stood me in the aisle, away from the steam to where it was safe. Then the Lord said, "Open your eyes," so I opened my eyes. Steam and chips were still everywhere, but I could see the hole in the floor, the only way out of there.

Then, I felt that something had hold of my arm. It was the angel. I could only see really bright lights. I tried to turn my eyes and look, but the angel would not let me see him. The angel had picked me up and carried me through the air, all the way down to the end where the hole in the floor and the ladder were, and put my hands on that ladder. I had second and third degree burns where the steam burned the skin around my hands.

After the angel put me on the ladder, he was gone. I started going down the ladder, scared to death, and I could hardly feel the

rungs with my feet. I finally made it down to the end of the ladder, and I laid down on the top of the roof. I was lying there on my back, and I looked at my gloves, right where my fingers were, and they were smoking. I had been trying to protect my face when the blast hit. I was lying there and had no idea of how badly I was burned. The electrician I was working with came up, saw me, and ran down to get help.

They took me to a hospital that was close. I could tell by the way they were talking they did not know anything about burns. They did not have a burn ward. I told them I wanted to go to Columbus; so they put me in an ambulance. I knew the driver of the ambulance. We were in the army together. He said to me, "Randy, just lay there and be quiet." Then, something else happened that was not normal. My face and my head began to swell. By the time we got to the hospital, my head was as big as a basketball. Both of my ears were two big blisters. I felt like I could hardly breathe. They put an oxygen mask on me so I could breathe.

They took me to Riverside Hospital and put me in the emergency room. When you are severely injured, you cannot keep track of time. I was lying there, and I could hear my family talking. Then, another strange thing happened. Someone came into the room and said: "I'm sorry. Is this the room for Randy Tigner?" A member of my family said, "Yes, this is him." Now my eyes were pushed clear back in my head. My eyelashes barely stuck out. My lips were turned wrong-side out. My skin was burned. The man who came in was my boss. When he saw me, he let out a terrible cry, "Oh no!" I realized right then that I was badly burned. When I heard my boss react, I panicked. And then my

precious God came to me and said, "Get a hold of yourself." And He gave me strength.

If you have a need or if you are not saved, find a place to pray and get saved. Do not do it the hard way. When God talks to you, do what He tells you. It is for your benefit. He always wants to help you. God's way is the best way.

They put me on a gurney and wheeled me out of that room. By that time, they had given me morphine for the pain. As I was trying to open my eyes, there was a woman who looked at me and said, "Eww!" I looked like a monster. My lips were turned inside out, my eyes were so swollen you could only see a wee bit

of my eyelids, and my eyelashes were sticking out.

Some time went by, and the Lord was still talking to me. I told my wife to call Brother Emerson Wilson to come over and pray for me. So he came and talked to me. I asked God to forgive me, and He saved me right there. Look at all I went through because I did not obey God. Do you see how important it is to obey God? The devil wants to say, "Well, you were bound in sin, and that is the story." That is true, but I still suffered and paid the price because I did not do what the Lord told me to do.

God saved me, and He did some amazing things in the hospital. The doctor I had was the

best doctor in Columbus. He was a plastic surgeon named Arthur Bing. He would come in, examine me, and say, "Randy, your ears, they are super!" I told him, "That is the handiwork of God." God is in control. A bird does not fly into the air and an apple does not fall to the ground unless God says so.

When God talks to you, are you going to put yourself into the position that I did? When God talks, listen to Him, and do what He says. It will be for your benefit and for your help. Try the Spirit and know the Spirit of God. There is no better life than the life of a Christian. There is nothing else on this earth that can even come close to that.



## The Lost Sheep

Lord, with Thee there's every comfort,  
Peace and blessings untold.  
There's food and warmth and shelter,  
Safe within Thy fold.

But, Lord, I hear the bleating,  
Of sheep outside the fold.  
The bruised, the maimed, the dying,  
Gasping, trembling in the cold.

I needs must go and find them,  
Bring from the by-ways all,  
Where sin's seductive power  
Lured, deceived, and made them fall.

They're hedged about and broken,  
So blind to truth and right.  
O Thou, Great Redeemer,  
Help me find the lost tonight.



—Mary Wahl

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

# Nail It to the Cross



Every morning when you get up, you find yourself in front of a mirror, and sometimes you may not be to kind to yourself. You may think such thoughts as these: "You look terrible" or "Your hair is a mess" or "You are worthless" or "You need to lose weight," and so on. Then you may wonder, "Why do these dark clouds follow me?" One reason could be that you started the day by tearing yourself down.

If someone were to tell you, "You are worthless" or "You are stupid" or "You are ugly," that would be considered bullying. However, if you say those things to yourself, you think it is fine. The devil wants you to think negative thoughts about yourself by telling you that you are worthless and a failure. It is easy to believe negative thoughts.

You are not the only one who has such thoughts. We all struggle with negative thoughts from time to time. You may not tell others because you do not want other people to know; therefore, you feel that you are all alone. You are human, and you are going to fail at some time, but that does not mean that you are a

failure. It means that you have failed at something.

Many great people in history failed multiple times, but the main thing that made them so great was that they tried again. They decided to do something different and tried to figure out how to make something work instead of saying, "Oh, well, I'm just too stupid." Abraham Lincoln failed in business and ran for office many times and failed before he ran for president and won. He kept persevering. He was a great man, and he did great things.

When a toddler is learning to walk, he falls down. His parents do not say, "You fell down and you are never going to walk, so don't even try." No, they say, "Come on, you can do it!" They have their hands out ready to catch him, and they encourage him.

It is the same thing with the child of God. If you fall down over something, you should not think: "I must be worthless. I can't be a Christian because I have to deal with this." You may fall multiple times, and sometimes over the same thing. You may think, "I keep tripping over this," but you will eventually get victory over it if you do not give up.

Many young people carry different problems. Maybe you have a disability or a rough home life. Perhaps you are bat-

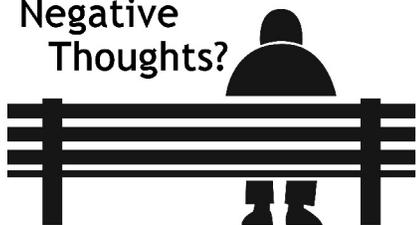
ting depression or something that no one else knows about. You should not compare what you are going through with what someone else is going through.

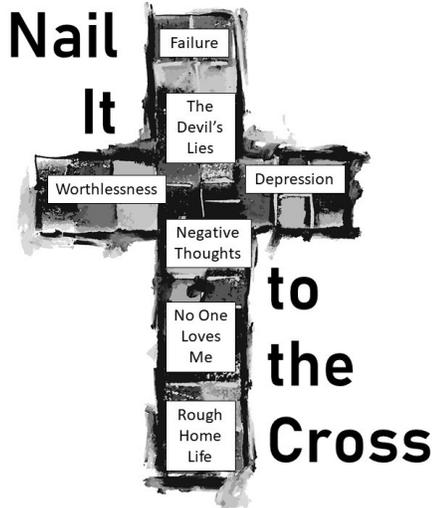
It is good to keep in mind that if someone is acting out or shying away from others, it is not because that person is weird or does not want to be friends. You should reach out to that person. Maybe something is weighing that person down, and he or she feels like an outcast. If you see that person sitting alone, you should reach out and say, "Hey, would you like to come and sit with me?" or "Do you mind if I sit with you?" That person might become your best friend.

Some young people come from bad home lives, or they might have to cope with drugs, alcohol, or things that you may not understand. Some homes are a mess. Some may be homeless and live in a car and go to school. You do not know that because they do not speak of their problems to others. To help others, you have to help yourself. If you believe bad things about yourself and you are down on yourself and walking in a dark cloud of misery, how can you help others? Therefore, to help others, you have to help yourself.

The more you dwell on negative thoughts, those thoughts may erupt, and it is not going to be a pretty picture; so you have to nail them to the Cross. You

Negative Thoughts?





need to say: "I am not worthless. I am not going to believe the devil's lies anymore." You are not the only one who has felt that way. It is the devil who makes you feel that way, and he would love for you to believe his lies. What will happen if you do? You will believe another lie and another one. That is the reason we see teen suicides and teens in distress. The devil wants you to believe his lies, and unfortunately, they are easy to believe.

Christ did not die on the Cross so you would feel like a failure. He gave all. He was beaten beyond recognition, and He was innocent. Was it for you to feel unimportant? Absolutely not! He suffered and died a horrible death for us, so we should never feel worthless. He found each of us worthy to die for. Jesus had the lowliest of births and died a horrible death. He is here for everyone. He died for you because you were worthy enough. You can be a child of the King.

You can nail negative thoughts that the devil has hounded you with to the Cross. You may say, "I can't figure this out," but God says, "I will direct your steps." You may say, "I'm too tired," but God says, "I will give you rest." You may say, "It is impossible," but God says, "All things are possible." You may say, "No one loves me," but God says, "I love you."

You may say, "I can't forgive myself," but God says, "I forgive you." The devil may tell you that it is not worth it, but God says, "It

will be worth it all." You may say, "I'm not smart enough," but God says, "I will give you wisdom." You may say, "I'm not able," but God says, "I am able." You may say, "I can't go on," but God says, "My grace is sufficient." You may say, "I can't do it," but God says, "You can do all things through Christ which strengthens you."

You may say, "I can't manage," but God says, "I will supply all your needs." You may say, "I'm afraid," but God says, "I have not given you fear." You may say, "I feel alone," but God says, "I will never leave you."

I would like to end this with the chorus of a song entitled "Nail It to the Cross," written by Henry Marcia. The chorus reads: "Nail it to the Cross, Get it under the blood, Drown your pain and every stain in the mercy flood. Nail it to the Cross, Find hope and forgiveness, Kneel at the tree and walk away free, Nail it to the Cross."

Sister Victoria Miller

## Statement of Condition

for 12 months ending January 31, 2022



	Income	Expenses
Supplies .....		\$32,193.15
Miscellaneous Expenses .....		4,349.52
Wages .....		42,416.56
Payroll Taxes/Insurance/Workers' Comp .....		17,103.17
Donations/Offerings .....	\$17,144.09	
Equipment Maintenance/Repairs .....		6,696.73
Postage .....		98,120.48
Subtotals .....	\$17,144.09	\$200,879.48

Balance paid out of the general fund of the Church of God congregation at Newark, OH ..... \$183,735.52

# The Spirit of Forgiveness



Brother Richard Talbot

## "Offences Will Come"

When you are down to nothing, God is up to something. Faith always sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible. Thank God for physical and spiritual nourishment. I enjoy going to church. Church has been my life since I was born. I went to my first camp meeting when I was two weeks old at Manassas, Virginia. I have been going to camp meetings, revivals, and church services ever since. I do not have any desire to do anything different. I love the house of God, and I love the saints of God.

This message is always timely and necessary. I have had to preach this message over and over to myself. It is a message to the lost, a message to the saved, a message to those who are married and those who hope to be, a message to pastors, preachers, church workers, parents, and visitors. It is a message for everyone.

Having the spirit of some-

thing refers to the thought of activating essential principles that influence a person's thinking, behavior, and conduct. It refers to giving that spirit special attention, or having a set frame of mind. Forgiveness must be the Christian's continual attitude or frame of mind. We must live, or be possessed, with the attitude of forgiveness.

Luke 17:1-5 reads: "Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: [Jesus did not say offenses might come, but He let us know that they will come. We are going to have to deal with them.] but woe unto him, through whom they come [this offense is not light-hearted, but it is considered a snare, a trap, or a pitfall designed with deliberate intent to destroy or bring someone down]! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee,

rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith."

The word *offend*, as used in these Scriptures, means to cause someone to sin or to trip up. The word *trespass* also means to cause to sin or sin against, to commit an error, or in some manner to trip someone up. True forgiveness is only as effective as the grace of God is strong in the heart. If you lack the grace of God in your heart and in your soul, it is going to be difficult to forgive someone their offenses. In other words, if you are on a human level, without the power of God, it is impossible to forgive some offenses.

## Dealing With an Offense

Jesus said in Matthew 18:7, "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that

man by whom the offence cometh!" Woe to that man who puts a stumbling block in another person's way, especially with a deliberate intent. This is a dangerous and deadly thing to do. There are people around who are evil enough to do that. The devil is always at work to cause you to stumble. He works through situations of life, through another person, through a trial, or through a temptation. The devil is always working against you to cause you to fall.

Some people get offended at God. They get hurt, and they feel God is against them. Others become offended at the pastor or at fellow church members. Satan is always trying to get something stirring, or working in someone's mind, to cause a problem with another individual. Have you ever had a problem with someone else? If you are married, you are going to have trouble from time to time.

Matthew 18:15 says, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." If this Scripture is honestly followed and obeyed, much hurt will be avoided, and many will not have to deal with stress and needless frustration. We need to learn to take care of our problems quickly and privately. There are many things you can straighten up yourself without troubling your pastor. He would not have to know you and another person in the congregation had a problem.

When someone offends you, or does something against you, it takes courage to go to them. It is difficult to go to someone and say: "Brother, you have offended me. You hurt my feelings." That is not easy to do. If you have prayed and sought God's will on how to handle a matter, and the Lord says you need to take care of this or it is going to cause bit-

terness and division, then you need to obey God and get the thing cleared up. The brother may not realize he hurt you. He may say, "Forgive me, I did not intend to hurt you." When the matter is all cleared up, your heart is lifted. The heaviness is gone. You can embrace, shake hands, and go your way, thanking God that it is all cleared up. Nobody else has to know anything about it. Sometimes things are just misunderstood. Common sense should dictate much of our conduct. Stop and think before you act. Then you can bury that hurt, forget about it, and let it go. It does not have to become an issue.

### **Forgiveness Has No Limit**

Forgiveness requires strength of will, grace, and the love of God to accomplish. It is not for the cowardly, the weak, or the backward. Some carry unforgiveness to their grave. They die lost, holding on to an unforgiving spirit toward someone, while that one whom they are holding something against could die and go right on to Glory, not even realizing he had offended that person. If you are holding unforgiveness in your heart, you are holding something that is against Christ and against the Word of God. You need to clear those things up. Be honest with yourself, honest with God, and honest with your brothers and sisters. We want that perfect, pure, and rich fellowship together in the love of God.

The Apostle Peter always had a question about something. He asked Jesus in Matthew 18:21, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Peter thought that would be plenty, if he could tolerate his brother's problems for seven times. Verse 22 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven

times: but, Until seventy times seven." I can imagine Peter's mouth dropping open. What? Four hundred and ninety times? Jesus was giving him an innumerable amount of times. No matter how many times you have to forgive, you forgive. Or are you keeping it written down? Jesus did not put a limit on the amount of forgiveness we are to give.

Forgiveness must begin in the mind and in the heart. We must have a willingness in our hearts to forgive all offenses, no matter how strong, how powerful, how long they lasted, or how deeply they hurt. Even if it deprived you of your sleep and your peace, those things have no bearing on whether or not you are to forgive. You must forgive. Seek God to help you to forgive.

Not everything is easy to forgive. Some things require much prayer and seeking of God. Some hurts go very deep into the innermost chambers of your heart. They are very severe and not easy to forgive. Nevertheless, you have to bring your thoughts, your feelings, and your emotions into subjection to the Spirit of God. If you have a desire to forgive, God will bring you to the place where you can forgive. If you have an attitude that you are not going to forgive, then you are going to have a real problem. Anything can be forgiven if you seek God's help.

### **God's Standard of Forgiveness**

True forgiveness is a product of God's great love toward us. He even set that as a standard for our forgiveness. Even as God has forgiven you, you should forgive others. That is a high pattern to follow. There have been far too many casualties down through the years among the saints due to hurts, wrong feelings, and attitudes. First Peter 3:8 reminds us to "love as brethren." Far too

many have allowed their hurts to disillusion their vision of the Church of God. They have allowed their hurts to cause them to lose hope and faith in the body of Christ, and they leave the Church of God.

When a person is severely hurt, there are many things that occur in his mind, in his heart, in his emotions, and in his feelings. That hurt may take a long time to heal. We need to be very careful how we treat one another so that we are not responsible for causing a stumbling block for someone else. Far too many have allowed a hurt to disillusion their vision. They are nursing a wound that they will not allow to heal. They keep picking at it, bringing it up in their minds, and fuming over it. They will not let the thing alone.

Mark 11:25-26 says: "And when ye stand praying, forgive, [When you are in prayer, bring those hurtful situations to the Lord's attention, and forgive. Let prayer be your means to ease the pain of your heart.] if ye have ought against any [Jesus said to forgive if you have ought against any]: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." That is serious, is it not?

Someone who hurt you may never ask you to forgive them. That is difficult to understand. You may feel that they deliberately hurt you, yet they act as if they did not hurt you. They may act like nothing ever happened, but you have that crushed feeling inside of you. Jesus said when you are praying to forgive. Do you remember how He forgave you? That is how you need to forgive others. Let it go. If you do not forgive, it will turn into bitterness. It will be like a cancer that eats at your spiritual life, and it will affect your physical

life.

Jesus encouraged us to forgive when we pray. God wants us all to do well. Jesus gave instructions on how to survive offense. Christ placed more concern and emphasis on the need to forgive than on dealing with the offender. He pays more attention to our need to forgive. It is His will that we forgive. Again, He spent more time instructing us to forgive than He did on speaking against the offender. Let us take heed to those lessons. The Spirit of God knows the wonders of forgiveness. Forgiveness relieves and heals injury. It releases hurts and helps you to deal with grudges or resentment. The very moment the heart forgives, those wounds can begin to heal.

### **Showing Remorse**

Forgiveness is the grease that causes smooth operation. If you have a forgiving spirit, it will cause things to work smoothly in your life. My wife and I used the grease of forgiveness many times down through the years. Sometimes I spoke a little harshly to her, and I had to go back and say: "Honey, forgive me. I am sorry. I should not have spoken that way to you." Then she would say, "I forgive you."

You need to own up to your own wrongs, accept responsibility, and deal with them. Humble yourself. I think it is best to always use the words "I am sorry" when asking for forgiveness. Asking for forgiveness without showing remorse is not workable. It will not help you. You have to be sorry, and you have to show you are sorry. It is not just in the words themselves, but it is in the condition of your heart and your mind. When you say, "I am sorry, forgive me," you should be able to say it with meaning and emphasis. I have dealt with too many people over the years who like to say, "Well,

if I said that to you, I am sorry." Yet, they do not feel sorrow, shame, or remorse. They act as if it was no big deal. If you hurt someone, that is a big deal. You need to feel broken over it and humble yourself. You should feel regret over what happened.

Jesus wants us to have a forgiving spirit. Forgiveness restores hope. Healing comes to the person who was hurt because someone came and asked for their forgiveness. It renews in them a hope that they can get over this now. It brings relief. It brings the favor of God and the restoration of divided believers; it turns division into unity again. Forgiveness works if we will allow it to.

One philosopher made the statement that philosophers are so highly educated, they can take the simplest thing and quickly turn it into something unintelligible. That is the way many people are with their problems in life. They can take the smallest hurt and make it into something that nobody can recognize. Big problems and hurts start from mere, insignificant things that are allowed to grow in someone's mind to a major, serious situation.

Every one of us will at some point need to seek forgiveness from someone. I have had to ask my congregation to forgive me for things I made the wrong conclusion on. Do not think your situation is unique or that you do not need to ask for forgiveness. It is a part of life. Jesus knew we were going to need this spirit of forgiveness. He prepared the way for us. To err is human, to forgive is divine. A man or woman who cannot forgive should never get married.

### **A Healing Process**

Parents who have suffered an injury should never express their hurt in front of their children.

Bitterness that is expressed between a mother and father toward another individual in front of their children will cause their children to have those same feelings against that person. Children need to see the Word of God practiced in the home. They need to see God in action in their mother's and father's lives. They need to know that whatever happens, Mom and Dad deal with it the right way with God. They need to see the evidence of God working in their parents. Children ought to see their parents possess a forgiving spirit.

Some wounded feelings can be healed quickly if they are dealt with soon enough. Others may take time to truly get them all committed to God. We can and must forgive. As humans, we may never be able to fully forget. The old saying is to forgive and forget. However, some things you are not going to forget, but you can deal with them. The devil may bring them back up, but you can put them back down with God's help. I have dealt with people who have said: "I just can't get over this. I have forgiven this person, but it is still in my mind." Some things you may not get out of your mind, but you can still truly forgive.



Christ is divine. He can forgive and forget. He has forgotten our sins, and our past completely. You may still have to deal with your mind, but you can conquer it and not let it affect you. Remember that forgiveness is the road to healing. Every time a past hurt comes to your mind, you must rebuke it and resist even thinking about it. Never hold anything that has been forgiven. If you have told someone you forgive him, then that ought to be the end of it. I praise God for true, honest, wholehearted forgiveness. Is that not wonderful?

I have been a recipient of forgiveness. I have had to ask forgiveness, and I am glad for those who granted me forgiveness. It would be difficult to face someone who refused to forgive you. Truly, forgiveness is a healing process. We must learn to be survivors of our offenses. They are going to come, but we can survive them and go on for God. Be true to your own soul. Do not let what someone else has said or done to you knock you out of the race. It is not worth it. Keep your own experience with God. Stay true to God. Stay in love with God. Seek God's forgiving spirit.

### Offering Forgiveness

You can forgive anything by the grace of God. You may not be able to give forgiveness to someone until they come and ask you for it, but you can have it all ready to give in your heart. You can have it set in your mind that if they come to you seeking forgiveness, you can say, "Brother, I forgave you of that years ago in my heart." Is that not beautiful? You can have healing in your own heart. You can have strength to forgive and let it go by letting Jesus take care of it.

Forgiveness will perhaps keep you from ulcers or from a nervous breakdown. It can keep

you from having stress, unnecessary anxiety, and strong emotional feelings. Unforgiveness works on your physical body. Anxiety, stress, and feelings of bitterness will work on you and cause you physical problems. On the other hand, forgiveness brings the favor of God on you. It revives the soul. Retaliating for an injury puts you below the offender. Revenging an offender puts you on his level. If you say, "I will get even with him," then you are no better than he is. However, forgiveness sets you above the situation.

Forgiveness warms the heart and soothes the soul. Proverbs 19:11 says, "It is his glory to pass over a transgression." Let the transgression go, step beyond it, do not let it work against you, and cause you to stumble.

Bury your hurt, offer forgiveness in your heart, and go on for the Lord. That is the best way to handle an injury. Deal with it in your secret closet of prayer and settle it with God. If you cannot do that, then talk to the one who hurt you and get it straightened out and cleared up. Do not let hurts lay in your heart. Problems can be spread so easily and quickly. They can be like an octopus with long tentacles that reach out and draw in other people to your problems. Then you have a massive situation that would have been unnecessary if you had dealt with it, as the Bible says, in the first place.

When I was a pastor, I preached this to the congregation: "If one of your children comes to me for counsel, let me be their pastor. Let me advise them spiritually." The pastor should be able to give children wise counsel without Mom and Dad getting upset. Some parents do not want a pastor advising their children without having control over that advice. When I was growing up, my mother and father never got involved with

my pastor when he had to deal with me. If I got in trouble in the classroom, I got in trouble at home. There were no questions asked. Mother did not run to the school to challenge the teacher. I learned to stay out of trouble.

### **The Row of Beggars**

We can keep things from becoming major events if we will follow God's plan. Parents should never cancel out the pastor's counsel. When he advises your young people a certain way, even if you do not personally agree, you should still do as the pastor says. If you refuse, you are setting up a bad precedent for your children. They will grow up feeling they can cancel out anything they do not agree with.

You are not going to agree with everything your pastor says. There will be ideas, administrations, and decisions he makes that you will not fully understand. You had better watch your spirit when that happens. We must keep the work of God going smoothly and harmoniously. It is not worth it to hold out for your own way just because you are not happy. You should not want your way, but God's way.

There is a story told about a row of beggars who sat on the side of a bridge day after day, winter and summer. They had sore legs and sore arms, and their sores would never heal. Those beggars would continually rub acid in those sores to excite compassion and sympathy in those passing by in order to get more money. Bitter jealousy reigned between those beggars as

to the size and irritability of their sores. One man had only an inflamed knee. He burned with envy of the one whose whole leg was raw with sores. They would not let their wounds heal as that would cut off their means of a livelihood. They kept those sores in continual pus, blood, and gaping open.

The writer said: "I feel a great many people love their grievances against neighbors much as those beggars loved their sores. They keep them constantly open and irritable by inventing and applying fresh aggravations. They are proud of them, they like to expose their wrongs, as they call them, to all their neighbors" (S. Baring-Gould).

Let us not be as those beggars. I would like for my wounds to heal, how about you? I like healing. I like for things to run smoothly. I like to be nice and happy. I like to rejoice, praise God, and have a sweet spirit. I have to work at that by keeping my flesh under control. We all need to keep our thoughts, feelings, and attitudes under divine control.

### **God's Divine Forgiveness**

Every one of us together makes up the body of Christ. If we are saved, living for God, born again, and have the Spirit of God, we are all part of one body. We belong to each other. Let us work together. Hurts cause problems. Let us keep our hurts healed. They are going to come; we are not going to live without them, but let us deal with them. Let us conquer them and get

them under the blood. So many things can be settled privately, between individuals, and others never have to even be aware that there was a problem.

Consider God's plan for us. He provided the perfect sacrifice. Jesus Christ came as the perfect Lamb of God. He gave His life's blood on Calvary to forgive our sins. I will never forget the day that He forgave me of my sins and fully saved my soul. He took out bitterness, hatred, malice, and ill-will. He cleansed my inner being and immediately took away all my wrong desires. I was saved when I was 15 ½ years old. What a joy it was back then, and it is still a thrill today. My testimony did not end back in 1963. It is still real today. The sweetness of God's forgiveness revived my soul. I will never forget that day He made me a new person in Jesus Christ.

If you are lost in sin, there is a wonderful power of divine forgiveness waiting for you. You can have that load of guilt and shame washed away and be cleansed in Jesus' blood. Oh, how sweet it is to know you are at peace with God. I like to stay at peace with God. I do not want anything to get into my life that will rob me of peace, contentment, and the joy of salvation. We can be marred and hurt, but let us get those things taken care of so we can stand in the love of God. Let us be instruments of peace. Let us have the grease in our soul of a forgiving spirit. May God have His way.

*(Compact Disc TR-2485)*



**Christ placed more concern and emphasis on the need to forgive than on dealing with the offender.**

# The Office of a Bishop



## THIS IS A TRUE SAYING

*"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1).*

There ought to be an earnest desire in those who seek the office of a bishop. The focus of our desiring must be to bring glory to God and of doing the greatest good to the souls of mankind by this means. I would like to ask those who offer themselves to the ministry of the church this question: "Do you think you are moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this office?" (*Matthew Henry Commentary*). When the Apostle Paul wrote, "This is a true saying," he was stating this fact: "This is a faithful, trustful, and sure saying!" He implied that there will be those who are taken with a strong desire to labor in the preaching of the Gospel and pastoring a congregation. The Lord, without a doubt, excites an earnest and irrepressible desire within the very heart and soul of a man to preach the Gospel.

The word *desire* means "to stretch oneself, reach out after, to long for." This desire can be so strong that one cannot be satisfied in any other calling. Paul emphasized that it is good to desire such a work as the ministry. Today I wonder, Where are those young men so excited by the Holy Spirit that they wish to pursue this call? As Matthew Henry put it, "Do you think you are

moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this office?" The burden of my heart is to encourage brethren who feel a genuine desire for the office of a bishop (pastor). I wish to give them reason to cultivate that desire so it will come to fulfillment and to reassure their hearts and minds that there is nothing wrong with having a desire toward such a notable and good calling.

The call of God may come unexpectedly. My mind goes to when Samuel was sent to anoint David king over Israel. Psalm 78:70-72 says: "He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands."

Consider these four thoughts:

1. David was taken from his employment, his duty, and his present responsibility.
2. The timing was not very good. He had ewes that were heavy with young and needed his attention.
3. He was brought to a higher calling and duty than tending sheep, to that of feeding, tending, and caring for the children of Israel.
4. He fed them by the integrity of his heart (Jeremiah 3:15) and by the skillfulness of his hands (applying himself to the task).

Second Samuel 5:2 reads, "Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel." First, let us consider, when aspiring to higher things, one must be faithful in the small and insignificant things (just as David was faithful to tend to his father's sheep). We should be willing workers in our local congregation. We read in Proverbs 27:18,

"Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured." The Proverb writer spoke of a single tree and the necessity of taking care of that *one tree*. If you were faithful, you could enjoy the fruit of your labors.

Many people are not satisfied with just one tree. If they cannot have *more*, they will not have *any*. I do not know why the small tasks that God asks of us are often ignored or followed through with little zeal, taking little pride in what we do. Every small task is necessary in the eyes of God. All labors are needed for the good of all the work of God. Remember, *David was anointed king*, but he returned and continued to be the faithful keeper of his father's sheep until he was called. He never allowed it to interfere with his task at hand until the divine providence of God sent him to take care of Goliath. We must first be faithful in the small things of life!

John Newton once said, "If two angels were to receive at the same moment a commission from God, one to go down and rule earth's grandest empire, the other to go and sweep the streets of its meanest [the poorest, dirtiest, and most run-down] village, it would be a matter of entire indifference to each which [position either was to fill] service fell to his lot, the post of ruler or the post of scavenger [a clean-up man]; for the joy of the angels lies only in obedience to God's will, and with equal joy they would lift a Lazarus [with his pus-oozing sores] in his [filthy] rags to Abraham's bosom, or be a chariot of fire to carry an Elijah home."

No task should ever be looked down on as though it is beneath your calling nor unfitting for your capabilities! If you prove faithful in taking care of this *one tree*, God may grant you an orchard to watch over. You should be a willing worker, doing whatever needs done, one that your pastor can count on for any task within your ability.

Consider the difference between a lay minister and a pastor, for there is a difference. A pastor is a position of leadership, while the position of a lay minister is a helper to the pastor.

(However, there is a wholesome recognition and influence that goes with being a lay minister.) What does the term "*lay*" mean when used with the word "*minister*"? The word *lay* refers to "one not trained in a certain profession," while the word *laity* refers to "the people distinguished from the clergy." A lay minister is one from the people whom God has called to the ministry but who is not yet officially a pastor. A lay minister is subject to his pastor, the same as others in the congregation.

Whatever we feel impressed to do, we must remember what Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 14:12, "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church." The important thing to consider is that we should do *all* to the glory of God. Colossians 3:17 tells us, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Criticism would not take such a toll on us if we had no desire for praise or recognition! That is why a person should not "seek" *great* things. Jeremiah 45:5 says, "And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not [things such as recognition, prestige, or being highly favored]." We must serve others only and seek always to have the favor of God, to please Him in all things. It does not take *great men* to do great things, only *consecrated men*!

A man whom God truly calls will feel the burden to be a servant to others. The call of God upon the soul to bear the Gospel message in the saving of souls does not, cannot, and has never successfully mixed with the heart of one who is worldly minded, an ambition seeker. Many feel the burden to preach, but few feel any call of pastoring a congregation. It is always proper and good for one to be a faithful lay minister, proving himself submissive to his pastor. It is generally accepted that one who has the blessing of his pastor and who has gained the confidence of those he has preached to is most ready to fill the position of a pastor over a congregation.

Perhaps one reason few feel the

urgency to pursue a desire to be a pastor is due to the sacrifice it involves. Many lay ministers become comfortable with how God is using them. Generally, they have job security. With the wife and children all settled in and happily satisfied, they have stability in their lives, and it would take some unusual means to uproot all this and accept a call to move to a new location. Yes, being a pastor or a full-time evangelist often requires many unseen sacrifices. God-called men usually pay a price to follow the Lord that many people know nothing about.

In 2 Timothy 2:1-5, the Apostle Paul let us know to fulfill this desire, one must be ready and must "endure hardness." Then, Paul listed some important qualifications in verses 2-7 that must be met before one can be a recognized minister in God's church. Paul reminded us in 2 Timothy 2:5 that one must "strive lawfully" if he expects to shoulder serious spiritual responsibilities that involve others. One should not expect to be eligibly recognized for the work of a pastor if his life fails the list of qualifications.

The qualifications for a pastor are rigid (1 Timothy 3:2-7):

1. "Blameless"—he must not be under suspicion of any scandal. He must give as little occasion for blame as possible for this would reflect reproach upon his office.
2. "The husband of one wife"—not having many wives at once, as this was a common practice, especially among the Gentiles.
3. "Vigilant" and watchful—he must watch over himself and the souls of those who are committed to his charge, because Satan, as our "adversary," goes about "as a roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).
4. "Sober," temperate, and moderate—in his lifestyle, his home, material goods, and all creature comforts. Sobriety and watchfulness are often found together in the Scriptures because they are so closely related.
5. "Of good behavior"—composed and solid in emotions and feelings.

He must not be careless or haphazard, slothful or vain.

6. "Given to hospitality"—a true lover of the brethren, one who looks with favor upon strangers, and one who will share his blessings with others in need, offering an outstretched hand to those less fortunate.
7. "Apt to teach"—one who is both able and willing to communicate to others the knowledge that God has given him, one who is fit to teach and ready to take all opportunities of giving instructions, who is himself well instructed in the things of the Kingdom of Heaven.
8. "Not given to wine"—not a drunkard, lest he should be guilty of perverting the Word of God.
9. "No striker"—not one given to arguing. He must be one who is not quarrelsome, nor apt to be violent, doing all things with kindness, love, and gentleness. The servant of the Lord must not strive.
10. "Not greedy of filthy lucre"—not using his ministry to enrich himself at the cost of those whose souls he is entrusted with. He must live above and beyond any suspicion of such.
11. "Patient, not a brawler"—of a mild disposition, not given to anger, or excessive temper. He must be one who guards his words and sets a watch about his tongue. He can neither strike with his hands nor be a brawler with his tongue.
12. "Not covetous"—covetousness is the worst in a minister of the Gospel. His calling places him in a position of having to converse so much with another world.
13. "One that ruleth well his own house"—the families of ministers ought to be examples of good to all other families. It is the duty of their children to submit "with all gravity" to the instructions given them.
14. "Not a novice"—he must not be a novice. He must not be new to the Gospel. His understanding must go far beneath the surface of the Scriptures. His newness causes him to be more subject to pride, of

being exalted in his mind.

15. "Have a good report of them which are without"—he must have a good reputation with his neighbors and be under no reproach of scandal.

A principle that has long been held to within the churches of God is that a man should prove himself teachable and submit himself under a man of God, proving himself worthy to be a leader of others.

No one should ever think being called of God to pastor a congregation of people is an easy task. Never should this sacred calling be entered lightly or without the definite knowledge that God has called you. This is a good work, a rewarding work, but it is a hard, taxing, and difficult work! It is a work that should never be attempted by the fainthearted, or weak, or those who lack confidence in themselves.

Preaching is only one part of being a pastor. (A brother pastor once informed me that "one may be a good pastor, while at the same time, a poor preacher.") Especially important are the duties of a pastor outside of the pulpit in counseling, working with broken hearts and damaged relationships. These are among some many tough situations that you can only ex-

perience with time in the ministry. Among these duties, outside of the pulpit, you will show how the preached Word needs to be applied to lives and in homes. You need to help those whom you pastor live the message. You will be endlessly counseling, encouraging, and explaining to precious souls the will of God for them, their families, and their marriages.

Ezekiel 3:17 states, "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." Jeremiah 6:17 says: "Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken." A man who desires this good work must also realize that his life will no longer be of a private nature. It is like living in a glass house.

Consider, people will be watching:

- Your every move.
- How you show love, compassion, discipline, and firmness in the training of your children.
- How you love, show compassion, and care for your wife.
- What kind of worker you are.
- How you handle your finances.
- If you do things secretly or under a

false pretense.

- How you respond to criticism and negative remarks.
- If you are an example of moral correctness, holiness, and purity.

There are so many more concerns that could be listed. If you think you are being called to be a pastor, ask yourself, "Am I ready for this kind of life?" You will subject, not only yourself but your wife and children as well, to live in this house of glass. A congregation must have the utmost confidence in your life, and they gain this by listening to and watching your daily life. The flock is instructed to follow *your* faith and consider the pattern of *your* daily life. Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." If we want them to obey this verse, we must live our lives so that those whom we pastor have no justifiable reason to disobey this instruction. As Isaiah 62:6 says, a man called of God is set as a "watchman" over the flock.

Brother Richard Talbot

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## This is an excerpt from *The Office of a Bishop* by Brother Richard Talbot.

This book can be downloaded at [www.GodsAcres.org](http://www.GodsAcres.org) (click on "Resources"). Printed copies are available for a donation of \$4.00 per book (plus postage and handling). Order by writing *The Gospel Trumpeter*, Publications, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, Ohio 43055, by calling the Print Shop at 740-345-1312, or by sending an e-mail to: [publications@godsacres.us](mailto:publications@godsacres.us)

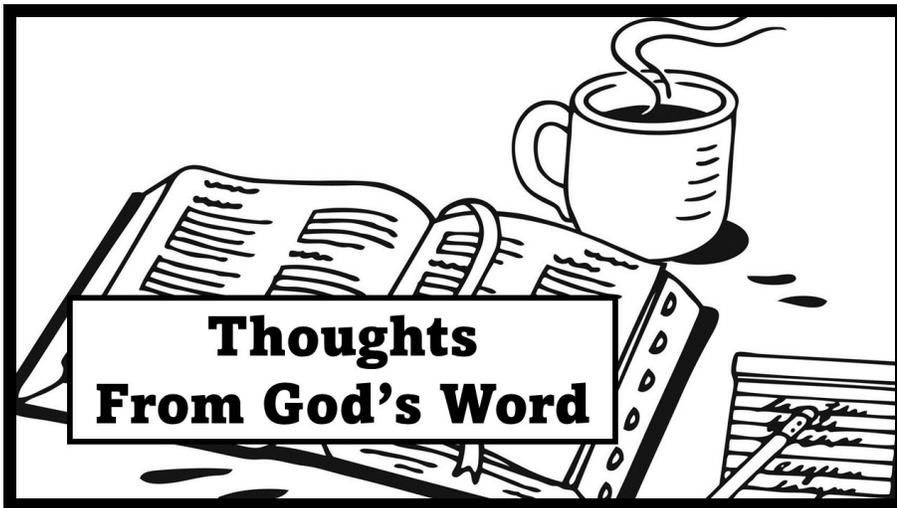
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[2021 Annual Financial Report continued from page 2]

certainly need your prayers regarding this matter. *The Gospel Trumpeter* continues to face the never-ending problem of rising postal rates. This has always been a problem that cannot be eliminated. On page 16 of this issue, you will find a breakdown of the expenditures in producing this monthly periodical.

We again want to give honor and praise to God for His continual help and support to us. His guidance has always been there to provide the necessary strength and encouragement required for printing this evangelistic effort. As we offer up thanksgiving to the Lord, we would not fail to give our faithful readers a special "Thank You"

also. Your letters, prayers, and financial support through the years have been a great blessing and help. We surely covet your continued prayers and financial support for this missionary endeavor. We are living in a lost society that needs the Savior. There are many true children of God who need to be enlightened to the eternal truths of God's Word. There is a work for each of us to do before Christ returns for His bride. We must not forget the many volunteers who donate their time, talent, and effort to this great work of the Kingdom of God. We surely appreciate each one who adds their part in producing *The Gospel Trumpeter*. May God bless and prosper each and every one!



**Thoughts  
From God's Word**

"And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left."

– Exodus 14:21-22

In the midst of a very personal "Red Sea," God brought me to these Scriptures. I cannot begin to explain all the feelings I felt in that place between the enemy of doubts and fears and the pressure to proceed forward through a (seemingly) closed door.

God brought my attention to the detail of "dry ground." He did not just get His people across to the other side, but He performed many miracles in this setting, with attention to every detail.

At this point in my trial, I was "crossing my Red Sea," and God said: "Look at the ground. I've brought you this far with victory, and that dry ground is proof that I've taken care of every detail through this path. I've got this under control; now walk on."

Here is a poem I wrote, trying to convey the promise God gave me with those two words: "dry ground."

**I'm Walking on Dry Ground!**

*I came upon a trial,  
My own personal Red Sea.  
My enemy thought I was done,  
This was surely the end of me!*

*The doubts and fears and worries,  
Overwhelmed me from within,  
But through my darkest moments,  
God sent a strong, east wind.*

*While I was stuck and waiting,  
Wondering what to do,  
God was already working  
A way to take me through.*

*He placed Himself, a Presence,  
Between me and the foe.  
He promised to protect me,  
And show which way to go.*

*Then as the morning's light  
Showed Israel God's plan,  
So I have felt such sweet peace  
Just holding to His hand.*

*While the enemy hovered,  
threatening,  
I could not look behind,  
For God had made a way to cross  
And did it just in time.*

*When the waters should be  
drowning me,  
No way should ere be found,  
Instead I'm crossing over  
And walking on dry ground!*

*No enemy has the power  
Greater than my God.  
He goes before and after,  
He plans the path I trod.*

*If you should face a trial,  
Like God's people did back then,  
When the way seems blocked  
before you,  
Heavy shadows closing in,*

*Remember, God's still working,  
Although we cannot see,  
His ways are higher than our own.  
He leads to victory.*

*So keep your faith and trust in God.  
Keep your chin up, don't look down,  
God will part your own Red Sea  
And you'll cross it on dry ground!*

Sister Rachel Fowler



Radio Broadcast

## Join Us for Our Weekly Radio Broadcast



98.7 FM Kate98  
Newark, OH

8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mornings

Radio Messages can also be listened to on our website:  
[www.GodsAcres.org](http://www.GodsAcres.org) (Click on "Audio & Video").

# Spring Camp Meeting June 19-26

Please join us for an old-fashioned  
camp meeting at the Church of God,  
at God's Acres, Newark, Ohio

**Inspirational  
singing**

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Service  
10:00 a.m. Morning Service  
10:00 a.m. Children's Service (in the old barn)  
3:00 p.m. Teaching Service  
5:30 p.m. Youth Prayer Service  
6:00 p.m. Youth Service  
7:00 p.m. Evening Service

**Holy Ghost  
preaching**

**Divine  
healing**

**Fellowship  
with the saints**

The saints of God prepare hot, homemade meals in the church dining hall.  
Meals are reasonably priced. The dining hall will be open  
for breakfast, lunch, supper, and following the evening services.  
Rooms, dormitories, book store, and so much more.

We invite you to come, bring  
your Bible, and hear anointed  
messages of truth.

**For further information contact:  
Pastor Roger L. Decker  
Telephone: 740-344-2543  
Email: [pastor@godsacres.us](mailto:pastor@godsacres.us)**



# Upcoming Meetings



**MT. PLEASANT, PA**  
April 16

**Fellowship Meeting:** Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666  
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 more information, contact Pastor Paul W. Prinkey: 724-547-2151

**SUMMERSVILLE, WV**  
April 25 - May 1

**Revival & Fellowship Meeting:** Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651  
Evening Evangelist: Brother Allen Polston, New Castle, IN  
Service times: Monday - Thursday 7:00 p.m.; Friday 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Meals will be provided by the congregation following the services on Friday through Sunday.  
For lodging options, or other information, contact Pastor Earl R. Borders: 304-872-4047  
Visit our website: [www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com](http://www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com)

**MT. PLEASANT, PA**  
May 2 - 8

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

**KENSETT, AR**  
May 27-29

**Memorial Day Fellowship Meeting:** Kensett Church of God, 409 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Kensett, AR 72082  
Evangelist: Brother Allen Polston, New Castle, IN  
Service times: Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday a dinner will be served at 4:00 p.m., and the worship service will be at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
A dinner will be served after the Sunday morning service.  
For more information, contact Pastor Calvin L. Foster: 501-742-3961 (Church)  
or 501-593-5105 (Cell)

**NEWARK, OH**  
June 19-26

**Camp Meeting:** Church of God, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055  
The first service: 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: 740-345-1213  
For more information, contact Pastor Roger L. Decker: 740-344-2543

**MUNCIE, IN**  
July 6-10

**Camp Meeting:** Ninth Street Church of God, 125 S 9<sup>th</sup> Street, New Castle, IN 47362  
The camp meeting will be held at the Central Friends' Campground,  
5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, IN 47302.  
Service times: The first service will be Wednesday 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: 765-521-8284

**CANBY, OR**  
July 18-24

**Camp Meeting:** Church of God, 522 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 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 more information, contact Pastor E. David Stegmeier: 503-266-9297

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** If you have moved or if your name or address is incorrect, please notify us as soon as possible.

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION:** If you no longer wish to receive *The Gospel Trumpeter*, please contact us using one of the methods below.

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**Mail:** *The Gospel Trumpeter* 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055 USA

**E-mail:** [subscribe@gospeltrumpeter.com](mailto:subscribe@gospeltrumpeter.com)      **Telephone:** (740) 345-1312

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