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A POTPOURRI OF WRITINGS

By Duane V. Maxey

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INTRODUCTION

This is a grab-bag, potpourri mixture of writings and poetry on a variety of subjects -- 13 Articles, 18 Outlines, 26 poems, and insights from those poems. Most of these writings are my own, but there are some poems in the mix that were authored by others. If you don't see some's else name connected with an item, you can blame it on me. I hope the reader will find at least a few things herein that will be both interesting and a blessing. -- DVM

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I -- ARTICLES BY DUANE V. MAXEY

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Article #1

A SUBTLE FORM OF SECOND-HAND, SELF-PRAISE

Mark 9:34 "But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest."

Proverbs 27:2 "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."

There is a certain form of self-praise that is all too common among holiness preachers -- a type of self-glorification that I have heard and read different times across the years -- a way of boasting on one's self that I heard again just yesterday in a phone conversation with a holiness preacher -- but still a variety of self-exaltation that never fails to "turn me off."

Several decades ago, after having won a "world championship" (I should say, "worldly championship") a certain widely-known athlete loudly, and repeatedly boasted: "I AM THE GREATEST!" And, so often did he herald himself with these words, that it would not surprise me one bit if they were inscribed upon his tombstone. "Let another man praise him?" No way! The praise of others would come too late, and be too low-key for him! He must vociferously exalt himself right now!, and shout his own praises with the volume turned up loud enough for the whole world to hear! -- "I AM THE GREATEST! I AM THE GREATEST!"

"Obnoxious!" you say. Yes, but if there is anything good that can be said about this pip-squeak's pompous boasting, it is this: IT WAS NOT DISGUISED. It wore no mask; it was not even thinly veiled beneath the slightest attempt at humility; it just stuck it's ugly self right out in plain view for all to see, and shouted forth its uninhibited pride for all to hear -- exactly as it was: PROUD, UNASHAMED, BOASTING! The carnal, yet unsanctified, disciples of Jesus "held their peace" when Jesus inquired of their dispute over which of them "should be the greatest." Why?

Because they were ashamed of that boasting. But here was a worldly, world-title-holder vaunting himself without shame, declaring over and over: "I AM THE GREATEST! I AM THE GREATEST!" Here was a man who was not only "proud IN his boasting," but who was "proud OF his boasting" as well! But, brazen and hellish as it was, it wore no cloak; it was easily identified for what it was.

Who, in the holiness movement, would not immediately condemn such boasting? Probably there is not a preacher anywhere in the entire Wesleyan community that would not denounce it as evil. And yet, -- there is another form of self-praise that I have encountered repeatedly from holiness preachers that is just as wrong, and perhaps more so, for it is a disguised form of boasting on one's self -- a subtle, second-hand type of self-praise that holiness preachers fall into. And, once it is begun, it seems to "grow on them" until it becomes their habit in private conversations, in their writings, and sometimes even in the pulpit, to exalt themselves in this manner.

I know not how the displays of this subtle self-exaltation strike others who hear them, but they always "turn me off" and I marvel at how such good, such holy, such useful holiness men, could possibly broadcast these self-boastings without realizing what they are, and without being ashamed to do so! Yet, I have encountered this deceitful, ego-inflating, bragging by holiness preachers in private conversations with them, in their writings, and even from the pulpit.

A holiness conversationalist, writer, or preacher, will seldom come right out and say, "I am the greatest!" He will probably never say directly: "I think that what I am, what I did, what I said, what I wrote, is the best ever!" Holiness men boast in a more subtle, second-hand way -- but it is self-exaltation nonetheless, and perhaps more repugnant to God than that of worldly boasters!

Let me give you an example:

I once had a man come as an evangelist to hold a meeting in the little church I was pastoring. He was a good man, a revered leader, and I have no doubt that he was a sanctified man. One night after he had preached a rather impressive sermon, I complimented him on his message. His response was something like this: "After so-and-so heard that message, he said it was the greatest message he had ever heard on the subject!"

That response immediately struck me as self-praise. I was not trying to be critical. That is just the way it impressed me, and it is an impression that has remained with me for decades. The scripture says: "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth." The dear man would never have come right out and said: "I think that sermon is the greatest sermon ever preached on that subject!" No, he would not have said that, for to put it that way would clearly have been self-boasting.

But, preachers, is it not self-exaltation also if one says: "Bro. _____ (Blank) said after he heard my message that he thought it was the best sermon he ever heard on that text." Or, "After Dr. Highminded read my article, he said it was a masterpiece and declared that it ought to be printed in every religious paper in America." Or -- to write by way of Introduction? (actually boasting) "Scores of people have told me these messages are second to none, and urged me to publish them. Therefore, I feel compelled to put them in print."

Preacher, Holiness Writer, such statements may indeed be quotations of "another man's" praise of your work, -- but, when you take up that man's praise of your work in your own lips and repeat it, IT BECOMES YOUR OWN MOUTH PRAISING YOURSELF! When you write down how "another man" praised your message, your article, your deed, your work, -- you are AGAIN PRAISING YOURSELF!

A man who is swelling with pride and anxious to let others know how great he is or how stupendous his achievements are, need not indulge that self-gratulation with direct statements. He can do it just as well, by stating how others praised him! But, SECOND-HAND SELF PRAISE IS STILL SELF-PRAISE!

Furthermore, second-hand self-praise is even worse than directly praising yourself. Why? Because when you boast on yourself directly you are asserting merely what you, yourself, think. But when you trumpet to others what Brother So-and-so said of you, or of your accomplishment, you are asserting not only what YOU think, but along with that, what OTHERS think. Thus, you are attempting to be even more convincing in your boast: "This is not simply my opinion, it is also the opinion of others! Therefore, BE IMPRESSED!"

No, you won't hear a Holiness preacher come right out and say, "I AM THE GREATEST HOLINESS PREACHER ON EARTH!" -- but you might here him say: "After I preached this message at the last campmeeting, scores hit the altar. Later Brother Blank told me it was the most powerful message he ever heard."

You say, "Who are you talking about?" I will not say, -- for I have heard and read such second-hand self-praise from some of the best men in the holiness movement.

You ask, "How could this really be boasting if they are genuinely sanctified men?"

I reply: It is really self-praise, but because it is veiled behind the statement(s) of another, or others, the sanctified man has failed to see it for what it is. At first, he may only repeat the praise of another for his achievement as a means of drawing his listener's attention to the importance of the subject. But next he begins to repeat those compliments of others for himself or for his work when there is no legitimate need to do so -- if ever there was such. And soon, anesthetized to its evil, he falls into the habit of passing on the praises of others for himself and for his work. SOME OF THE MOST HABITUAL SELF-PRAISING HOLINESS MEN ARE OLD MEN! -- old preachers, old evangelists, old writers. Sanctified men? Yes indeed. Godly men? No question about it. But still, men who habitually repeat the praises of others for themselves, their messages, their writings, their achievements for God.

I could name some names, but I will not do so. Sadly, it is a widespread, and excused, evil, but evil nonetheless. In virtually every case where a genuinely sanctified man or woman does this, it is not a "sin unto death" -- but rather, if sin at all, it is a "sin of ignorance." Personally, I would not classify it as sin. Instead I would call it "evil" -- something that is wrong; something that "is, but hadn't ought to be," and something that the holiness movement would be better off without. But if a man clearly sees its repugnance to God and persists in second-hand self-praise, then it could

easily become a "sin unto death" or become an indulgence that puts the "old man" back on the throne, and revives carnal pride.

Would it not be wise to think on this matter? Job 34:32 says: "That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more." "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth," even by repeating his praise. Selah.

* * *

Article #2

HAVE YOU EVER "SEEN" MR. MAXEY?

Not long after we moved to Coeur d' Alene, I heard of an attorney in Spokane, Washington whose name was Carl Maxey. Coeur d' Alene being just across the Washington border into Idaho, only about 26 miles from Spokane, I frequently made trips there.

One day, when I took a young man over to the courthouse in Spokane to help him in a legal matter, as we walked from the car toward the courthouse, I spied the law office of Carl Maxey, and on the way back to the car, I ventured in to see if I might meet the man whose last name was the same as mine.

Carl Maxey was not there, but I stated to the ladies in his office that my last name was also Maxey, and I had thought that we might be related. One of the employees looked at me with a rather amused expression, and asked: "Have you ever SEEN Mr. Maxey?"

"No," I replied.

She nodded toward a picture of Lawyer Maxey above us on the wall.

I glanced up, and immediately understood the reason for her amusement: Carl Maxey and I shared the same last name, but we were obviously neither related closely, nor of even the same race.

I do not say this to denigrate or cast an aspersion on this Lawyer. He was a highly successful attorney, who is now deceased. I mention the difference in our races only to illustrate a point: THEY WERE AMUSED BECAUSE I WAS ASSUMING A POSSIBILITY WITHOUT HAVING EVER "SEEN" THE SUBJECT.

Indeed, sometimes we do make assumptions about that which we have NEVER SEEN that are laughable and ludicrous. BUT THERE IS NOTHING AMUSING ABOUT people making loud and positive comments about things of which they are totally ignorant -- about things they have never seen, and have never examined first-hand! How some holiness can speak like authorities about things which they have never once seen or learned first hand is beyond me! I can hear a-hundred-and-one such pseudo-Experts instantly say: "I don't need to see it! According to this or that report by so-and-so... according to Paul Harvey, according to all that I have heard... these are the facts!"

I refuse to make my judgments based on the testimony of authorities who are totally ignorant of that upon which they loudly expound! It is wise to reject the loud hearsay of self-styled authorities on this and that who emulate Peter in one of his weaker moments when he blurted out a snap judgment, "not knowing what he said." (Luke 9:33) There are too many hasty and loud judgments these days by those "not knowing what they say."

News people habitually report all of the bad, all of the sensational, news, and pass over the vast majority of good happenings that they could report on. Why is it that the only preachers making headlines during the past decade or so are the moral skunks, and their ilk?

Holiness preacher, Listen to me: After reading all of the negative garbage about all of the ministerial-skunks and strange sects, without ever visiting your Church, Revival, or Campmeeting, millions of snap-judgers have jumped to the conclusion that you and your group are just like them!

Perhaps countless thousands made up their mind NEVER TO ATTEND CHURCH, all based on the few reports on dirty preachers, and several off-beat sects -- the duped followers of Jim Jones and David Koresch and his "Wacko Waco" group.

Let me ask you: Is it right? when worldly people say all preachers and all churches should be avoided, basing their conclusion on the few, but sensational reports of ecclesiastical skunks and strange religious sects? -- Is that right? NO! OF COURSE IT ISN'T!

To such ignorant denouncers of Christianity, we might ask: "HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE INSIDE OF A HOLINESS CHURCH? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A HOLINESS SERVICE?"

Then, can you hear them blurt out: "Well, I don't need to, according to all that I have read and heard, the whole outfit is like Jim Jones, and David Koresch!"

Would you not then answer, or think of such ignorant judges: "Your judgment is not sound. You are basing your entire opinion on the evil and sensational reports about a few, and you are passing judgment on that about which you know nothing, for you have never seen the inside of a holiness church and have never been in even one service!"

Yes, how easily you would condemn such ignorant judgment! How? then, can a Holiness preacher pass sound judgment, in like manner, on ANYTHING of which he himself is personally and totally ignorant!?

Let some who are so vocal in their assertions about this or that subject or issue cease their authoritative preachings and do some honest and thorough research and a few of such might change their views or might confirm their earlier persuasion to such an extent that they need not pound the pulpit to sound more certain than they really are! But sadly, it is often more difficult to discover the facts than it is to make noise, so the lazy, put prejudiced preacher frequently prefers to make noise instead of furnishing his hearers with facts!

A fair, first-hand, unbiased examination of the facts is always in order, especially if one intends to vociferously condemn a person, place, or thing. Silence is sometimes "golden" when one is uninformed. It is not a sin to not "know it all". "If any man be ignorant" of this or that, "let him be ignorant" (1 Corinthians 14:38) with that degree of humility that prompts him to refrain from speaking as an authority on the subject. In some cases, it is better for one to remain quiet and be thought to be ignorant, than it is to open one's mouth and remove all doubt!

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Article #3

HERMITICALLY SEALED HOLINESS

No, I don't have the word wrong; I did not mean to say "Hermetically Sealed Holiness," but something awfully close to it.

My Oxford Windows Dictionary defines "hermetic" thus: -- adj. (also hermetical) 1 with an airtight closure. 2 protected from outside agencies.

The same Oxford Dictionary also defines "hermitic" as pertaining to: -- 1 an early Christian recluse. 2 any person living in solitude.

To be "hermitically sealed" is to be contained within an airtight inclosure, protected from outside agencies. "Hermitically Sealed Holiness" then, is holiness that dwells in an airtight environment, so zealously sealed off and protected from outside agencies that, in effect it is recluse, and living apart from the world in complete solitude. It is a modernistic return to monastic living, following the philosophy that in order to be holy one must be totally sealed off from the world and all contact therewith.

This may strike various extremists in the conservative holiness ranks as the ideal for which they should strive. But there is a problem with the life-style of such "Hermetically Sealed Holiness" -- it contradicts Jesus' Prayer, and Jesus' Pronouncement: "John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." -- Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Too many who profess the Pentecostal experience, have the same Pre-Pentecostal philosophy as that of the disciples before the Upper Room outpouring. Before Pentecost, we read in John 20:19 that "... the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews..." With the coming of the Holy Ghost, these previously "Hermitically Sealed" followers of Christ burst forth out of the upper room, poured into the streets of Jerusalem, and they "were scattered abroad [and] went every where preaching the word." (Acts 8:4) Spearheaded by Paul, apostolic Christianity feared not to proclaim Scriptural Holiness any time, any place, any where!

Yes, sometimes these Heroes of Holiness were sealed in dark dungeons, but they were never "hermetically, hermitically" sealed away from the world! It was only when the fire of true holiness died down to a tiny flickering ember that Christianity again became "Hermitically Sealed" in cloisters, and again preached and practiced isolationism as necessary to holiness. But the

Pentecostal experience does not beget outward Isolation; it provides inward Insulation. No, not an insulation that is invulnerable to temptation -- not an insulation that will allow a careless professor to grab barehanded the high-voltage wire of wickedness with impunity and feel no harm -- but an insulation that will never be touched by the smut all around it when single-mindedly and dutifully going into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature -- an inward insulation that allows God's sent-ones to "overcome the world" because Greater is He that is in them than he that is in the world."

With the Reformation and the Wesleyan Revival, Holiness again burst forth out of its hermetic, hermitic seal, and again went forth into all the world -- unafraid to go among the most vile with a message that could purify the most filthy in the lowest gutters of sin -- and, some of the most stalwart holiness preachers came from these dives.

But alas! -- again today, with iniquity abounding, many in the conservative holiness movement are drawing their robes of righteousness about themselves, and are beginning to preach and practice once again the Pre-Pentecostal philosophy of a "Hermetically, Hermitically Sealed Holiness" -- as if they were fulfilling the Divine invitation of Isaiah 26:20: -- "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast."

But that Scripture awaits its fulfillment on the Day of the Lord! The command today still remains: "Go ye into all the world" -- ALL the world -- not just that part of the world hermitically sealed behind the walls of tiny, little holiness gatherings! If one has health, has holiness, and heeds God, he or she must obey that command or become a pitiful religious recluse, shut up behind closed doors -- not even "as a sparrow alone upon the house top" (Psalms 102:7), but as a speckled bird locked within a darkened house, imprisoned in a cage, and covered with a blanket.

Re-written to express the philosophy of "Hermitically Sealed Holiness" today, John 20:19 might read: "...The doors were shut where the little holiness crowd was assembled for fear of the world..." Almost frantic efforts are being made by some to hermetically seal the world out and the holiness members in! Meantime, while a lost world goes to hell, they go to the altar. With no outreach beyond their hermitically sealed environment, their attention is turned inward. Revivals are not revivals, but mere repetitions of trips to the altar by virtually the same people, meeting after meeting, and sometimes year after year. Young people, beholding this ingrown, spiritual sickness, more repulsive to them than the stench of an ingrown toe-nail, leave the little holiness church for a breath of "fresh air" somewhere -- anywhere -- and are often lost to false doctrines.

Holiness is like the manna in the wilderness -- it won't keep when not eaten and used for strength to get out of the house and do something: Exodus 16:19-20 "And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. 20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them."

Inevitably, hermetically, hermitically sealed holiness breeds spiritual worms that eat at it and create a big stink in the church. Old folks fuss and fume, vegetate and legislate, young folks flee the straight-jackets and the stench and frolic in the world. Perhaps the biggest additions to such a group are the additions to their manual! But holiness manna cannot be kept by sealing it off

and laying it up, and, is not this precisely why there is so much spiritual anemia, altar-running, division, fussing, foul aroma, and fleeing forth out of the conservative holiness church today? Even holiness standards are best maintained when the holiness standard is held forth around the globe.

Holiness Life is suffocated, Holiness Light is snuffed out, Holiness-Honey-Wafers rot, breed worms and stink -- when sealed inside the airtight environment of modern-day hermetic, hermitic Holiness walls. Nonetheless, ignoring all of these certain results, some seem bent on making their little containers as "airtight" as possible -- totally impervious to everything from without, and so perfectly sealed that the "world cannot get in." Indeed, the "world cannot get in" as spoilers, but neither can they "get in" as seekers! And sometimes when the world does "get in" as seekers they are promptly laced-down, lined-up, and driven right back out by what they encounter in an "airtight" holiness crowd. Let all who consider these things in the fear of God, judge for themselves in these matters.

* * *

Article #4

A SECT NAME THAT "TAKES THE NAME OF CHRIST IN VAIN"

Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

Virtually every Christian knows that it is a sin, a breaking of one of the ten commandments, to "take the name of God in vain." But what probably many do not realize is: there are many ways in which God's name can be taken in vain.

Here is Strong's definition of the Hebrew word "vain" used in Exodus 20:7 -- 7723. shav', shawv; or `shav, shav; from the same as H7722 in the sense of desolating; evil (as destructive), lit. (ruin) or mor. (espec. guile); fig. idolatry (as false, subj.) uselessness (as deceptive, obj.; also adv. in vain):--false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, vanity.

From the above definition of "vain" we should be able to see that taking the name of Christ "falsely" is one way of "taking the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Taking the name of the Lord thy God falsely is taking the name of the Lord thy God in vain!

One need not use the Name of Christ as a curse word or as a profane interjection to take His Holy Name in vain! As a matter of fact, it seems to me that sometimes taking Christ's Name falsely is an even more damning way of taking His name in vain.

What true Christian head of a household could for one moment allow a foul-mouthed speaker to repeatedly use Christ's name as a curse word or vile interjection in his home without immediately protesting and demanding that such taking of Christ's name be stopped in his home! No true Christian could conscientiously allow such. He who used Christ's name as a curse word would either stop such cursing or be invited to leave!

Now -- let's apply that to another form of taking Christ's name in vain: -- When the so-called "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" takes the name of Christ, they do so "FALSELY" -- which under the very definition of the Hebrew word "vain" means that this hell-born sect is "TAKING THE NAME OF CHRIST IN VAIN!!!!!"

Call them LDS if you will, call them Mormons if you will, but friends, WHEN YOU CALL THEM "THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST" YOU ARE GUILTY OF TAKING THE NAME OF CHRIST IN VAIN!! Let them be guilty of it if they insist, but let not anyone who loves Christ and who desires to honor his High and Holy Name be a partaker in their sin by using that Name to describe them!!!!

If you would not publish in print the repeated cursings of a drunken sailor who spewed forth Christ's name in the most vile and profane manner, then do not publish in print the repeated taking of Christ's Name in vain in a more subtle, but often much more damning way!

When a foul-mouthed curser uses Christ's Name in vain, everyone will recognize him for what he is, but when a sect that teaches the doctrines of devils takes the Name of Christ in vain by calling themselves "The Church of Jesus Christ," BEWARE! some will be deceived into believing the lie conveyed in that false use of Jesus' Name.

You wouldn't repeat the profane use of Jesus' Name by a curser, and you dare not repeat the deceitful use of His Name in vain by a false sect. To do so is to be made a partaker of their damning sin!

1 Timothy 5:22 "Neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" from taking Christ's name in vain by attaching it, without qualification, to the so-called "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," or any other satanic sect! The LDS are no more a part of Christ's Church than are the most vile dens of iniquity on earth! Both they, and their ilk, will answer for this false taking of Christ's Name in vain. Be not a partaker with them in this sin!

What do you say? AMEN!?! or OH ME!?!

* * *

Article #5

"THE REST OF THE STORY" IS IMPERATIVE TO PROPER JUDGMENT

On May 7, 1884, I made a trip from Coeur d' Alene, Idaho to Missoula, Montana, and while I was there I had an interesting experience. It illustrates how that with only part of a story -- with only some of the facts -- one can easily mis-judge. The following account of my experience in Missoula that day, I recorded shortly after returning to Coeur d' Alene. For the sake of illustrating my point, I will divide the account into two parts:

PART 1

I met a man today in Missoula, Montana. He was standing on a street corner with a Bible strung by a cord over his shoulder, suspended to about his waist and opened to a passage covered with clear plastic. He was attempting to influence people for Christ, a praiseworthy effort for a man of perhaps 57-65 years of age one might think...

[Reader, if you had only this much of my story, how would you judge the occurrence. Would you not possibly think: "Now that sounds like a rather odd way to witness, but based on the facts read thus far, if that is all I can learn, I see nothing wrong with what the man was doing, unless he was trying to spread false doctrine." -- Well, read "The Rest of the Story" and then form your opinion.]

PART 2

...However, when one considers "the rest of the story" -- the additional details not only negate this positive assessment, but one is repulsed by the very thought of this man attempting to "preach Christ."

1. He wore a dress (or skirt and blouse over a false bosom)!
2. He wore a woman's wig!
3. He wore women's eye-shadow!
4. He wore red lipstick!
5. He wore pancake make-up over a close-shaven face!
6. He had his arms close-shaven, and pink polish on his finger-nails!
7. He wore women's shoes and carried a woman's purse!
8. He said his name was: SANDRA JANE!

[End of The Story]

What a gross, and revolting contradiction this sodomite was of the Bible he carried! which contains this verse, among many others, that condemned his vile farce!: Isaiah 52:11 "Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord."

What have we come to? when perverted sodomites and playboy presidents think that carrying a Bible and naming the name of Christ is sufficient reason for them to call themselves Christians -- and not only so, but to also be fully qualified to preach Christ to others. I wonder? If the apostle Paul had encountered "Sandra Jane" in Missoula that day, do you think his comment on that revolting exhibition of perverted, pseudo-Christian witnessing would have been thus: "What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice." (Philippians 1:18) I trow not! Would not Paul's comment after

encountering "Sandra Jane" have been something more like this?: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

* * *

Article #6 LET'S MAKE IT A RULE-RS

No, the title is not one of my frequent mistakes. Read on, and you will see what it means.

Perhaps many of us when we were children formed a "club" or group of some sort. It didn't matter that there may have been only two or three of us children -- that was enough to start our organization, and of course after we decided to have a "club," or whatever we called it, the next thing that popped into our minds was making rules. And, because we were the "big-shots" in this new club, we had the right to make up whatever rules we wanted... So, we'd start thinking, and soon the "Club Organizer" -- the one who said, "Let's have a club," would say also: "LET'S MAKE IT A RULE THAT..."

And, this rule making was a "power trip" -- whoever started the club and dominated it would say, "This is MY CLUB and I have made it a rule that... this is the way it will be in MY CLUB!" At times, discussion of the substance of the rule might get lost in the dispute over WHO had the right to say WHAT would be the rule, and sometimes the club fell apart before it got started because the only one who agreed with all of the rules was the boy or girl who said, "This is MY CLUB, and THIS WILL BE THE RULE, but NOT THIS!"

But the "power trip" in rule-making is often relished long after boyhood and girlhood -- and alas! it is often evident in religious circles. "LET'S MAKE IT A RULE THAT..." is either stated exactly with whatever follows, or something quite identical in meaning. Denominational leaders, even in the holiness movement, are not always free from this "power trip". No matter how little the puddle, there always seems to be at least one "big frog" who often croaks, "Let's make it a rule that..." -- not being motivated purely by promoting the good of all, but to a large extent motivated by the attitude: "THIS IS MY CHURCH, AND WHATEVER I SAY WILL BE THE RULE, WILL BE THE RULE!" -- and anything that appears to threaten such an one's control of "his church" will send him flying into private cloister with his cronies, saying, "Brethren, I think we need to make it a rule that...!"

Three months later, he may be in another such meeting, again saying, "Let's make it a rule that..." -- completely different item -- but aroused and motivated by the same reason: -- here it now: CONTROL! Thus, manuals get written and re-written, amended and re-amended. Try to reason with such an one, like those who cautioned Rehoboam about his being too heavy-handed, and though you likely will not hear an exact quotation of Rehoboam in reply, the spirit of the "Let's make it a Ruler" is likely to be very much in accord with the spirit of that intolerant potentate's words: "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins." "Let's make it a Rulers" don't listen

to reason -- especially if they feel it to be a threat to their authority. They don't ease their restrictions; they ever tighten them.

The spirit of "Let's make it a Rulers" is always the same -- whether they be Children, Churchmen, Popes, Dictators, or What-Have-You! More than they fear harm coming to their people, they fear the lessening of their authority -- and sometimes these "Let's make it a Rulers" don't even hold a legitimate office. No matter -- they will pull the strings behind the scene to see to it that their will is done -- whether they are in or out of office! We all know that the "Head-Honcho" is not always the man that holds the title. Often the "Big Neck" that turns the supposed "Head" is a "behind the scenes" man, who in clandestine, but all-powerful sessions unknown to the body at large, controls what is really going on. And sometimes we would be shocked if we knew what was really going on!

All of a sudden, nearly out of nowhere, George W. Bush stepped onto the scene as THE MAN -- THE CANDIDATE -- for the Republican Party -- huge amounts of money -- numerous endorsements from most of the GOP mucky-mucks -- all so fast that some of us were shaking our heads saying, "Where did this guy come from? How did this happen?" Let me tell you: -- It was a Big Neck behind the scenes that turned the Republican Head! He is naive who thinks that there was not much behind-the-scenes string-pulling in secret conflabs that brought this about.

"Cheap Politics!" you say. Yes, but what should we call it when the same sort of thing is done by "Let's make it a Rulers" in the church? Anything less? As a young pastor I once landed in the middle of a whole bunch of "Cheap Politics" that involved one of the most revered leaders in the church! One day he asked me if I would "spy" for him -- that was his exact word: "SPY"! -- and "spy" on whom? -- those brethren in the church whom he deemed to be, and literally termed, his "enemies"! Apparently I didn't "curry his favor" by turning him down, for it wasn't long until I landed in his "dog-house".

Friends, in many cases, the real issue is NOT the object of discussion and debate, whether we should have a rule against this or that, whether this or that should be done or left undone. Sometimes the real issue is: FROM WHOM ARE YOU TAKING ORDERS? Whose bidding are you doing?

The man who wanted me to "spy" on his "enemies" shook the foundations of that denominational Zion all over the country. His philosophy was: If you didn't get it like I got it -- YOU DIDN'T GET IT! You were carnal until proven spiritual -- in HIS judgment. Established saints sometimes cast away their confidence under his unrelenting insistence on getting it like he got it. In one instance, I beheld a dear saint of God go down under this man's pressure. She started going to the altar, disclaiming her experience of holiness, stating that all of her sweetness of spirit had been nothing but carnal-honey, and wrenching in nervous prostration at the altar!

Something did not ring true to me! I heard her publicly agonize and make statements that sounded completely "strange" and out of tune with her previously serene, sanctified spirit. I told Mr. Earthquake that I thought she had cast away her confidence, and I think I may have also told him that before it was all over, my assessment would be proven right. He did not take kindly to my observations.

But soon after the "Earthquake" was over and the "Will you spy for me?" evangelist left town, the "still small voice" of the Spirit showed that saint what she had done. She got up before the church and testified that God had showed her that she was sanctified when that meeting started, and now the Spirit had witnessed again to her sanctification. Mr. Earthquake got her into confusion, but the Spirit got her back into the "quietness and confidence" of her deeply sanctified walk with God.

"Let's make it a Rulers" would be more honest in stating the case as it really is: "Let's do everything in our power to keep control! -- Let's make sure everyone keeps marching to our drum-beat!" But those who are bent on calling the shots in what they call "MY CHURCH" would do well to remember Whose Church it really is. A quick reading of Matthew 16:18 should make that clear. And another Scripture that "Let's make it a Rulers" would do well to remember is 1 Peter 5:3: "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Next time some one says, "I think we should make it a rule that..." it might be well to weigh the matter carefully before God, for some who repeatedly strum on that string are not so much interested in Unity as they are in Uniformity to their own will -- not nearly so concerned about the Security of the Flock as they are about the Sovereignty of their own wisdom and demands. Jesus laid down His Life for the sheep. These are much more interested in laying down the Law.

* * *

Article #7

THE BOY-SCOUT TAKE-OVER

Leviticus 19:32 "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord."

Isaiah 3:5 "And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable."

1 Timothy 3:6 "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

A noted brain surgeon, Dr. Bronson Ray, was taking a stroll when he saw a boy on a scooter smash head-first into a tree. Realizing that the boy was seriously injured, the doctor told a bystander to call an ambulance. As he proceeded to administer first aid, a boy not much older than the injured one nudged through the crowd that had gathered and said to Dr. Ray, "I'd better take over now, sir. I'm a Boy Scout and I know first aid."

Never before in the history of the world has the hoary head been less respected. A crass comedian of our time has even made a stock-in-trade joke out of "getting no respect," and the world laughs at the various violations of his dignity that he bemoans. But respecting one's elders is no joke! even though millions of arrogant young punks today think that it is.

It was the young Rehoboam, following the cocky counsel of his young peers who threatened to oppress Israel with even more burdens than had his father, and Isaiah prophesied of a time of general oppression when mere children would parade their pride in hostile hatred against venerable veterans who were six, seven, and eight times their age. We are now living in just such a time, and believe me, to some of us it is oppressing and depressing!

Novice "know it alls" have been growing more proud and arrogant with each passing year and decade. As a disobedient boy, John Fletcher once stopped himself as he ran away from his father's punishment, thinking: "Hold up here! Do I run away from my father? If I do this, I may reap the consequences of someday having a son who runs away from me when I am a father." And with that thought in mind he returned to his father, willing to face the more immediate consequences of his actions. Make no mistake about it, there are consequences from youthful disobedience to one's parents and from an attitude of disdain toward one's elders, -- and the future consequences of this are often more painful than the immediate consequences.

Every generation of young whipper-snappers that violates veneration for their elders breeds another generation of young sprigs following them that is worse than themselves. Fletcher ran from his father, but the rebellious tadpole of today is more likely to stand up to "the old man," curse him to his face, have him arrested for child abuse, or slit his throat while he sleeps. A few blocks from us, several young punks brutally knifed to death an elderly man, and not many miles away a boy murdered his mother with an ax. Anyone who has lived a few decades can see the growing disregard for elders that each new generation of children has shown. But it is not the more grisly results of this that I wish to focus upon. There are less violent aspects of this malignant curse in our society that are just as shameful, though not so shocking -- aspects of disrespect for their elders from children and youths that are seen virtually everywhere, including within the professed church.

I remember when I was a lad there was a radio program called, "Father Knows Best," but to reflect the prevalent attitude of today's youth, the title would need to be changed to "Junior Knows Best." In the illustration at the beginning of this article, brain surgeon, Dr. Bronson Ray was confronted by a cocky little "Boy Scout" who thought he should "take over." Let me tell you something: we are living in a day now when "THE BOY SCOUTS," as it were, HAVE TAKEN OVER!" -- and by that I mean that the reins of power in today's world have fallen into the hands of those who, from their youth up, have proudly boasted themselves against their elders.

The rich young ruler who turned away from Christ had "kept all of the commandments from his youth up." The arrogant generation now sitting in control around the globe have "BROKEN every commandment in the Book from their youth up"! They were:

- (a) Toddlers who flung their baby-food in momma's face and got away with it;
- (b) Kids who were coddled when they cursed papa and were never spanked;
- (c) Pre-schoolers who were pampered when they whined and threw a fit;

(d) Grade-schoolers who knew more than their teachers, and upon whom school authorities dared not lay a hand;

(e) High-schoolers who did street drugs, boasted of illicit exploits, and who defied both their parents and law enforcement officers;

(f) Collegiates who smoked pot, advocated free sex, burned the flag, went nude at rock concerts and dodged the draft;

(g) College grads who hated the home and marriage, and who thought they knew more than Moses and better than George Washington;

(h) Thirty-year-olds with a thirst for power who kicked God out of the schools, helped bring down a presidency, and helped bring in baby butchery;

(i) Thirty-five-year-olds who ascended to local, district, and state positions, and who pushed through a wide variety of anti-Biblical, anti-Christian laws and amendments; and finally:

(j) Forty to Forty-five-year-old jackals who snatched the reins of national and world power and who are jockeying our nation and world pell-mell toward hell down the slippery slopes of dark damnation!

Yes, "The Boy Scouts" have now taken over!

"Step aside!" say they, to every older and wiser Dr. Bronson Ray! "I know First Aid! I know better how to cure the world's ills than you old codgers!" And indeed, they have "nudged through the crowd" and taken over the reins. As old Job labeled the young "know it alls" who tried to diagnose and treat him, those who have taken over today are "Physicians of No Value!" -- and even worse! Casting aside the knowledge and skill of all of their Dr. Bronson Ray predecessors, those in power today have become "Physicians of Malpractice" whose pseudo-cures are killing the patient!

"Boy Scout" lawyers have even taken over the "Boy Scouts"! forcing them to abandon their quarantine of queers. "Boy Scout" Education officials have long-since shoved Moses and God out the door and ushered in Darwin, but look what has evolved in the schools since Evolution took over: God can't get through the door, but marijuana, cocaine, condoms, pre-teen pregnancy, teacher-student molestation, teacher-to-student pornography, teacher-student affairs, student-suicides, students for whom life has lost all meaning, and finally, students who mass-murder their fellow-students and teachers, have all come to school! Quite an "Evolution" has developed in our schools! A better name for it is "Devil-ution"!

"Boy Scout" leadership now holds the reins: in the home, in the school, in the city, county, and state, the courts, the White House, and even in most so-called churches. The long litany of case histories where these "Boy Scout" physicians have cursed, rather than cured, the world's ills should have long-ago landed them "out on the street" with no shingle under which to mal-practice! The world's governmental, moral, spiritual, and physical graveyards are full of their mistakes!

They knew far less than did Dr. Bronson Ray, but they nudged through the crowd, and when they announced to him that they had better take over, -- AMAZINGLY, everyone crowded around the tree voted to allow them to do just that! -- and "take over" they did.

Paul warned that if "know it all" novices were put into office, they were liable to "fall into the condemnation of the devil," i.e. inherit the same eternal punishment awaiting the arch-fiend of the universe. Well, -- now they are in virtually every office there is to hold around the globe, and the tragedy is that not only they, but those countless millions who follow their blind and vile leadership will "fall" into the bottomless pit of fathomless fire -- ever falling, ever suffering, ever ruining the day "The Boy Scouts" took over, and they followed their counsel.

Take a look at the qualifications that the apostle Paul set forth for one desirous of Church Office, and see how far officers of every sort in our nation and world deviate from those guidelines:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

God's will is that all who hold offices -- governmental or ecclesiastical -- measure up to those same high standards of behavior. Inspired of God, King David wrote: "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (2 Samuel 23:3). But the "Boy Scouts" have taken over. The hoary head is dishonored and his wisdom disdained; the punk kid behaves himself proudly against the ancient; the novice is lifted up into the highest offices of the nation and world; but their fall, and the fall of all in their wake is ominously impending.

Of course, at this stage, it would take a lot more than a turn-around among the young to recover from the world-wide slide to damnation. But if such a recovery, reversal, and revival were ever to come to our world before Jesus returns, it might well have to begin with the youth.

When King Ahab was beset by a great multitude from Syria, "Behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord. 14 And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the Lord, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces" (1 Kings 20:13-14) A reversal of Israel's ominous plight was to come through its youth!

If there is any hope for today's world, it may be absolutely imperative that it arise among the youth of spiritual Israel, the Church! -- and one way it could start among them is through taking a Biblical attitude toward their elders. Re-phrasing Leviticus 20:9, Jesus said in Matthew 15:4

"God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death."

Those with a "Boy Scout," Novice "know it all" attitude will "die the death," but those children and youths who "live the life" God wants them to live will reverence God and their Elders. Further, such a life may not only raise them worthily, like Daniel, into places of prominence, but it could also make them channels of revival in the Church and in the World.

Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no man despise thy youth," but the way for youth to gain respect is not by "despising their elders"! The only way that children and youths can gain true respect is by first respecting their elders. Child, Youth of today:

"Would you lead?
Your wish is hollow,
Till at first,
You learn to follow."

When I was a youth, I tuned in to some advice for student preachers that I heard set forth. It ran like this: -- When you go out into the ministry as a young man, don't let the older people in the Church call you 'preacher boy,' or other names beneath the respect of a pastor." And, that sounded right to me, so shortly after my arrival at my first church, when a sweetly sanctified older couple in the church visited my apartment one night, and addressed me as "preacher boy," I wasted little time in letting them know that they were to call me "Bro. Maxey," and not "preacher boy."

Little did I then know that within several months, both of those dear saints of God would both be suddenly taken to glory -- she with some sort of stroke that hit her right while I was visiting their home, and he just a short time later while on the job. Oh! how it would have seemed nice in the months after their sudden departure, when others in the congregation treated me coldly, to have those warm-hearted old saints back in our midst! I had quickly demanded their respect, but had little opportunity to earn it from them.

Young person -- don't demand respect of your Elders -- earn it! When Paul admonished young Timothy, saying, "Let no man despise thy youth," he did not mean, "insist that older people respect you," and surely he did not mean, "disrespect the old codgers who try to tell you something, and disdain their advice!" Read the whole verse, and you will see that Paul meant that Timothy was to keep everyone from despising his youth BY EARNING THE RESPECT OF ALL THROUGH THE LIFE THAT HE LIVED:

1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

And it follows that the best way a young preacher can have respect from those in his congregation is by earning and gaining it from them by the life he lives, rather than by demanding it with the words he speaks.

Further, good advice to all of today's children and young people is: Don't be a part of the current "Boy Scout Take-Over!" The "Christ Jesus Take-over" is hastening upon this world, and today's youth can be a part of it. It will, in fact, be more than a "Take-over," it will be an eternal "Make-over": -- "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

In his last letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul further admonished how young Timothy could be a "vessel unto honour" in the "Great House" of Jesus Christ -- how he could be a part of the eternal Government that shall "rest upon His shoulders":

"Timothy, my dearly beloved son... "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart... 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 1:2; 2:21-22; 3:1-5).

When the honored ones holding the reins of power on earth are those who, from their youth up, have followed the counsel of "such an one as Paul the aged," (Philemon 1:9), then you can be sure: "The Boy Scout Take-Over" shall have ended, and the "Christ Jesus Take-over" shall have begun.

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Article #8

THE WISDOM (OR LIGHT) IN THE WORLD -- IS DARKNESS

Jeremiah 8:9 "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and WHAT WISDOM IS IN THEM?"

Luke 11:35 "Take heed therefore that THE LIGHT WHICH IS IN THEE be not DARKNESS."

I. THE PRESENT DISMAY -- AFTER ANOTHER BLOODY SLAUGHTER

The bloody slaughter in Atlanta, Georgia this past Thursday has the nation wringing their hands in dismay one more time. During recent years, one bloody shooting after another has plagued the U.S. The Columbine High School massacre seemed to exceed all such that preceded it, but now the slaughter in Atlanta has left even more dead!

The nation's "wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed" -- "WHAT'S WRONG?!! WHAT'S CAUSING ALL OF THIS?!!" Our Play-boy President has not the answer; our Senators and Congressmen can't agree on the subject; Governors and Mayors are dumbfounded;

School-boards and Administrators haven't a clue! Shocked and fearful citizens wring their hands! Preachers and Priests in high-steepled cathedrals have drawn a blank. Is it the guns? Is it the Video games? Is it the Acid Rock Concerts, such as those put on by "Marilyn Manson"? or the vile Woodstock '99 orgy just the other day? Is it the Internet? Is it this? Is it that? Is it the other thing? Something is bad wrong! What is it??

Of all "wise men" in our nation, one might expect the prominent priest or preacher to be able to cast some true light on the question. But instead, like others, they wring their hands in pitiful puzzlement! Don Harp, pastor of Atlanta's Peachtree United Methodist Church lamented: "THE WORLD WOULD PAY US A LOT IF WE KNEW HOW TO SOLVE THIS FEAR."

II. THE SIMPLE ANSWER IN GOD'S WORD IS BEING REJECTED

God's word declares: Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed... murders..." Mark 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed... murders."

What this nation needs -- what the world needs -- is a revival that will bring men back to God, into His kingdom, and that will cast away evil from people's lives and cleanse evil from people's hearts! GOD'S WORD POINTS DIRECTLY TO THE TRUE SOURCE of our national trouble, AND TO ITS CURE."

III. THE INEVITABLE RESULT OF REJECTING THAT TRUTH

"They have rejected the word of the LORD; and WHAT WISDOM IS IN THEM?" When men -- even United Methodist Preachers -- (along with the entire cadre of Christ-hating, Bible-disdaining, leaders in our nation) reject the simple Word of the Lord, A WISDOM, A LIGHT COMES INTO THEM THAT IS, IN FACT, DARKNESS!

Think of it! A LIGHT THAT OBSCURES THE TRUTH! The more this inward, but false, light of our national "wise men" is shined upon a thing, the more obscure becomes the real truth concerning it!

WHAT LIGHT IS IN OUR NATIONAL LEADERS? -- It is obvious to many of us that the "light that is in them" is satanic light -- a false light that while professing to reveal, actually hides, the truth.

What right does any man have to fill a pulpit -- even a United Methodist Pulpit -- who is totally "in the dark" about "how to solve this fear"? Let Playboy Presidents profess ignorance if they will; let Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Mayors, School-boards, Crime Prevention Specialists, and Hysterical Citizens be dumfounded about how to solve this problem -- as indeed they are -- but WHERE ARE WE? WHEN THIS GENERATION OF JOHN WESLEY'S METHODISTS JOIN THAT THRONG, wring their hands, and lament that "the world would pay us a lot if we knew how to solve this fear?"!!!

Preacher -- of whatever denomination -- How dare you to say that you don't know how to solve this fear? If you really don't know, then get out of the pulpit, and stop shining your false,

inward light! It only muddies the waters, shrouds the Life-giving Truth with a pall of dismay and death, and plunges your followers into the abyss of eternal, outer darkness!

And, stop saying that "the world would pay us a lot" for the true light that would "solve this fear". They would do no such thing!!

Hundreds of faithful, old-fashioned, holiness preachers are every Sunday pointing to the simple, Biblical "solution of this fear" -- this epidemic of murder and the widespread hysteria it has brought -- The solution is none other than "The Lamb of God that taketh away the [outward and inward] sin of the world."

IV. THE WORLD IS "PAYING A LOT" -- NOT TO KNOW -- THE SOLUTION

No indeed, -- the world will never "pay a lot" to know the solution to our national dilemma, for "this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)

The world never has, does not now, and never will, "pay a lot" to know the truth. Nevertheless, the world is paying a lot for rejecting the true solution to "this fear" -- this alarming increase of murderous slaughter -- in the U.S., in Kosovo -- and around the globe.

But look out! "the wages of sin is death," and Satan is generous with those wages. He is about to give the world another "PAY RAISE"! To put it in common phraseology: "YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!" To date, we have seen only the small streamlets, the tiny headwaters, of the GREAT RIVERS OF BLOOD THAT SHALL FLOW "even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" on the Day of the Lord! (Revelation 14:20)

What lies directly ahead for our nation, our world? Either Great Revival, or Greater Rivers of Blood. Which shall it be? Time will tell. -- DVM

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Article #9

SEVEN PCs RELATED TO MODERN INVENTIONS

In this article, I propose to discuss seven "PCs" related to "Modern Inventions" and I will use the term "Modern Inventions" loosely, as applying to those inventions which came into the world during and after the time of John Wesley. I will not enter into a discussion about inventions prior to the time of Wesley, such as Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in about 1450. Further, the focus of the article will be primarily on Modern Inventions as connected with Methodism and the Holiness Movement. The 7 "PCs" related to Modern Inventions that I will discuss are:

1. P-ROGRESSIVE C-HANGE
2. P-REVALENT C-ORRUPTION
3. P-RINCIPLED C-HOICE

- 4. P-ERSONAL C-ONVICTION
- 5. P-RACTICAL C-HRISTIANS
- 6. P-RESENT C-HALLENGES
- 7. P-ERSONAL C-OMPUTERS

1. PROGRESSIVE CHANGE THROUGH MODERN INVENTIONS

Great changes have come into the world from the time of John Wesley forward, and much of what has changed is the direct or indirect result of inventions that have been brought forth during this span of time. One of the inventions during this time that greatly impacted the world was the invention of the steam engine.

In Volume 1 of his New Testament Commentary, W. B. Godbey reflected: "You must remember that Paul had no steam engine to carry him forty miles an hour. By sea he was dependent on the wind and the waves. Overland he habitually traveled a pedestrian. Hence these three years were occupied in his constant peregrinations "confirming the churches," i.e., getting them sanctified and established." In Volume 5 he wrote: "Paul had long earnestly desired to visit the world's capital and preach the Gospel in the great metropolis of all nations. This was a great undertaking in those ages when navigation was in its infancy, the steam engine and mariner's compass as yet undreamed of. It was as great an undertaking at that time as it is now to travel round the world. In 1895 I traveled the very same route from Jerusalem to Rome in the short space of ten days."

Until about 1830, Holiness traveled on foot, on horseback and other beasts of burden, on wagons, and on boats and ships that were man-powered or moved by wind and sails. But James Watt, who was contemporary with John Wesley harnessed steam-power and is credited with the invention of the steam engine, although there were others who conceived of such long before his time.

JAMES WATT AND JOHN WESLEY

In about 1864, near the close of the Civil War, Methodist Historian Abel Stevens, in Volume 1 of his M. E. History, wrote of the simultaneous commencement of the works of James Watt and John Wesley, and of the important relationship between the advent of the steam engine and the advancement of Methodism:

"In the year 1757 John Wesley, traveling and preaching, night and day, throughout the United Kingdom, arrived in Glasgow. He 'walked to its College, saw the new library, with the collection of pictures,' and admired examples of the art of Raphael, Vandyke, and Rubens. Had he possessed the foresight of the Hebrew seers, he would have paused, as he crossed the University quadrangle, to admire a coming and nobler proof of genius; for it was in this same year that a young man, obscure, diffident, but with a mind burdened with mighty anticipations, and destined to become recognized as a chief benefactor of the human race, came to Glasgow to seek employment as an artisan, where, failing to find it among the citizens, he found sympathy in the learned Faculty of the University, and was allowed a humble chamber within its walls. The room is reached from the quadrangle by a spiral stairway, and is still preserved in its original rudeness, as too sacred to

be altered. In the court below he put out a sign as "Mathematical Instrument Maker to the University." He lived on poor fare, and eked out his subsistence by combining, with his work for the Faculty, the manufacture of musical instruments; he made organs, and repaired flutes, guitars, and violins; but meanwhile studied assiduously the laws of physics, that he might apply them in an invention which was to produce the 'greatest commercial and social revolution in the entire history of the world,' a revolution with which Methodism was to have important relations.

"After some years of struggle with want, sickness, the treachery of men, and the disappointment of his hopes, James Watt, the young artisan of Glasgow University, gave to the world the Steam-Engine, and today the aggregate steam-power of Great Britain alone equals the manual capability for labor of more than four hundred millions of men; more than twice the number of males capable of labor on our planet. Its aggregate power throughout the earth is equal to the male capacity, for manual work, of five or six worlds like ours. The commerce, the navigation, the maritime warfare, the agriculture, the mechanic arts of his race have been revolutionized by the genius of this young man. His invention was introduced into Manchester about, seventy years ago but now, in that city and its vicinity, are more than fifty thousand boilers, with an aggregate power of a million horses.

"The invention of the steam-engine was more important to the new than to the old world. It was vastly important to the latter through the former, for it was the potent instrument for the opening of the boundless interior of the North American continent to the emigration of the European populations, and the development of that immense commerce which has bound together and enriched both worlds, and by which New York city alone now exceeds, in amount of tonnage, more than twice over, all the commercial marine of Great Britain in the year before Watt's invention.

"The great rivers of the new world, flowing with swift current, could convey their barges toward the sea, but admitted of no return. The invention of Watt, applied by the genius of Fulton, has conquered their resistance, and opened the grand domain of the Mississippi valley for the formation of mighty states in a single generation, and marshaled the peoples of Europe to march into the wilderness in annual hosts of hundreds of thousands.

"Wesley, who might have saluted, in the quadrangle of Glasgow University, the struggling and dependent man whose destiny it was to achieve these stupendous changes, was himself actually preparing the only means that could supply the sudden and incalculable moral wants which they were to create. Methodism, with its 'lay ministry' and its 'itinerancy,' could alone afford the ministrations of religion to the overflowing population; it was to lay the moral foundations of many of the great states of the West. The older Churches of the colonies could never have supplied them with 'regular' or educated pastors in any proportion to their rapid settlement. And in the sudden growth of manufacturing cities in both England and America, occasioned by Watt's invention, Methodism was to find some of the most urgent necessities for its peculiar provisions.

"Watt and Wesley might well then have struck hands and bid each other Godspeed at Glasgow in 1757: they were co-workers for the destinies of the new world."

ROBERT FULTON'S "CLERMONT" IN 1807

More on this thought later, but I pause here to ask: Did those who were called to "spread scriptural holiness over these lands" shun the invention of the steam engine and the steam-boat? No, and there is even an interesting connection between the first steam-boat and one of America's most outstanding Methodist evangelists, Freeborn Garrettson. Read on:

At the time of Watt's death in 1819 the steam engine had been brought into a quite accomplished state of development, but it was Robert Fulton that showed the world how the steam engine could be used to propel boats and ships.

"Fulton had, as early as 1798, proposed plans for steam-vessels to both the United States and British governments. The 'Clermont,' as Fulton called this first boat, was begun in the winter of 1806-7, and launched in the spring; the machinery was at once put on board, and in August, 1807, the craft was ready for the trial-trip." Fulton named the "Clermont" in honor of Chancellor Livingston an associate in his enterprise whose home was at Clermont. Chancellor Livingston was the brother of Catharine Livingston, who became the wife of that mighty Methodist evangel, Freeborn Garrettson.

"On the day appointed for the grand trial trip of the first steamboat [the Clermont] to Albany, by noon a vast crowd had assembled on the wharf to witness the performance of what was popularly called 'Fulton's Folly.' Fulton himself declares that on that day not thirty persons in the city had the slightest faith in the success of the steamboat, and that as the boat was putting off he heard many sarcastic remarks. However, she moved from the dock, vomiting smoke and sparks, and casting clouds of spray from her uncovered paddle-wheel. As her speed increased the jeers of the incredulous were silenced, and soon the departing voyagers caught the sound of cheers.

The Clermont's trip to was a perfect success. Fulton's own account is as follows: --

"To The Editor of the 'American Citizen.'

"Sir, -- I arrived this afternoon at four o'clock, in the steamboat from Albany. As the success of my experiment gives me great hopes that such boats may be rendered of great importance to my country, to prevent erroneous opinions and give some satisfaction to my friends of useful improvements you will have the goodness to publish the following statement of facts: --

"I left New York on Monday at one o'clock, and arrived at Clermont, the seat of Chancellor Livingston, at one o'clock on Tuesday time, twenty-four hours; distance, one hundred and ten miles. On Wednesday I departed from the Chancellor's at nine in the morning, and arrived at Albany at five in the afternoon: distance, forty miles; time, eight hours. The sum is one hundred and fifty miles in thirty-two hours, -- equal to near five miles an hour.

"On Thursday, at nine o'clock in the morning, I left Albany, and arrived at the Chancellor's at six in the evening. I started from thence at seven, and arrived at New York at four in the afternoon: time, thirty hours; space run through, one hundred and fifty miles, equal to five miles an hour. Throughout my whole way, both going and returning, the wind was ahead. No advantage

could be derived from my sails. The whole has therefore been performed by the power of the steam-engine."

THE REACTION OF ASBURY AND MCKENDREE TO FULTON'S INVENTION

Bishop Asbury was excited about Fulton's invention. In his Journal of May 3, 1809, he wrote: "I preached at the tabernacle on Staten Island... My attention was strongly excited by the steamboat. This is a great invention..." One Methodist historian, wrote thus of how greatly both Asbury and McKendree were impressed by the invention of the steam-boat: "There were one hundred and fifteen preachers stationed and few complaints. Another cheering fact was a gain of over four thousand in the membership and a considerable accession to the ranks of the ministry. Both the bishops were much impressed by their first sight of a steamboat -- 'a great invention.'"

And why were these stalwart Methodist apostles impressed? They had traveled many, many, hard miles on foot, on horseback, in wagons, and no doubt they saw the advantages of spreading the gospel through the use of this invention.

Robert Paine, yet another Methodist writer saw what a time-saver the steam-boat was. Writing of Asbury's and McKendree's excitement about the steam-boat, he recorded: "On May 12, [1809] Bishop McKendree preached in John Street Church... on the fourteenth, at Bowery... and again at John Street on May 19, being the last day of the Conference... From New York, where their [Asbury's and McKendree's] "attention was strongly excited by the steamboat, a great invention," they traveled every day, Sundays always excepted, from May 19, to June 14, when they reached Monmouth, District of Maine, the seat of the New England Conference. This trip, which occupied twenty-one days' traveling, can now be made in as many hours and without any serious fatigue.

Marion T. Plyler, in his sketch of Peter Doub, wrote: "Revolutionary movements were on. In the decade of the thirties [1830s] the application of steam to ocean navigation, the introduction of railroads, and the invention of the electric telegraph, were destined to work the greatest revolution of the century."

METHODIST PREACHERS HAILED AND EMBRACED FULTON'S INVENTION

In a speech delivered to the Baltimore Conference Missionary Society on March 23, 1829, Alfred Cookman's father, George Grimston Cookman, said: "We were saying, sir, that the age in which we live was distinguished by unprecedented improvements. One astonishing discovery has followed upon another... among these stands pre-eminent the steamboat, the bright production of the creative genius of the immortal Fulton. It stands the eighth wonder of the world." Somewhat over a decade later, George G. Cookman was lost at sea with those of the ill-fated steamer, President.

George Scott Railton, in his biography of General Booth wrote: "The contrast between those days and ours can hardly be realized by any of us now. We may put down almost in figures some of the differences that steam and electricity have made, linking all mankind together more closely than Nottingham was then connected with London. [The following remark may be in

reference to the wireless Telegraph.] But what words can convey any picture of the development of intelligence and sympathy that makes an occurrence in a London back street interest the reading inhabitants of Germany, America, and Australia as intensely as those of our own country?"

J. W. Etheridge in his (1858) biography of Adam Clarke wrote: "Eleven days after their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke embarked at Southampton for the islands. The steam-packet had not then appeared on our seas, and a voyage which can now be made in as many hours took them on this occasion not fewer than eight days to accomplish."

INVENTIONS MADE THINGS EASIER FOR METHODIST ITINERANTS

Nathan Bangs quoted from Asbury's Journal: "From December 14, 1789, to April 20, 1790, we compute to have traveled two thousand five hundred and seventy-eight miles. Hitherto has the Lord helped. Glory! glory to our God!" Then Bangs observed: "And the reader will recollect that neither steamboats nor railroads were in use in those days; but they were forced to wend their way through the new settlements in the best way they could, chiefly on horseback. As to the preachers who traveled this rough and poor country, they had to submit to all manner of hardships, so that Bishop Asbury says of them, 'I found the poor preachers indifferently clad, with emaciated bodies, and subject to hard fare; but I hope they are rich in faith.'"

Davis W. Clark, in his "Life and Times of Elijah Hedding" reflects on the difficulties of travel that faced Methodist Itinerants prior to the invention of the steam-boat: "At that period there were but eight annual conferences... in our whole American connection. The circuits were large, often requiring from three to five hundred miles to complete one round, and this round was to be completed in from two to six weeks... The journeys, too, were performed, not upon steamboats and railroads, nor yet in good carriages and by easy stages upon turnpikes; but on horseback, through rough and miry ways, and through wildernesses where no road as yet had been cast up. Rivers and swamps were to be forded. Nor could the journey be delayed. On, on, must the itinerant press his way, through the drenching rains of summer, the chilling sleet of spring or autumn, and the driving blasts or piercing cold of winter; and often amid perils, weariness, hunger, and almost nakedness, carrying the bread of life to the lost and perishing. And then, when the day of toil was ended, in the creviced hut of the frontier settler the weary itinerant, among those of kindred hearts and sympathies, found a cordial though humble place of repose. The subject of this memoir said that he had often lodged in log houses where the stars could be seen through the roof above him, and that again and again, when he awoke in the morning, he has found the bed on which he slept covered with snow.

In his Autobiography, J. B. Finley compared conditions of his early life with the conditions then present [in about 1853]: "In contrasting the present with the past, no one can fail to see what were the difficulties and dangers which the early pioneers encountered in traversing the country, and the courage and perseverance which were necessary in the various departments of life. Then there were no roads or means of transportation, and it took us nearly two months to perform the journey. Now, by railroad car and steamer, a drove of cattle could be transported in as many days from Cincinnati to Detroit, with greater facility."

In his 1863 biography, "The Life and Times of Nathan Bangs" Abel Stevens wrote concerning some of Bangs' journeys: "He passed on by steamboat and stage-coaches through Baltimore and Washington, arriving at the latter city in about thirteen hours, a speed which draws from him the exclamation, "Such is the velocity of steam! What a mighty power does man possess over the elements and laws of nature!" ... They set out from the city of New York on the 2d of June, 1850. 'What a contrast,' wrote Dr. Bangs, 'in the mode of traveling since Fulton introduced the use of steam to propel boats through the water! In 1804 I was four days in sailing from Rhinebeck to New York, eighty miles. Now we sailed from New York to Albany, twice the distance, in about ten hours! -- Thanks be to the 'Author of every good and perfect gift,' for steamboats, the telegraph, and for railroads, as well as for every other improvement of the age in which we have the happiness to live!

For a considerable time, Nathan Bangs was the head of the Methodist Book Concern. This quotation from his M. E. History shows that he considered the advent of steam-powered printing presses to be a real blessing: "The first work stereotyped in this establishment was the 24mo. edition of the Hymn-book, soon after the General Conference of 1820. Since that time stereotype plates have been gradually introduced, until nearly all the books now issued from this press are printed from these standing types, -- an improvement in the art of printing as great as the improvement in navigation by the use of steamboats, -- more especially since the power of steam has been so usefully applied to printing, by the introduction of presses moved by this powerful agent.... There are now, 1841, employed in the printing office eight power-presses, moved by steam; and the cylinder press, on which the Christian Advocate and Journal is printed, throws off one thousand and eight hundred impressions in an hour."

In "Fire From Heaven," written in about 1899, Seth Cook Rees compared skepticism about the possibility of transatlantic steam-ship travel with a similar skepticism about the possibility of being sanctified wholly: "There was a time when philosophers and learned men proved logically and conclusively that no steamship could ever cross the Atlantic. Of course, like people nowadays, they could not leave the question alone, but met from time to time to go over the matter and see if they were right. So one day, in an upper room in Liverpool, they were going over the whole thing to see that they had made no mistake, and, finally, just as they were concluding again that they were right, that it was an utter impossibility (and yet all the time there were cranks that were trying to find some way of doing it), they looked out of the window and saw the first steamer that ever crossed the Atlantic, coming into the harbor. And just when people prove that we can not be sanctified, we tumble in and get sanctification; and just when a preacher, with a tall hat and white cravat, has proved to his congregation that nobody can be sanctified, the servant frying his batter cakes in the kitchen has received the blessing! And that is not all. Just about the time he does his very best, and presents his strongest argument against it, his very best church people go to a campmeeting or a tent meeting somewhere and get sanctified, and they perplex him until he is moved off from that charge.

2. PREVALENT CORRUPTION RELATED TO MODERN INVENTIONS

Television is a prime example of how Satan often dominates and uses modern inventions. No honest Christian can doubt that there is a prevalent, perilous corruption related to Television. However, it may surprise some to learn who it was that invented this modern menace to decency

and purity. No, Television was not invented by some vile, Hollywood skunk in the film industry. It was invented by a young man who was probably quite religious and moral. And, the location in which T.V. was brought into this world may be equally surprising to some.

Television was invented in Rigby, Idaho in 1922 by a 16 year old Mormon farm boy! (See "The Strange Birth Of Television" Reader's Digest, 2/53) Yes, this modern menace to morality around the world was indeed, in part, invented by Philo Farnsworth in Idaho, an obscure state, and in Rigby, an even more obscure town. How coincidental then, that some 34 years later a small, obscure denomination [the Bible Missionary Church] was born in that same obscure state which strongly opposes the evil influence of said invention.

There is much more history involved in the invention of TV. A mechanical contraption known as the Nipkow disk which rather crudely transmitted images was invented in 1894, and extensive experiments with this device were conducted in 1912, but it was the invention of the "dissector tube" by Philo Farnsworth, along with other electronic devices invented by one Vladimir Zworykin, which helped bring to the world modern "electronic" television.

In 1922 radio was in its infancy, with fewer than 30 licensed broadcasting stations in the entire country. Yet that year a boy of 16 in a small Idaho high school explained to his teacher that he had worked out the details of electronic television." (From the above-noted Reader's Digest article) In 1927 Farnsworth applied for the patent on his invention which was granted 3 years later.

In the 1940s, Television became a full-fledged public medium. I remember that it came into use in my home town, Payette, Idaho, when I was about 11 years of age in 1948, and it had begun to be used several years prior to that on the East Coast.

When Philo Farnsworth's invention came on the scene, Satan had already corrupted the "movie" invention and film industry, having for years used Hollywood productions to dirty and damn countless thousands of souls. Then, in the 1940s, the devil quickly pounced on Farnsworth's invention to transform it into the most morally damning medium ever known to mankind! I doubt not that the present, rotten state of world-wide filth is, due to satanic use of T.V. probably more than his use of any other means.

3. PRINCIPLED CHOICE WHETHER TO USE OR SHUN MODERN INVENTIONS

Principled Choice should be exercised in the decision about whether one should use, or shun any given invention. And, by "principled choice" I mean choices based upon clear, Bible Principles. While it is true that Satan and wicked men "light upon" each new technology as a means of spreading evil, if they will, Christians can "light upon" at least some modern inventions and use them for the glory of God and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

In 1 Corinthians 7:21, Paul dealt with the question of what a Christian slave should do if the opportunity to go free was presented to him or her. Here was his advice: "If thou mayest be made free, USE IT RATHER." The Greek for "use" here is "chraomai," which according to Strong's can mean to "light upon, to employ."

A slave could not dictate his actions. He was controlled by an outside force: his master. A freed slave could dictate his own actions and Paul said in effect: "If you can be put in control of your life, don't shun this opportunity, but **USE IT RATHER.**"

As I see it -- one of the Principles that should guide a Christian regarding whether to **USE** or **NOT USE** an invention is: If it will control you, don't use it. If you can control it, then **USE IT FOR GOD'S GLORY.** And, as I see it, here is a major difference between using the Television and using a Computer on the Internet: With TV, you are strictly a passive user -- like a passenger being driven in a car or bus with someone else at the controls. Oh yes, you can turn it off, but... the moment you turn it on, you have no control over what comes on the screen! With a Computer off-line or on the Internet **YOU ARE THE MAN BEHIND THE WHEEL!** You can stop, backup, turn right, turn left, -- you can control what comes on that screen! And I can prove to anyone in five minutes that it is possible to go around the globe on the Internet and be exposed to absolutely **NO MORAL FILTH.** With the computer on the Internet, you can control what comes into view more completely than one can who is traveling down the Inter-State.

Indeed, there are other Biblical Principles that come into consideration when one decides about using a Computer on the Internet, or not using such. And, these other principles apply to other inventions as well. But, one of the main principles is: "If -- If, you can control the use of an invention, and if no other principles or Divine restraints overrule, then **USE IT RATHER,** for the glory of God. However, I must say that I seriously doubt that TV can be so used. Seeing the potential therein for getting rich and achieving some selfish, fleshly end, evil men "pounce upon" every new technology, while at the same time conservative holiness folks sometimes shun an invention, as if there was some inherent evil in the technology itself. The choices about using or not using an invention should be based on sound, Biblical principles, and not made from a mindless, spiritual paranoia.

Paul admonished Christians to "light upon" -- "to employ" those things that came to them that could be "used" for the glory of God and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. The freed Christian was not to shun the opportunity to be made free, but rather he or she was instructed of Paul to "light upon" that development as a tool to "use" for increased effectiveness. "Use it, rather" than shun it, was Paul's advice.

There was **NO VIRTUE IN BEING A SLAVE** -- and -- **THERE IS NO VIRTUE IN NOT USING** some things for God's glory. The Amish consider it a virtue not to use automobiles, and yet they long manufactured electric refrigerators and freezers (and may still do so). Holiness folks chuckle at such absurdity! -- and use every mode of transportation available to "go into all the world to preach the gospel." On their missions, Holiness folks "put the pedal to the medal" in automobiles and fly in jetliners. No, they don't watch the filthy movies and drink the liquor offered to them on an airliner, but they "use the airliner rather" for the advancement of Scriptural Holiness around the globe.

In the world, but not of it, for decades Holiness folks have laughed off the absurdities of shunning automobiles and airliners, and "used them rather" as advantages at hand -- as means of going farther and faster on "the King's business that requireth haste." Thus also, they have not

shunned the use of steam-power, electricity, telephones, and other modern inventions, but have "used them rather" as convenient means of spreading scriptural holiness over these lands.

4. PERSONAL CONVICTIONS ABOUT USING OR SHUNNING INVENTIONS

In the final analysis, using or shunning any given invention is a personal matter, and involves one's personal convictions from God. The "others may, you may not" factor comes into play. One should not use or shun an invention simply because "their church" rules an invention in or out. If one is a member, sworn to abide by the rules of a denomination, then of course, using an invention that is outlawed by that church is wrong -- not necessarily because it is an inherent evil -- but because it is wrong for a church member to break his or her vows to their church. If one cannot feel free before God to abide by such church rules, then the only option is to leave the organization. Remaining a member, and as a member inveighing against the rules of the church is not an option. Hearty union with the group and obedience to its rules, or a quiet, Christlike withdrawal from its membership are the only, true options.

But one should have and hold "Personal Convictions" that are genuinely, God-given, personal convictions, and not just a prejudiced adoption of some prevailing notion of a church leader or church group. And, sometimes the "New Wine" of the Holy Ghost within will burst forth all of the brittle, old wine-skins of human restrictions that are hindering the spiritual expansion of a person or group.

In his book, "A Box of Treasure," and in a chapter entitled "New Wine and Old Bottles," Beverly Carradine wrote: "Certain it is that the history of mankind confirms the words of Christ, who spoke of the bursting of old bottles under the working pressure of new wine. It is well known by every schoolboy how the new wine of Copernicus, when he said the earth moved and the sun was the center of the solar system, cracked and split the ecclesiastical and astronomical wiseacres of his day.

"The discovery of the circulation of the blood was met by a storm of ridicule in the medical world. It is equally well known what a testing, trying time steam had to go through before the world accepted it as the great friend and helper of the human family. It is said that when Fulton's little skeleton of a steamboat went puffing and panting its way up the Hudson, it encountered a schooner coming down the river. When the sailors beheld this first of the steam kind with its black smoke and rattling noises, they thought it was the devil; and diving down into the hold of their vessel fell upon their knees and prayed the Lord for deliverance.

"Then it is also related that a man with what is called a mathematical and scientific head, while admitting the feasibility of applying steam in many ways and directions, was showing by a great array of figures on a piece of paper that no vessel could ever cross the ocean with such power, as no ship hold could contain the quantity of coal necessary for the voyage; when just as he had completed the demonstration, lo! there was a smoke on the horizon, and here came a steamer into port from all the way across the sea. Of course this meant another old bottle had blown up.

The telegraph, the telephone, the air brake, and every other great and useful thing had a time of it in coming into recognition and use, because of the old bottles in the world. Descending

even to lower planes, and smaller affairs, it is still the same. The first man who hoisted an umbrella over his head was nearly mobbed. While the use of suspenders for the upholding of pantaloons met with a storm of ridicule and denunciation. Many pulpits were especially bitter, and accused every preacher who wore "galluses" as being filled with pride, haughtiness and vain glory.

In the ecclesiastical world, the melodeon or organ was the new wine that split the old bottle of the "Tune Lifter," whose repertoire consisted of four or five hymns and the doxology."

Yes, Personal Convictions should be exercised when choosing whether to use or shun any given invention. But let every man and woman under God make those decisions for themselves, without being restrained by overbearing crackpots such as those who condemned the use of suspenders!

5. PRACTICAL CHRISTIANS CAN SEE THE VALUE OR VANITY OF INVENTIONS

"When the Crystal Palace Exhibition opened in 1851, people flocked to London's Hyde Park to behold the marvels. One of the greatest marvels back then was steam. Steam plows were displayed. Steam locomotives. Steam looms. Steam organs. Even a steam cannon. Of all the great exhibits that year, the first-prize winner was a steam invention with seven thousand [7,000] parts. When it was turned on, its pulleys, whistles, bells, and gears made a lot of noise, but, ironically, the contraption didn't do a thing! Seven thousand moving parts making a lot of commotion... but having no practical use."

If an invention has no practical use -- no way in which it can be used for the glory of God and the good of mankind, then AWAY WITH IT! Sometimes it is downright disgusting to see the myriad of inventions being thrust at us -- dandy little devices for doing a whole lot of what should not be done in the first place! If a contraption is designed merely to cater to the outlandish pride and practices of earthly vanity, then no earnest and practical Christian has any business using it! On the other hand, if an invention can be used to great advantage in spreading scriptural truth and in advancing the Kingdom of God, then USE IT RATHER than criticize those who do!

6. PRESENT CHALLENGES DEMAND RIGHTLY USING MODERN INVENTIONS

In his book, "Some Estimates of Life," J. B. Chapman wrote: "Times are discriminatory and will not use out of date material. It is a common idea with each generation that the world's work is all done and that there is nothing left but to admire the accomplishments of the fathers. What is the use? Columbus has already discovered America, Watts has discovered the hidden power of steam; Bell has invented the telephone; Edison has perfected the phonograph, and Ford has made the automobile. What is left to do, and to what new place can a man go? ... The steamship seems to have been perfected before our day and the frontier of American civilization seems to have jumped into the Pacific Ocean. The sciences and the arts are so far developed that one may study and work all his life and then not add one iota to the sum total of human knowledge or leave a single masterpiece. ... The labor of the fathers is not lost, unless we either ignore them or go back and spend our time doing their work again. We may become 'the true ancients by standing upon the shoulders of those who have gone before us.' We must begin where they left off."

The order of Christ as never been rescinded: "And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). And I believe that order means to occupy every legitimate means of spreading the word of God and use every legitimate invention in every legitimate way to advance Christ's Kingdom.

"The first electric light was so dim that a candle was needed to see its socket. One of the first steamboats took 32 hours to chug its way from New York to Albany, a distance of 150 miles. Wilbur and Orville Wright's first airplane flight lasted only 12 seconds. And the first automobiles traveled 2 to 4 miles per hour and broke down often. Carriages would pass them with their passengers often shouting, 'Get a horse!' But look at what these inventions are capable of today." And, shall they not give an account of their stewardship who have shunned using inventions that could have greatly multiplied their usefulness and fruitfulness for Christ on earth?

In his book, "The Perfect Man," R. T. Williams reasoned: "Consider our great inventions. Who can forget the work of a Stevenson, Watt, Fulton, Bell, Morse, Edison, or Marconi? Has thought not made these men famous? Go back but a few years, and you will pass the time of the steam engine. Water has always been here, and when in contact with intense heat it has always been converted into steam, energy which was wasted. But man thought, he reasoned, he conquered this force, and today steam pulls our vast trains loaded with human life. Our great herds, our fruit crops, our grain are rushed to the ends of the earth with almost inconceivable speed.

"A few light, slow, uncertain crafts pushed. by the wind have been replaced by our vast floating palaces. Once it required many weeks to go from one continent to another, but now our great steamers plow their way half around the world in a few hours. The trains, the boats have united the world,. wiping out distance, almost annihilating space and time. But that is not all. Here are our telegraphs and telephones; too much could not be said for them. The news of a great wreck, of the burning of a city, of an. earthquake, of a battle can be flashed to every corner of the civilized world within a few moments of time.

"The ocean steamer lost in the fog, caught in the ice floe, settling for a final plunge to the bottom of the ocean sends forth the distress, signal through the storm and tempest, which is heard by the other vessels en route to the various parts of the earth, and by the stations dotted along the continent's fringe. Within a few hours or minutes help arrives, lives are saved. Thus the blessing and efficiency of wireless telegraphy. Long live the name of Marconi!

"The telephone puts the farm within the limit of town life. The telegraph and the cable unite the world into one great commercial and social brotherhood. It would require more space than we could spare even to mention briefly the wonders of modern invention and science. These are sufficient to suggest to us the power and possibility of mind when once developed."

But many of the invented conveniences made available to us today are more than an exhibit of the development of men's minds -- they may be talents, advantages divinely placed at the disposal of Christian laborers for which they must use wisely and well or forfeit all on the Day of Eternal Reward.

Beverly Carradine had a real respect for the potential of modern inventions that he saw in his day, and foresaw as coming after his passing. In "Revival Sermons" he penned: "In the last days, John says, there shall be seen an angel flying through the midst of the heavens having the everlasting gospel to preach. That angel is the church, for no one but men and women can preach the gospel. Moreover the church will be so full of love that it will look like an angel and so full of desire to reach all men that railroads and steamers will be too slow, and so it will invent swifter modes of travel and appear fairly flying."

No means, including the lightning transmissions of holiness truth via the Internet, is to fast for a heart that filled with such a degree of love for Christ that even 186,000 per second seems to be slower speed than is desired.

In the book, "For the Healing of the Nations," and under the chapter title, "The Healing Urge of the Church," David Hynd wrote of "The Call of Today":

"From the non-Christian lands of today comes a challenge to the healing urge of the Church that is pressing. The need is just as great as when the Church responded to Livingstone's call. The speed with which that call was answered was governed by the pace of the steamship and the ox wagon until recently. Now the speed is governed by the pace of the airplane and the motor car. When the writer responded to this call twenty-eight years ago, it took him three days by ox wagon to travel from one mission station in Swaziland to another. Now we can board an airplane in South Africa and in three days land in the United States, having traversed the length of Africa, part of Europe, and the Atlantic Ocean. Just as a few centuries ago the Church followed the explorers with the gospel message over the whole globe and has its missionaries in all lands, so now with these same lands brought to within a day's journey of our doors the challenge is to increase the pace of the evangelization of these needy lands."

7. PERSONAL COMPUTERS CAN BE USED TO ADVANCE CHRIST'S KINGDOM

I once read of a young, earnest, would-be soul-winner who was bed-fast, or at least "house-bound." He longed to witness for Christ, but could not leave the premises. He lived in a city in an upstairs dwelling, and his bed was near a window above the street. Finally, he hit upon a way to witness from his place of confinement. He wrote out scripture verses and/or some words of Christian testimony, then wrapped them around some pebbles that perhaps a family member brought to him, and then he cast them out of his open window onto the walk-way below. It was a novel "invention," but it worked! and in this way he improved the "talent" given him by Christ.

Some like myself, who no longer drive, and who are no longer able to circulate as once they could when young and healthy, can circumnavigate the globe in seconds via the Internet! In this means, it is possible for a house-bound invalid to wield a wider and greater influence than ever he, or she, could have when running about in full health! Never in my life have the perimeters of my physical movement about been so small as now! and yet never has the sphere of my influence been wider than now! How? Through the inventions of digital technology! I will say no more regarding my personal condition and circumstance.

Surely, however, thousands of individuals can, and perhaps SHOULD, USE THE COMPUTER with all of its potentials, RATHER than shun it and criticize those who do use it constructively, and for the glory of God. Selah.

* * *

Article #10
PEASE WITHOUT PEACE

Attached are two MIDIs of a sweet, old love song: darlingi.mid and silthred.mid = SILVER THREADS AMONG THE GOLD. It is not a spiritual song, but falls into the category of "Whatsoever things are lovely... if there be any virtue, if there be any praise; think on these things."

The song was written by Hart Pease Danks in 1873. Beneath are the words of the song, which you might want to follow as you listen to the MIDIs. But please read below the words of the song to learn of the sad ending of the writer of this dear old love song.

WORDS TO "SILVER THREADS AMONG THE GOLD"

1

Darling, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold
Shine upon my brow today,
Life is fading fast away.
But, my darling, you will be, will be,
Always young and fair to me,
Yes, my darling, you will be,
Always young and fair to me.

Chorus:

Darling, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold,
Shine upon my brow today,
Life is fading fast away.

2

When your hair is silver white,
And your cheeks no longer bright,
With the roses of the May,
I will kiss your lips and say:
Oh! my darling, mine alone, alone,
You have never older grown,
Yes, my darling, mine alone,
You have never older grown.

Chorus:

Darling, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold,
Shine upon my brow today,
Life is fading fast away.

3

Love can never more grow old.
Locks may lose their brown and gold,
Cheeks may fade and hollow grow,
But the hearts that love will know
Never, never, winter's frost and chill,
Summer warmth is in them still;
Never winter's frost and chill,
Summer warmth is in them still.

Chorus:

Darling, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold,
Shine upon my brow today,
Life is fading fast away.

4

Love is always young and fair.
What to us is silver hair,
Faded cheeks or steps grown slow,
To the heart that beats below?
Since I kissed you, mine alone, alone,
You have never older grown;
Since I kissed you, mine alone,
You have never older grown.

Chorus:

Darling, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold,
Shine upon my brow today,
Life is fading fast away.

And now... "The Rest of the Story" -- another story, entitled:

"IT'S HARD TO GROW OLD ALONE"

[Who wrote the lines below, I am not sure. -- DVM]

I once heard a pathetic story about Hart Pease Danks, author of the beautiful, old love song,
"Silver Threads Among the Gold."

In 1873 Mr. and Mrs. Danks, with their little brood of children were a most happy and devoted couple. Both were in their early 30's. Mr. Danks was a song-writer of growing reputation. They had beautiful dreams of going down the pathway of life and growing old together. It was in this environment that the inspiration for the song came to him. It became his masterpiece. He dedicated it to his wife.

But the bitter irony of the matter is the fact that marital discord came into the Danks household. Separation followed.

Mr. Danks died in 1903. He was found kneeling beside his bed. On an old copy of the famous song, he had written these words: "It's hard to grow old alone."

[End of the Story]

Apparently Pease died without Peace -- a sad reminder that, apart from Christ, the most tender and beautiful affections, the fondest hopes and wishes of the human heart, often pass away and are replaced, if not with bitterness, with an aching void. In the end, no Peace for Pease. His end stands in stark and sad contrast with "that man" written of in Psalm 37:37: "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." Selah.

* * *

Article #11

SOWING THE WIND -- REAPING THE WHIRLWIND!

Hosea 8:7 "They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."

**1. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "VIEWING EVIL"
AMERICA IS REAPING THE WHIRLWIND OF "DOING EVIL"!**

Here came Hollywood, here came TV -- with them, the masses began "viewing evil" as never before, and fast on the heels came massive increases in "doing evil"! No matter whether rotten and immoral pictures are graffiti on rest-room stalls, seductive ads on billboards, nude pictures in porno magazines, or stark nakedness in video and motion pictures -- **EVIL IMAGES ALWAYS PRODUCE EVIL ACTIONS!** Sow the wind of "viewing them" and you are certain to reap the whirlwind of "doing them"!

"Oh," you say, "I've seen lots of bad pictures, depicting things I have never done, and would never do!" Don't be so sure. "Monkey see, monkey do" is more than a humorous saying. All too often, it is a sadly, and badly, fulfilled prophecy! Yes, Christians with grace in their hearts can, and must, overcome the temptations that frequently come unbidden to their eyes in today's world. But they must not purposely view evil pictures. David said in Psalms 101:3 -- "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes ... it shall not cleave to me."

Evil sights have a way of "cleaving to the viewer," of coming back into view in the mind's eye with seducing power, sometimes long after they were beheld, and sometimes when a person's

legitimate natural appetites are strong. A child of God must sometimes forcibly resist their entrance into the mind and literally "shoo them away" with a strong exercise of the will and a fervent prayer for the Lord to drive them out of the mind. Why? Of course, because it is a sin to willingly allow them to linger -- but also because once a thing is seen, it often clearly and powerfully "cleaves to the memory" more indelibly than on any rest-room wall, film, page, or digital graphic file -- these can be painted over, burned, or destroyed, but once an evil picture is recorded on the human mind it can, and often does, remain vivid for multiplied decades!

How much more powerful, then, is the effect of evil pictures upon the mind of those who consent with delight to view and remember them! "Sowing that wind" once by willingly viewing even one immoral picture is absolutely certain to produce a "whirlwind of evil thoughts and actions" down the line! Satan says it won't -- God knows it does! Therefore, ancient Israel was commanded regarding the invasion and occupation of Canaan: "Ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and DESTROY ALL THEIR PICTURES, and DESTROY ALL THEIR MOLTEN IMAGES, and quite pluck down all their high places." (Numbers 33:52)

"Destroy their pictures -- destroy their images," because the very sight of them would inevitably produce evil thoughts and actions!

To the prophet, the Lord said in Ezekiel 8:8-10 "Son of man... Go in, and BEHOLD THE WICKED ABOMINATIONS THAT THEY DO here. So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, PORTRAYED UPON THE WALL round about."

Please note in the above, the ABOMINATIONS THAT THEY DID, were the same ABOMINATIONS THAT THEY PICTURED ON THEIR WALL! Away with the Satan-inspired notion that people can willingly look at evil pictures without committing wicked acts! What people see -- affects what people think -- and what people think, is what people are sure to do! Willingly look at immorality pictured, and soon you will be immoral!

The massive increase in evil-doing in America is directly connected with the massive increase in evil-viewing -- steadily increasing from the time motion pictures and "talkies" became a popular form of entertainment, and on up through the successive introductions of TV, porno publications, vile videos, and yes, filth on the Internet, before the masses of our nation and around the globe. He who denies the direct connection between willingly seeing evil in these ways and doing evil in these days is either blind, naive, or dishonest. They have a direct and easily discerned connection!

After sowing the wind of viewing, Americans are now reaping the whirlwind of evil-doing that has school-teachers, law-enforcement officers, mayors, governors, congressmen, and presidents shocked and bewildered about what is happening all over the nation!

2. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "EVOLUTION"
AMERICA IS REAPING THE WHIRLWIND OF "SUICIDES"!

Sow the wind of convincing people that life did not originate with God, and you will reap the whirlwind of suicide by those who feel that life has no meaning. People begin to think: we came from nothing, we are nothing, there is nothing for which to live, life is meaningless, and death ends it all, we're tired of the rat-race, so we'll just end it all. Now we have Dr. (Death) Krivorkian, and people clamoring for the right to kill themselves!

3. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "SPIRITUAL LAW-BREAKING" AMERICA IS REAPING THE WHIRLWIND OF "CIVIL LAW-BREAKING"!

Junk the Bible, sow the idea in people's minds that we have no God and no laws of God to obey, no higher power to which we must give an account, and you inevitably reap the whirlwind of people thinking that they have no human authority to obey either. Those who throw out the Bible, God's Authority and God's Law, will soon throw out all Human Authority and Human Laws as well. There is a direct connection between the massive rejection of God and His Law with the massive increase of crime in our nation!!!! Make people spiritual law-breakers and they will soon be social criminals as well!!! Those who defy God and His Law will soon defy every law of the land that they cannot repeal along the road of getting what they want!

4. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "ABORTION" AMERICA IS REAPING THE WHIRLWIND OF "MASS-MURDERS"!

Abortion violates the sanctity of human life. If the beginning of life has no sanctity, then its continuance has none either. If the unborn can be slain with impunity, then the partially born can be killed as well, and if the partially born can be murdered, then those who are fully born can be eliminated with no guilt attached!

It is the violation of life's sanctity at its very beginning that brings on all of the whirlwind of disregard for human life right down the chain! With very few exceptions, most of which involve the protection of innocent ones or the execution of murderers, all taking of human life -- from beginning to end -- is wrong!

Sow the wind of getting people confused about this, to where they think its all right to butcher the unborn and partially born (simply to rid themselves of the results of their immoral acts), and the sanctity of life right on down the chain gets blurred. Even frustrated anti-abortionists get confused and begin to think that it is all right to murder abortionists!

Another result stemming from sowing the wind of abortion is the reaping of the whirlwind of mass-murders. Oh yes, there were a few mass-murderers who shocked our nation before Roe vs. Wade, but the vast majority of mass-murders have occurred since abortion was legalized at the national level. There is a direct connection between the increase of one and the increase of the other.

5. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "DEBAUCHERY" AMERICA IS REAPING THE WIND OF "DISEASE"

After the winds of the new-morality, properly labeled the old-immorality, have come the whirlwinds of disease, AIDS being only one of them, that are sweeping the globe. New, and vaccine-defying viruses are springing up all over the world! Oh yes, there were massive flu and polio epidemics in past decades and eras. But look at the history: The breakdown in piety that hit our nation when "Johnny came marching home again" after WW1 was followed by a flu plague (correct me if I'm wrong), and when "G. I. Joe" came back from WW2 there was a huge increase in immorality followed by a scary epidemic of polio (Infantile Paralysis).

I remember how the polio epidemic hit our nation then. I was a lad of 10-11 years old. People were being crippled, dying like flies, some in iron lungs. A neighbor lady of only 38 years was one of its victims -- it scared me! Recent increases in immoral debauchery have been followed by plagues that are but the portent, the ominous sign, of worse to follow. During that time, I was going to picture shows, and they had a before-the-show feature called "PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS" -- samples of what would soon be seen completely.

To put it in folksy language: Let me tell you something folks -- WE AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET! The moral rottenness that is spreading like a putrefaction through the debauched body of America (and all around the globe) has thus far brought on only the brief PREVIEWS OF COMING DISTRACTIONS! Before its over, AIDS will look like the measles compared with the diseases that will strike our nation and the world community.

What is the connection between Immoral Debauchery and Coming Plagues? I personally think that there will be, in many if not most cases, some physical, biological trigger that is pulled by immoral acts that produces the diseases. But whether there is such a physical connection or not, often there is, and will be, a spiritual connection between immoral behavior and God's turning loose of plagues on smutted humanity. I look for increased epidemics of powerful new viruses to strike the world as rotten immorality increases world-wide.

6. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "LIES" AMERICA IS REAPING THE WHIRLWIND OF MURDEROUS "PARANOID DISTRUST"

One of the worst things a US president can do is lie to the American people and get away with it. Perhaps even worse than vile behavior in our nation's once-White House, is for one who is supposed to exemplify uprightness and ethics to lie -- and then get away with it. It sends a signal that lying is OK -- what matters is that you should be clever enough to "beat the rap".

One justification for lying about marital unfaithfulness that was brought out during the Monica Lewinski scandal was that "everyone lies about such affairs."

It is a fact that all across America, and world-wide, millions of people are lying as never before: children lying to parents and other adults and vice versa, husbands and wives lying one to the other, co-habitors lying one to the other, employers lying to employees and vice versa, elected officials lying to their constituents, politicians lying to the voters, sellers lying to buyers and vice versa, businesses lying to customers and the reverse, preachers lying to their members and the opposite, lying under oath in court, lying in casual conversation, lying to enemies, lying to friends -- lying, lying, lying -- all around the nation and globe the wind of lying is sown.

While the wind of lying is sown, our nation and world community reaps the whirlwind of paranoid distrust. Doubting the veracity and integrity of others is a direct result of lying. Naiveté is never in order, and having as well as using a certain amount of savvy is always best, but the current epidemic of lying has brought on a whirlwind of paranoid distrust -- a sickness that causes some people to think there is a conspiracy in everything that happens, and that they are being lied to and cheated on every hand: -- wackos bomb Federal buildings and become so-called militiamen, lovers shoot partners whom they suspect of cheating on them, insurance companies spend multiplied millions to discover and prevent fraudulent claims and pass the expense on to their policy holders. With so many people lying and cheating these days, some people fear to trust anyone, and many "go off the deep end" and commit some awful crime of passion because they think or know themselves to have been victimized by lying. Paranoid distrust is the direct result of lying!

7. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "GREED" AMERICA WILL REAP THE WHIRLWIND OF "POVERTY"

Greed always brings poverty. While grasping for one thing, the greedy person always loses something of far greater value. Often the greedy ones, having obtained that for which they grasp, are quite unconscious of their greater loss until it is too late.

To the Laodiceans, Jesus said in Revelation 3:17 "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." In becoming wealthy, they had become impoverished of the true and eternal riches.

Internet trading is a new and growing mania. Money-Talk shows are popular today -- people with a little nest-egg want to turn it into millions, and many of them are. Financial wizards and gurus are probably more widely listened to on week-ends now than are radio preachers. People are becoming experts in investments and profit-making.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are being lavished upon sports heroes, who in turn demand more and more millions. Joe-Six-Pack cashes his paycheck and the first bills spent out of the take-home-pay are often for lottery tickets with an eye toward getting rich quick. The gambling craze has become a national mania, making addicts out of many and totally bankrupting others.

A rancher near us who lived but a short distance from an Indian-Tribe Gambling casino had acquired a nice ranch and a nest-egg of about \$250,000.00. He began to visit the casino to gamble, became addicted, and finally lost his whole nest-egg, possibly his ranch too, and on top of that he ran up huge debts on credit cards while trying to "get lucky" and win back his losses. He ended up committing suicide, leaving his wife a widow holding the bag for his gambling debts!

He sowed the wind of Greed, and reaped the whirlwind of Poverty! But more often, the greedy are impoverished by the loss of intangible things, which are eternally forfeited for temporal gain: -- Greed for Gold, loss of God -- Greed for Possessions, loss of the Pearl of Great Price -- Greed for Power, loss of Peace -- Greed for Position, loss of Character -- Greed for Fame, loss of

Humility -- Greed for Honor, loss of Self-respect -- Greed for Secular Knowledge, loss of Spiritual Knowledge -- Greed for earthly Achievement, loss of heavenly Investment -- Greed for a long, pleasant retirement, loss of eternal rest and joy in Heaven.

All who die while sowing the wind of temporal Greed shall reap the whirlwind of eternal Poverty.

8. AMERICA HAS SOWN THE WIND OF "PRIVILEGE" AMERICA WILL REAP THE WHIRLWIND OF "PRIVATION"

No nation on the earth has been more given to asserting its rights and privileges than has America, but there is coming a time, and perhaps that not far off, when our nation shall reap the whirlwind of national privation. And that privation and loss of liberty may be more painful than that yet suffered by any other nation.

President Dwight David Eisenhower once made a statement that I have never forgotten: "A NATION THAT VALUES ITS PRIVILEGES ABOVE ITS PRINCIPLES SOON LOSES BOTH."

The young, upstart Americans who are now asserting themselves and taking over our national reins certainly do value their privileges above their principles:

(1) It is their Privilege, they assert, to indulge in sexual pleasure and exterminate the results of their acts.

(2) It is their Privilege, they assert, to burn the flag or wear it on the seat of their britches.

(3) It is their Privilege, they assert, to deny the existence of God, denounce their country, debase their forefathers, deride the decent, deviate in sexual preference, describe their body parts in language that would make the devil blush, and demand their life-style be considered acceptable, no matter how debauched and perverse.

(4) It is their Privilege, they assert, to be, to say, or to do, anything they wish so long as it "doesn't hurt" (as they think) anyone else.

(5) It is their Privilege, they assert, to be taken care of by Uncle Sam -- forgetting that a government that is big enough to give you all you want is also a government that is big enough to take all you have.

Whether from within, from without, or from above, -- they in our nation who are so vociferously declaring their "Constitutional Rights," their Privileges as American citizens (or as Wet-Back Aliens), will one day painfully discover, and perhaps too late, the truth of Eisenhower's prophetic statement: "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."

We have already arrived at the first part of that statement. The prophetic fulfillment of the latter part thereof is impending....

But that prophecy has a more ominous fulfillment, because all who sow the wind of privilege in this life, asserting it to be their right to be, to say, and to do, whatever they wish, with no regard for God and His commandments, shall reap the eternal whirlwind of privation in the prison-house of hell, in the penitentiary of perdition, and in the pain of the lake of fire.

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Article #12

A WORD YOU MAY BE USING THAT IS NOT REALLY A WORD

For what it's worth...

AN OFT-USED WORD THAT IS NOT A WORD -- I thought I would pass this on. I am now doing editing on the "Autobiography of Peter Cartwright, The Backwoods Preacher," and in so doing I have been repeatedly coming upon a word that is often used among religious people, particularly among those who are jealous of their members.

What is that word? -- PROSELYTING -- a word that you may have spoken and written many times, but a word that really is not a word in the English language.

PROSELYTE is a legitimate word, though it speaks of a person or an action that is looked down upon by most.

PROSELYTING is not a legitimate word, though many, with disdain, have been accused of doing such. He who accuses another of being guilty of PROSELYTING is, in fact, himself guilty of using a non-existent word!

One can BE A PROSELYTE, but one CANNOT PROSELYTE, for when the word is used as a verb it takes on a different ending.

One who goes out (religiously speaking) to "steal sheep," i.e. church members, goes out to PROSELYTIZE, not to PROSELYTE. The sheep he steals is a PROSELYTE, but the action is to PROSELYTIZE, or, putting it differently, is to be PROSELYTIZING, and I suppose the correct designation for the person doing it is PROSELYTIZER, although I have not seen this term in the dictionary.

To sum up: A PROSELYTE is a "stolen sheep" or church member, who was thus made to be by the act of PROSELYTIZING, not PROSELYTING, and stolen by a PROSELYTIZER, not a PROSELYTER.

Feel dumb? -- i.e. stupid? Well, I will just say this much about myself in regard to that common mistake: I had preached a number of years, and used the non-existent word, PROSELYTING, a number of times myself before I learned that while I was vocally disdaining PROSELYTERS and PROSELYTING, I was at the same time displaying my ignorance of the true terms.

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Article #13

DISGRACE -- NOT GRACE -- FILLS OUR LAND

(KJV) Proverbs 18:3 "When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with IGNOMINY REPROACH."

(NIV) Proverbs 18:3 "When wickedness comes, so does contempt, and with SHAME comes DISGRACE."

Several months after our President's ignominious behavior in the Whitehouse, and after he DISGRACED our nation with immoral debauchery similar to that of Absalom in "a tent upon the top of the house" of David "in the sight of all Israel" (2 Samuel 16:22), -- yes, after this open SHAME and DISGRACE -- I heard him declare in a public statement that his vile acts were all forgiven through the "unmerited GRACE" of God! -- a statement that no doubt reflected his Baptist belief that no matter how vile his behavior, it was all covered by the free, undeserved Grace of God, because he was, of all things, a child of God!

However, the Bible declares that "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but SIN IS A REPROACH to any people" (Proverbs 14:34) -- be they either Presidents or mere residents of a nation.

Acts of immorality and debauchery, especially when they are public, do not exalt the GRACE OF GOD, but rather they exalt the DISGRACE OF ANY MAN OR NATION! The suave and charismatic Absalom exalted his disgrace to the housetop of Israel's "Whitehouse" -- counting it an honor to do so, and in a similar perversion of moral rectitude, our President felt that both himself and the grace of God were exalted by his hog-swill debauchery committed in the Whitehouse.

But when and where has the grace of God ever been truly exalted through its divine bestowal upon an impenitent rogue who, without one ounce of remorse, flings the filth of his wallowing upon those who dare to call him to account? Does he inherit the unmerited grace of God, and come off smelling like a rose, who angrily casts the stench of his rotten behavior upon those who have exposed it? -- branding them, and not himself, as evil?

Nay, "SIN IS A REPROACH" to one who commits it -- not to the light-bearers who expose it! The Hebrew word translated above in the KJV of Prov. 18:3 as "IGNOMINY" -- and in the NIV as "SHAME" -- is "KAW-LONE" -- is defined by Strong's thus (caps mine): 7036. qalown, kaw-lone'; from H7034; disgrace; (by impl.) the pudenda:--CONFUSION, dishonour, ignominy, reproach, shame.

When KAW-LONE, IGNOMINY, is pawned off as something that exalts the grace of God, then there is always CONFUSION about what is right and what is wrong. In a palpable state of impenitence, for our President to declare that his filthy behavior exalts the grace of God, is to sow

great confusion in the minds of both young and old! It is to DEIFY THE DIRTY AND VILIFY THE VIRTUOUS!

Just last night, in a news report telling of Ken Starr's departure as special prosecutor, it was said that to some extent he would always be remembered as one "vilified" -- as if he were the skunk that brought us national disgrace, and our play-boy president was his victim!

Never! in the history of America has one so smutted the reputation of our nation as B.C. -- and yet he is now portrayed as the virtuous victim of the evil Ken Starr! It is an UTTER KAW-LONE CONFUSION of truth! The bad guys are now the good guys, and the good guys are the villains!

But hear the Divine sentence on all such perversion in Isaiah 5:20: -- "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

WHEN GOD SAYS "WOE" He is pulling on the reins, and WE HAD BETTER STOP! But oblivious of all impending consequences, our polluted national leader, and our nation rush headlong down the highway of eternal disgrace and destruction!

At the turn of the Millennium, "B.C" shall have divided the millennia Before Christ's birth from the 2000 years following His arrival. But if Jesus tarries, it would appear that another "B.C." could mark the moral condition of our nation "BEFORE CLINTON" from that following his arrival in Washington -- the former being relatively pure in comparison with the obscenity and vile turpitude corrupting our nation after "B.C."

"One bad-apple will spoil the barrel" if not removed, but removed it is not! -- and now the resulting moral rottenness is spreading so far and so fast that God will soon have no other recourse than to throw the whole barrel into the eternal Ghenna Garbage Dump, where the worm dieth not and the fires are not quenched -- far from his presence, where the stench of its vile fumes will never reach the nostrils of those in the Holy City!

Eternity will have a different watershed: not "B.C." but "B.C.C.A." -- BEFORE CHRIST CAME AGAIN! -- dividing the moral rottenness of this world, from the pristine purity of the world to come. In That Day, woe unto them who fall on the wrong side of this great divide! and woe unto all who those who have been "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness," (Jude 1:4), calling "evil good, and good evil"; putting "darkness for light, and light for darkness;" and putting "bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

On that great and dreadful Day of the Lord, HIM THAT SITS IN THE WHITEHOUSE will be replaced by HIM THAT SITS ON THE WHITE HORSE! Then, the present moral KAW-LONE and CONFUSION shall be done away. It shall be clearly seen that B-efore C-hrist C-ame A-gain, the evil were wrongly exalted and the righteous unjustly debased, but after His Second Arrival true moral rectitude shall be eternally restored. God's great Dragnet shall draw all to the shore of Eternal Judgment. Christ's Holy Angels shall "gather the good into vessels, but cast the bad away." And when they thus "sever the wicked from among the just," (Mark 13:48-49) we can be sure that

each shall go eternally into his proper abode -- never again to be mis-identified of as something he or she is not, and never again to suffer or enjoy the wrong reward.

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II -- OUTLINES

These are Sermon Outlines from my large collection created across a number of years, and bound in 3-hole notebooks. Usually, I did not note the date and location these messages were preached, and thus no attempt will be made to give this information in the digital publications. But it is the content of a message and not its history that gives it value. It is not my plan to present in these outlines much more than the bare framework and the accompanying Scriptures -- enough to convey the basics thoughts of each message. It is hoped that the preachers who have occasion to use the outlines, or thoughts therefrom, will add their own details into the outlines, and find them to be helpful "thought provokers" and "sermon starters" that will be used of the Lord to assist them in bringing timely truth to their hearers. -- DVM

Conversion to Wrap Text caused subpoints to lose their indentation. For now, I have decided to simply indent all subpoints 1 tab. Maybe we will reset all the indentations where they should be at some future date. -- DVM

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Outline #1

FIVE ASPECTS OF THE PERSUASION TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:11 "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."

Luke 16:31 "And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

Romans 8:38 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,"

TEXT: Acts 26:28 "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

INTRODUCTION

The Greek word "peitho" is variously translated as: "persuade" -- "obey" -- "believe".

Let us note in this message the following five aspects of the persuasion to become a Christian:

(1) The Elements of Persuasion

- (2) The Election of Persuasion
- (3) The Elimination of Persuasion
- (4) The Eleventh Hour of Persuasion
- (5) The Elevation of Persuasion

I. THE ELEMENTS OF PERSUASION

A. First Element: THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 16:29-31 "Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

1. A Sad Fate awaits those who are not Persuaded by the Gospel, God's Word: The word "obey" in the following verse is "apeitho": 1 Peter 4:17 "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" [them that are not persuaded by the gospel]

2. Paul Persuaded Men by Using God's Word: Acts 28:23-24 "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. 24 And some believed [were persuaded by] the things which were spoken, and some believed not [were not persuaded]."

3. God's Word Persuades us both of the Love of God, and of the Terror of the Lord:

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:11 "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."

B. Second Element: THE WOOINGS AND WORK OF THE SPIRIT:

1. James 3:3 "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey [be persuaded of] us; and we turn about their whole body."

2. The "Bits" which the Holy Spirit uses to persuade us to turn about from going toward hell to going toward heaven:

(a) Conviction: Acts 26:9-15 "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and

compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. 12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. 14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

(b) Testimony of Former Rebels: Acts 26:22 "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come."

(c) Preaching and Personal Probing: Acts 26:27-28 "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. 28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

(d) Living the Book: 1 Peter 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives."

C. The Third Element: THE WILL OF MAN -- This leads us into the next thought:

II. THE ELECTION OF PERSUASION

A. We "Will" (or Elect) to be persuaded, or not persuaded: How true, the Old Saying: "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still!"

1. Acts 21:14 "And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done."

2. Luke 16:31 "And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

Even a preacher freshly resurrected from the dead could not persuade some to believe the gospel, who would not be persuaded!

B. As a trainer who eventually removes the bit from the mouth of a horse that will never stop bucking, that will not be broken, even so, God will eventually remove the bits of the Holy Spirit from the stubborn, finally impenitent sinner's life, and consign him to destruction. The fate of an unbroken horse may be a bullet to the head and a hauling of the carcass to the glue-factory; the fate of a headstrong sinner is hell.

III. THE ELIMINATION OF PERSUASION

A. If we Elect to be persuaded and become a Christian, we will ELIMINATE ALL SIN.

B. If, on the other hand, we Elect not to be persuaded to become a Christian, we will ELIMINATE ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

C. Notice the two different types of Election and Resulting Elimination in this passage:

Acts 17:4-5 [TYPE ONE] "And some of them believed [were persuaded], and consorted with Paul and Silas [eliminated evil company]; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. [TYPE TWO]5 But the Jews which believed not [would not be persuaded], moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company [eliminated holy company], and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people."

D. We Must Eliminate One Persuasion or The Other -- can't remain on the fence.

1. Romans 4:21 "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

2. Romans 14:5 "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

3. Galatians 5:7 "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey [be persuaded of] the truth?"

4. Hebrews 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

IV. THE ELEVENTH HOUR OF PERSUASION

A. Acts 26:28 "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, ALMOST thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

B. 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."

C. Hebrews 3:19 "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief [because they were not persuaded].

*Illus: "When after safely circumnavigating the globe, the ship 'Royal Charter' went to pieces in Moelfra Bay, on the coast of Wales, it was my melancholy duty, as a minister, to comfort the wife of the First Officer (who was by that calamity a widow). The ship had been telegraphed from Queenstown, and she (the wife of the First Officer) was sitting in the parlor expecting her husband, with the table spread for his evening meal, when the messenger came to tell her he was drowned. Never can I forget the grief... with which she wrung my hand as she said: 'SO NEAR HOME, AND YET LOST!'"

"Once to every man and nation

Comes the moment to decide
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good, or evil side;
Hear the Voice of God's Messiah,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
Part the goats upon the left hand,
And the sheep upon the right;
And the Choice goes by forever,
Twixt that Darkness, and that Light!"

V. THE ELEVATION OF PERSUASION

A. Persuasions involving our destiny will either Eternally Degradate us or Eternally Elevate us. -- The choice is ours, but not the consequences of our choice:

1. Satan's Followers who would not be persuaded will be DEBASED INTO THE PIT OF HELL: Matthew 11:23 "And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day."

2. God's Persuaded Pilgrims will be ELEVATED INTO THE HEAVENLY CITY: Hebrews 11:13, 16 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth... 16 "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

"And the choice goes by forever,
Twixt that Darkness and that Light."

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Outline #2

SEVEN ABSOLUTE MUSTS FOR ENTERING THE KINGDOM

TEXT: Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

I. TURNING FROM SIN is a absolute MUST.

A. Matthew 18:3 1. Except ye be "converted" -- ("strepho" to turn quite around, or reverse) -- ye shall not enter into the kingdom."

B. The following and other quotations from: "I Am Resolved" by Palmer Hartsough

"I am resolved to enter the Kingdom,
Leaving the paths of sin;

Friends may oppose me, foes may be set me,
Still will I enter in."

II. GOING THROUGH THE STRAIT GATE is an absolute MUST.

A. Luke 13:23-24 "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

B. Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

"I am resolved no longer to linger,
Charmed by the world's delight;
Things that are nobler, things that are purer,
These have allured my sight."

III. BEING BORN AGAIN is an absolute MUST.

A. John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... 3 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

IV. BEING SANCTIFIED WHOLLY is an absolute MUST.

A. Revelation 21:27 "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

"I am resolved to follow the Saviour,
Faithful and true each day,
Heed what he saith, do what he willeth,
He is the living way."

V. DOING GOD'S WILL is an absolute MUST.

A. Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

B. Matthew 5:20 "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

C. Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

D. Matthew 19:17 "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

E. Matthew 23:2-3 "Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

VI. GIVING UP ALL is an absolute Must.

A. Matthew 19:17 "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

B. Matthew 19:20-22 "The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

C. Matthew 19:24 "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

VII. ENDURING MUCH TRIBULATION is an absolute MUST.

A. Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

B. Words from "It's Not An Easy Road" (I do not have the author's name at present):

"It's not an easy road we are traveling to heaven,
For many are the thorns on the way;
It's not an easy road, but the Saviour is with us,
His presence gives us joy every day.

"It's not an easy road, there are trials and troubles,
And many are the dangers we meet;
But Jesus guards and guides us, so that nothing can harm us,
And smooths the rugged path for our feet.

Chorus:

"No, no, it's not an easy road;
No, no, it's not an easy road;
But Jesus walks beside me, and brightens the journey,
And lightens every heavy load.

C. Matthew 10:22 "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

D. Matthew 24:12-13 "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

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Outline #3

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE SAVED

TEXT: Acts 16:23-30 "And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Introduction: Who can be saved: Matthew 19:25 "When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?" All men can be saved, not just a predestined few: 1 Timothy 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." But one must love and receive the truth to be saved: 2 Thessalonians 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." One must receive the gospel truth concerning "What It Takes To Be Saved".

I. IT TAKES THE REALIZATION THAT ONE IS LOST in order to be saved.

A. The Philippian Jailor: Singing put him to sleep -- Shaking awakened him to his need: "Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking..."

II. IT TAKES THE REQUEST FOR LIGHT in order to be saved.

A. Verse 29 -- "Then he called for a light..."

B. Those Rejecting Light on Salvation cannot be saved:

2 Thessalonians 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

John 3:19-21 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

III. IT TAKES A REVERSAL OF DIRECTION in order to be saved.

A. Psalms 80:3 "Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved."

B. Psalms 80:7 "Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved."

C. Psalms 80:19 "Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved."

IV. IT TAKES A RETURNING TO GOD in order to be saved.

A. Isaiah 30:15 "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not."

B. Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

V. IT TAKES THE REMOVAL OF EVIL in order to be saved.

A. Jeremiah 4:14 "O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?"

VI. IT TAKES THE REQUEST FOR SALVATION in order to be saved.

A. Acts 2:21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

B. Jeremiah 17:14 "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise."

VII. IT TAKES A RELIANCE UPON CHRIST in order to be saved.

A. Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

1. Must trust in Christ alone -- not in one of His angels: 2 Chronicles 32:21-22 "And the LORD sent an angel...22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah..."

2. Must trust in Christ alone -- not in Moses or the Law: Acts 15:1 "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."

3. Must trust in Christ alone -- not in a proud self-salvation: Judges 7:2 "And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me."

VIII. IT TAKES THE RENEWING OF THE HOLY GHOST in order to be saved.

A. True Salvation always brings a New Birth: Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

B. Galatians 6:15 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."

C. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

IX. IT TAKES A REMAINING IN CHRIST in order to be saved.

A. Isaiah 45:17 "But Israel shall be saved -- in the LORD -- with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end."

B. John 15:6 "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

C. 2 John 1:9 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

D. Mark 13:13 "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

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Outline #4

HOW THE WILL OF THE LORD IS DONE

Scripture Reading: James 4:13-15 "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

TEXT: Acts 21:14 "And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done."

I. The Will of the Lord is done by DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY.

A. Psalms 115:3 "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

B. Therefore: "Ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." (James 4:15)

C. Romans 9:16 "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."

II. The Will of the Lord is done by HUMAN SURRENDER.

A. Nothing can alter God's Permissive Will, but men do alter God's Perfect Will. Absolute surrender to His Perfect is demanded before one can be saved.

*Illus: A. When a surrendering French officer extended his hand to Admiral Nelson, the Admiral demanded: "First, give me your sword."

B. Jesus was an Example of total surrender to God's Perfect Will:

1. Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

2. Matthew 26:39 "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

B. The Proud Saul had to surrender to Christ: Acts 9:6 "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

III. The Will of the Lord is done by BRINGING SALVATION.

A. Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."

B. 1 Timothy 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

C. 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

IV. The Will of the Lord is done by SANCTIFYING BELIEVERS WHOLLY.

A. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

B. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

C. Hebrews 10:10 "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

V. The Will of the Lord is done by SELF-SACRIFICE.

A. 2 Corinthians 8:5 "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

B. Acts 21:13-14 "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. 14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done."

C. Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

*Illus: King Xerxes of Persia was fleeing from his enemy and got on board a boat. Many Persians leaped into the same boat, causing it to begin to sink. Whereupon, someone said: "Are you not willing to make a sacrifice for your king?" Then, the majority of the king's warriors who were in the boat leaped overboard and were drowned in order to save their king.

VI. The Will of the Lord is done by PATIENT SUFFERING.

A. Hebrews 10:36 "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

B. 1 Peter 3:17 "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."

VII. The Will of the Lord is done by WISE SERVANTS.

A. Wise because they see the eternal recompence of doing God's Will: 1 John 2:17 "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

B. Wise with "the rest of their time" after conversion: 1 Peter 4:2 "That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

C. Wise because their lives confound all arguments against Christ: 1 Peter 2:15 "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

D. Wise because they serve Christ, not men: 6:6 "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;"

CONCLUSION:

The Spirit "maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:27)
In each of the above mentioned ways of doing the will of the Lord, the Spirit says:

"This is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.' (1 Thessalonians 5:18) ...
Remember -- I am Sovereign; you must Surrender; I'll bring Salvation; I'll Sanctify you Wholly; I want your Self-Sacrifice; I ordain Patient Suffering; be a Wise Servant. Do God's will now, from the Heart -- Abide Forever."

Other Scriptures That Could Be Used In This Message:

Mark 3:35 "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

John 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

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Outline #5

REMOVED BY THE KING

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 18:13 "Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people."

Proverbs 10:30 "The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth."

TEXT: Acts 13:22 "And when he had removed him [Saul], he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."

I. WHICH MEN ARE REMOVED BY GOD

A. Leaders of this world sometimes remove good men -- Saul removed David.

1. David prayed in Psalms 36:11 "Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me." -- Yet at times, in this world, God allows the righteous to be removed from power.

B. Eventually GOD does the removing -- and then the wicked will be removed.

1. Acts 13:21 "By the space of forty years," Saul stayed in power, but the very next verse says that God "removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king..."

II. WHY MEN ARE REMOVED BY GOD

A. Lamentations 1:8 "Jerusalem hath grievously SINNED; THEREFORE SHE IS REMOVED: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward."

1. Jerusalem Turned Bare, and Turned Backward: "They have seen her nakedness... she sigheth, and turneth backward."

2. Saul was removed because he Turned Back: 1 Samuel 15:11 "It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments."

B. Men are removed because they won't return:

1. Jeremiah 4:1 "If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove."

2. If men would return, God would remove sin instead of removing them. David himself turned back from following the Lord, but later returned to the Lord. He was not removed, and with the multitude of returned backsliders could say, "as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed (not us, but) our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103:12)

III. WHERE MEN ARE REMOVED

A. From the Earth: -- Proverbs 10:30 "The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth."

B. Far Off From Peace: -- Lamentations 3:17 "And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity."

C. Out of the Heavenly Judgment Scene, Into Hell: -- Hebrews 12:26-27 "Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

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Outline #6

WHY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEATH TO HOLD CHRIST CAPTIVE

Scripture: Judges 16:9 "Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known."

Judges 16:12 "Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread."

TEXT: Acts 2:24 "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

It was impossible for death to hold Christ captive:

I. BECAUSE THE POWER OF GOD IS GREATER THAN DEATH!

A. Can't hold back a diesel truck with one strand of thread!

B. God's Power in Christ: -- Life stronger than death; Light stronger than darkness; Love stronger than hate; Faith stronger than doubt; Truth stronger than falsehood; Good stronger than evil; Heaven stronger than hell.

II. BECAUSE THE PENALTY OF GOD WAS PAID!

A. Romans 6:7-9 "For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him."

B. Christ died "once" to satisfy sin's penalty: -- Suppose a criminal was executed for his crime, then was buried, but arose from the dead. Could he be legally bound and re-executed? No, because his debt to society would already have been paid.

III. BECAUSE THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE TRUE

A. Hebrews 6:18 "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"

1. Because it was impossible for God to lie, it was also impossible for death to hold Christ captive. And again, because it is impossible for God to lie, all of Christ's finally triumphant followers shall have a glad resurrection and a glorious share in His Eternal Bliss.

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Outline #7

THINGS WHICH BELIEVERS SHARE IN COMMON

Text 1: Acts 2:44 "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;"

Text 2: Acts 4:32 "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

I. A COMMON SALVATION

A. Jude 1:3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

II. A COMMON FAITH

A. Titus 1:4 "To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour."

III. A COMMON TEMPTATION

A. 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

IV. A COMMON CLEANSING

A. 1 John 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

B. Acts 10:13-15 "And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

1. The same Blood of Christ cleanses Jews, Gentiles, all men, everywhere!

V. A COMMON FELLOWSHIP

A. Acts 2:44 "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;"

B. Acts 4:32 "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

C. Acts 10:28 "And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

D. 1 Corinthians 10:3-4 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

E. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

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Outline #8

THE PURPOSE OF PENTECOSTAL POWER

Scripture: Judges 14:5-6 "Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. 6 And the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done."

Judges 14:19 "And the spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house."

Judges 15:14 "And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands."

TEXT: Acts 1:6-8 "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

INTRODUCTION

Samson received power "after that the Holy Ghost was come upon him"! It was supernatural power -- "thou hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth."

The Purpose of Samson's baptism of Divine power was "to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines." (Judges 13:5)

The Purpose for which Pentecostal Power is poured out is, not to give believers physical or political strength. Paul wrote: "When I am weak, then am I strong," and Jesus told him: "My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 13:9-10)

What? then, is the Purpose of Pentecostal "Power from on High"? (Lu. 24:49)

The Purpose of Pentecost Power is:

I. TO PURIFY THE HEARTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A. 1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"

1. The Power Samson received was mighty, but it did not purify his heart:

(a) From Lust: Judges 14:1-2 "And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife."

Judges 16:1-4 "Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. 2 And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. 3 And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron. 4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah."

(b) From Carnal Anger: Judges 14:19 "And the spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house."

Judges 15:11 "Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them."

(c) From Carnal Revenge: Judges 16:28 "And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

The Purpose of Pentecost Power is:

II. TO ENABLE GOD'S PEOPLE TO OVERCOME THEIR ENEMIES

A. Samson's enemies were flesh and blood enemies. The enemies of the Christian are spiritual: -- Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

B. Spiritual Strength is necessary to overcome spiritual foes -- not necessarily physical strength.

C. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost makes the Christian spiritually "strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (Ephesians 6:10)

The Purpose of Pentecost Power is:

III. TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST

A. Acts 1:8 "But YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and YE SHALL BE WITNESSES unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

B. Samson Spoke in Riddles -- Paul, baptized with inward, spiritual power, said: "I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." (1 Corinthians 14:19)

C. Samson slew 1000 men with a "New Jawbone" (Judges 15:15); Peter convinced 3000 with a "New, Sanctified Tongue" (Mark 16:17)

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Outline #9

CHRIST, OUR TREASURE-FIELD

[This is actually a short article, but a preacher or teacher might take the outline, and develop from it additional, or different, thoughts.]

Scripture: Mt. 13:44 -- "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

TEXT: Col. 2:2-3 -- "Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

God has hidden all of the treasures of knowledge in Christ, especially the treasure of the "knowledge of salvation". -- Luke 1:77 May we not conclude, then, that the "treasure" in Matthew 13:44 is particularly "the treasure of the knowledge of salvation"? For, it is this treasure which, when found, ushers one into "the kingdom of heaven." Further, consider the following interpretations of the above parable:

(1) THE TREASURE-FIELD IS CHRIST. It is the territory within the boundaries of Christ which comprises "the ground of the truth," the field wherein one may find the treasure of salvation. It is only when one comes into the presence of Christ, the field, that the hidden treasure of salvation can be discovered. There is none other name, none other field, in which genuine salvation can be found.

The concept of Christ as a field is not as new or "different" as it may strike some. The prophet Micah apparently equates the term "portion" with "field" when he wrote: "He hath changed the portion of my people... he hath divided our fields." And David apparently contrasted the Lord with an earthly field or portion when he wrote: "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance." -- Micah 2:4; Ps. 16:5

Again along this line of thought, the "holy ground" upon which Moses stood at the burning bush was the ground within the sphere of the Lord's presence. Thinking of Christ as the field in which the treasure of salvation may be found consider Paul's statement in 2 Tim. 2:10: "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus." When Saul of Tarsus came into the "field" of God's redemptive influence in the person of Jesus Christ, it was there that he "found" the hidden "treasure" of salvation, and thereafter he yearned that others might also find this treasure which is in Christ Jesus.

(2) THE TREASURE-FIELD IS CONCEALING. The parable teaches that the treasure was "hid in the field." No doubt there was little or nothing in the outward appearance of the field which would lead one to believe that beneath its quite common, ordinary-looking surface there was a great fortune. Christ was indeed such a "field" in his outward appearance.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." -- Isa. 53:2 it was "the common people" who "heard him gladly," the ones who were probably put at ease by his everyday-ordinary appearance, attire, and manner. And, it was many such individuals who discovered the hidden treasure within him while hypocrites -- who were hung-up over his lack of "charisma" which they expected to see in Christ, failed to find that concealed wealth: "He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent away empty." -- Luke 1:53

Beneath the quite ordinary-looking hills of the Silver Valley of Idaho -- a few miles from us, lay buried for countless years a vast fortune in precious metal. Those who were wise enough to overlook the ordinary and dig beneath the surface discovered the treasure. Even thus it is spiritually. Those wise enough to look beyond the humanity of Christ discover concealed within him both his Divinity and the vast treasure of Eternal Salvation.

(3) THE TREASURE-FIELD IS COSTLY -- The balanced, two-fold aspect of the price of "the kingdom of heaven" is seen in this parable:

First, the treasure was found freely.

Second, the field had to be bought in order to have a legitimate claim on the treasure.

Had the man who found the treasure attempted to appropriate it without first buying the field, he would have been a thief, and he knew that, so in order that he would be the legitimate possessor of the discovered fortune he bought the field. The truth seen here?: The treasure, salvation, is free -- no man has the means to buy it. But, the field wherein the treasure is found must be bought.

What? Do you say that we must "buy" Christ? Yes, in a sense we must, for He said so himself: "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." -- Lu.14:33 This corresponds exactly with what Jesus said that the man who found the treasure paid for the field: "He... goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." In Luke 14:28-33 Jesus made it clear that the "cost" or price that a man must pay in order to have Christ -- to be his disciple was "all that he hath."

The picture Jesus painted from these corresponding parables is clearly two-fold: Salvation is free, but it will cost you everything in order to have the Christ in whom that free salvation is found. First Christ, the Treasure-Field, must be possessed at the price of all that a man has, or else his attempted appropriation of the treasure of salvation will be nothing more than attempted thievery. Indeed salvation is free, but Christ will cost you not only all that you have now, but also all that you ever have as long as you live.

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Outline #10

ANOTHER, WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER

TEXT: Galatians 1:6-7 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

INTRODUCTION

Satan is not a creator, but he is a master-imitator. When God creates a genuine thing, satan often imitates it with "another, which is not another" -- not a second genuine, but a cheap imitation of God's genuine.

*Illus. -- Sam Jones wrote: "The students at Princeton, I believe it was, played a joke on one of the professors. He was one of those old bug-ologists, and I reckon he had specimens of all the bugs in the world in his boxes. Mischievous boys got the legs of one bug and the body of another, and the head and wings of others, and put them together, as if nature had so formed them. And then they laid it on the old professor's table and walked in, and asked him what kind of bug that was -- and he said: "Gentlemen, that is a humbug!"

When satan sets forth "another" this or that, it is nothing more than a "humbug"! and yet millions fall for these clever fakes as if they were genuine! Let us notice several of these "anothers" which are not another:

I. ANOTHER GOD, WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER

A. The idea that there is more than one true God originated with satan:-- Genesis 3:5 "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

B. If satan cannot dupe people into believing that there is "no god," then he will try to convince them that there are "other gods". But, "another god is not another." This we have on the authority of God's Word: Isaiah 45:21-22 "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. 22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

C. Those who worship "another" false God, will bring many troubles upon themselves: Psalms 16:4 "Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god."

D. Eternal Life comes through knowing the only true God: John 17:3 "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

E. Get quiet and honest, and the only true God will reveal himself: Psalms 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

F. "Another god" -- a false god -- will defile you -- the true God will purify you: 1 Corinthians 8:4-7 "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. 5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. 7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled."

G. "Another god" will bring you into bondage -- the true God will set you free: Galatians 4:8-9 "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?"

II. ANOTHER JESUS, WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER

A. 2 Corinthians 11:4 "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

B. We should never doubt that Jesus is the one and only Messiah: Matthew 11:3 "And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"

1. In O.T. times, Israel's sin was looking for "another god".

2. In N.T. times, the world's sin is looking for "another Jesus" -- another Savior.

C. Jesus prophesied that Israel would accept "another Messiah" who was not another: John 5:43 "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

D. Jesus warned His followers not to run after "another Christ": Mark 13:5-6 "And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: 6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." -- Mark 13:21-22 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: 22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."

1. The Same Jesus who died, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, -- this Same Jesus, and not another Jesus -- will come again: Acts 1:11 "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

2. No Salvation in "another Jesus" or in another name: Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

3. There is but One God, and One Lord Jesus: 1 Corinthians 8:6 "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

III. ANOTHER HOLY SPIRIT, WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER

A. 2 Corinthians 11:4 "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received..."

B. Christians must not receive every spirit: 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

C. The One, True, Holy Spirit:

1. Cannot be received by the world: John 14:17 "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

2. Teaches of Christ: John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

3. Reproves sin (the sin of not believing on Christ): John 16:8-9 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;"

4. Glorifies Christ, and none other: John 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."

IV. ANOTHER GOSPEL, WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER

A. The Preacher of "another" -- false -- gospel is often more accepted than a fearless, uncompromising Preacher of the True Gospel: 2 Corinthians 11:4 "For if he that cometh preacheth another... another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

B. Galatians 1:6-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

1. To "pervert the gospel" -- "pervert" = metastrepho, meaning to twist or turn across -- and suggests a deviation to the right and to the left from the straight-forward truth of the genuine gospel -- we might say a leading away from truth to the left by liberalism, and a deviation from the truth to the right by legalism -- the followers of both plunged into the ditch of damnation.

2. They are "cursed of God" of preach "another gospel".

C. Satan uses "another" false gospel to hide the true gospel: 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:"

D. The ancient spiritual landmarks and guideposts, revealing the true way of the gospel and marking its true path must not be removed as many modernists have done: Proverbs 22:28 "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

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Outline #11

HOW WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE WORLD

TEXT: Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"

I. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD

A. Satan is "the god" of this world: 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

B. The whole world lies in him, and not in Christ: 1 John 5:19 "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness [the wicked one]." The NIV brings out this shade of the meaning of the verse: 1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. -- NIV

C. Deliverance from "the god of this world" is possible because the true God is greater than he: 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

*Illus:-- I heard an old holiness preacher tell how when he was far from God as a young man he had been drawn like a magnet to a river-side and strongly tempted to plunge in and drown himself. And when God's more powerful Spirit intervened he was pulled away from that suicidal influence, as "from a magnet". Had not God's more-powerful tug broken that spell, he might have gone to his death and damnation that night!

II. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD

A. 1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

B. Complete deliverance from the world comes by receiving the "Spirit which is of God" -- i.e. being born again. It is not reformation that delivers from the world; neither is it sanctification that delivers from the world; it is regeneration, the first work of grace, that brings this deliverance when the penitent, believing seeker receives the Spirit of Christ.

1. The spirit of the world is darkening: Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

2. The spirit of the world is blinding: 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

3. Those who receive "the Spirit which is of God" have their darkness illumined, the blindness healed, and they see, and know that they have received the gift of salvation: 1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received...the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

III. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE EVIL OF THIS WORLD

A. A New World, wherein dwelleth righteousness is coming: 2 Peter 3:13 "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

B. Now, However, This present world is evil: Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world..."

C. God will Punish the world on the Day of the Lord: Scripture: Isaiah 13:11 "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."

D. Deliverance from the world comes both by regeneration and by separation -- the first being a Divine Work, the second being the Christian's Responsibility: 2 Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

1. The world lieth in wickedness -- Christians cannot also lie in that wickedness -- i.e., be under its power, rest easy and be comfortable in its presence, be partakers in its words, thoughts, and deeds.

2. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this... to keep himself unspotted from the world."

3. John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

4. 2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

IV. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE FASHION OF THE WORLD

A. The "Fashion of This World" is Fleeting and will Pass Away:

1. 1 Corinthians 7:31 "And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

2. 1 John 2:16-17 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

B. The "Fashion of This World" is Filthy and Christians Cannot Conform to it:

1. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

2. Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

C. The Worldliness of a true Christian is in the "Time Past" -- not the "Time Present":

1. Ephesians 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

2. 1 Peter 4:2-4 "That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:"

V. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORLD

A. Cannot be a Friend of the World: James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

B. Cannot Love the World: 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

C. World Cannot Hate Its Own -- Therefore, professing Christians whom the world loves, are not true Christians: John 7:7 "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."

D. World Hates All True Christians: John 15:18-19 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." -- John 17:14 "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." -- 1 John 3:13 "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

VI. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE FALSE VALUES OF THE WORLD

A. Worldly Values Cause The Loss of One's Soul: Mark 8:36 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

B. Christians Don't "Fight to Get Ahead" in this world, as if all their treasures were here: John 18:36 "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

C. True Christians Value the Eternal above the Temporal: James 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

VII. WE MUST BE DELIVERED FROM THE CONDEMNATION OF THE WORLD

A. There is a way to escape the world's present and coming condemnation: John 3:17 "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

B. Christians escape the world's condemnation by entering into Christ: Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

C. Christians Must Love Light in order to be delivered from the world's condemnation: John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

D. As Sodom and Gomorrah were Suddenly Condemned with a Overthrow, even thus shall the condemnation of this world strike: 2 Peter 2:6 "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."

E. Christians are Chastened of the Lord so that they will not be suddenly condemned with the world at Christ's Return: 1 Corinthians 11:32 "But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."

* * *

Outline #12

OUR LIBERTY WHICH WE HAVE IN CHRIST

Scriptures: Galatians 5:1, 13 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

TEXT: Galatians 2:4-5 "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."

Note: This entire message can be found in hdm0125, "Striking The Source."

INTRODUCTION

The seven points of this sermon will be an acrostic, spelling out the seven letters of the word "Liberty": L-I-B-E-R-T-Y, and touching upon seven different aspects of the liberty which Christians have in Christ.

1. IT IS [L]OVE-BOUGHT LIBERTY

A. Acts 22:28 "And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born."

1. Christians were not born into the world with their liberty in Christ; it was bought by Christ "with a great sum."

*Illus: "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight!" by Rose Hartwick Thorpe [Open hdm0125, by DVM, to obtain a copy of this poem, and to read how this poem was used to illustrate this point]

II. IT IS [I]NDEED LIBERTY

A. John 8:36 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

B. Satan and his angels are not "free indeed".

1. Christ bound Satan, the evil strong man, at Calvary: Mark 3:27 "No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."

2. Both Satan and his angels are, in fact, bound right now -- able to do only what Christ allows: 2 Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Jude 6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

C. Sinners are not "free indeed" -- free from righteousness, but bound by satan and sin: John 8:34 "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Romans 6:20 "For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness."

D. Sinning Religionists are not "free indeed" -- 2 Peter 2:19 "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

E. Self-righteous Legalists are not "free indeed" -- in bondage while asserting their freedom: -- John 8:32-33 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"

III. IT IS [B]ONDAGE-DESTROYING LIBERTY

A. Isaiah 61:1 "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;"

B. Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

C. Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

1. Bondage to Satan destroyed: Luke 13:16 "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

2. Bondage to Sin Destroyed: Romans 8:2-3 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"

3. Bondage to Men Destroyed: 1 Corinthians 9:19 "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more."

(a) Free from both Bad Men, and Good Men -- Sometimes it is much harder to maintain one's freedom from Good Men than it is from Bad Men. Conscientious Christians often fall into bondage to Good Men, but men who dominate weaker Christians.

IV. IT IS [E]VER-INCREASING LIBERTY

A. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

B. A Child's Liberty is not increased because his or her parents have changed, but because the child is changed -- by growth and maturing -- so as to be able to make intelligent choices.

Note: the ever-increasing liberty of a child:

1. Crib-Liberty = nearly none (but for good reason)
2. Play-Pen Liberty -- a little more
3. Room Liberty -- yet a little more
4. House Liberty -- more yet
5. Yard Liberty -- but stay out of the street
6. Next Door Liberty -- venturing out a bit more
7. Neighborhood Liberty -- yet more freedom

8. Town Liberty -- now a youth

9. Car and Area Liberty -- a teenager

10. Total Liberty -- leave home, young adult, married

C. Increased Liberty leading to Total Liberty is necessary to proper development and maturity.

1. God wills this: Malachi 4:2 "you that fear my name... ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

2. Men and Church Leaders often disallow this, producing dwarfed, 45-year old, 55-year old, and 65-year old, spiritual babies, kept in by the slats of a legalistic, manual-play-pen, instead of matured and strong spiritual adults, with spiritual senses personally exercised, so as to be able to discern for themselves between good and evil:-- Hebrews 5:12-6:3 "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. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 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. 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit."

V. IT IS [R]ESPONSIBLE LIBERTY

A. Must be used properly:

1. For the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom: 1 Corinthians 9:19 "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more."

2. Not for selfish, fleshly indulgence, but to serve others: Galatians 5:13 "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

3. Not to flaunt maliciously: 1 Peter 2:16 "As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

4. Not without regard for its influence on others: 1 Corinthians 8:9 "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

5. With all due consideration of the Weak and for the Work of God: Romans 14:15-20 "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of: 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that

in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. 20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence."

VI. IT IS [T]ESTED LIBERTY

A. Liberty in Christ will be Tested -- Must Stand Fast Therein: Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

1. Satan will test it -- must not give place to him: Ephesians 4:27 "Neither give place to the devil."

2. Men will seek to dominate -- don't give place to them: Galatians 2:5 "To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." -- 1 Corinthians 10:29 "Why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?"

B. Paul's Two-Fold Philosophy regarding His Christian Liberty:

1. Courteously, not to dominate the faith of others: 2 Corinthians 1:24 "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand."

2. Courageously, not to be dominated by others: Galatians 2:5 "To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."

*Illus: LBJ -- Lyndon Baines Johnson was a domineering President. He once asserted his "omnipotence" to his White House Staff thus: "There's ants around here, and Elephants; and I am the only Elephant!" All others he would "step on" but none dare try to "step on him". -- Too many pastors have that attitude toward their flock; too many legalists have that attitude toward those they would dominate.

VII. IT IS [Y]OUR LIBERTY

A. 1 Corinthians 8:9 "this liberty of YOURS..."

B. But -- 1 Corinthians 8:9 "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours..

1. Be Lost: Eisenhower once said: "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both." Liberty, valued above the principles which control and guide it, is inevitably lost.

2. "Become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

3. Be Destroyed by the Domination of Satan, Sin, or Men.

C. Stand Fast in your Christian Liberty -- Continue Therein: James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

* * *

Outline #13 JOSEPH'S FIVE COATS

TEXT: Genesis 37:3 "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours."

INTRODUCTION

When thinking of Joseph's coat, we naturally think of his "coat of many colours," but no doubt he actually had a number of different coats during his lifetime. I would like to consider just five of Joseph's coats, and I will endeavour to make a spiritual application of each of these five coats.

I. JOSEPH'S "COMMON" COAT = JOSEPH, THE NATURAL MAN

A. Genesis 37:1-2 "And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report."

B. For 17 years, Joseph wore a "common coat," nothing about it being different from that of others among whom he dwelt. And, as long as he wore this common coat, he encountered no trouble from others.

C. Let us liken this "common coat" to the Natural Man -- as long as you are just like everyone else, -- with nothing peculiar or different about your appearance, your words, your deeds, your life -- you will perhaps encounter very little opposition and hostility.

1. There is often a friendly rapport between natural men -- men of the world. While the "natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God," he does receive the things of other "natural men".

2. Natural men understand one another -- they speak the same spiritual language: 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?"

3. The world love its own: John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own."

II. JOSEPH'S COLOURED COAT = JOSEPH, THE REGENERATE MAN

A. Genesis 37:3-5, 13-14, 18-33 "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. 4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. 5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I. 14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. 19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. 21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. 22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. 23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. 25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. 29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? 31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; 32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. 33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces."

B. After 17 Years -- Suddenly His "Coloured Coat" Made Him Different!

1. Made him noticed
2. Made him hated
3. Made him persecuted

C. John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

III. JOSEPH'S "CAUGHT COAT" = JOSEPH, THE SANCTIFIED MAN

A. Genesis 39:12 "And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out."

1. The Caught Coat -- the coat torn from him by Potiphar's wife. Of all the coats that Joseph wore, perhaps spiritually and morally this was the most beautiful. This coat speaks of Joseph's purity -- so typical of a truly sanctified man -- subject to the enticements and appeals of a filthy world, but sacrificing everything, if need be, to retain his purity of heart and life.

2. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this... to keep himself unspotted from the world." This is the kind of religion Joseph had.

IV. JOSEPH'S "CHANGED COAT" = JOSEPH, THE DELIVERED MAN

A. Genesis 41:14 "Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh."

1. With this "changed raiment" -- "changed coat" -- we can see a dramatic change in Joseph's situation. He was about to be delivered out of all of his dark misfortunes into the bright fulfillment of all of his youthful dreams.

2. Joseph's "Changed Coat" speaks of Divine Deliverance like that promised in the following verses:

Proverbs 12:13 "The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble."

Psalms 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."

V. JOSEPH'S KINGLY COAT = JOSEPH THE EXALTED MAN

A. Genesis 41:42 "And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;"

1. Joseph's "Kingly Coat" -- "vestures of fine linen" -- speaks of the the high exaltation that shall come to those wearing the "fine linen, clean and white" on the Day of the Lord.

2. Such Scriptures as these tell of the time when God's humble saints shall be highly exalted:

Psalms 37:34 "Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it."

Psalms 148:14 "He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD."

Dan 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

James 1:9 "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:"

1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

2 Samuel 22:48-49 "It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me, 49 And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man."

Psalms 91:14 "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name."

Isaiah 33:15-16 "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; 16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure."

* * *

Outline #14

FOUR OPEN DOORS INTO CANAAN

[Much of the text in this outline was taken directly from my article of the same name in hdm0123.tex. -- DVM]

TEXT: "...and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." Gen. 12:5

Scripture: "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Rev. 3:4

INTRODUCTION

When a saved individual goes forth in obedience to go into the Canaan "inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith," that one can find an open door at the border which neither devil nor man can shut! If one follows the individual, unerring guidance of the Holy Ghost, He will guide the saved, holiness seeker to, and through that door into the genuine experience of old-fashioned, second-blessing holiness!

Of many across the years, it can be said: "They went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." They found the open door and passed through it into full possession of their promised inheritance of entire sanctification, and so can you. Let us consider briefly Four open Doors into Canaan:

1. Abraham's Door -- From the North
2. Moses' Door -- From the South
3. Joshua's Door -- From the East

4. The Pentecostal Door -- From the Upper Room

I. ABRAHAM'S DOOR--FROM THE NORTH

A. The Door of a specific Man--Here we can see: WHO gets the Blessing.

B. Abraham was Called to Canaan as ONE individual -- ALONE.

Ezekiel 33:24 "Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance."

Isaiah 51:2 "Look unto Abraham your father... for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him."

1. HOLINESS IS NOT INHERITED BY "LARGE CROWDS": -- Presumptuous Israel boasted: "we are many; the land is given us..." It is a mistake to assume that, because one belongs to a crowd where many believe the doctrine; or have the experience of holiness, therefore he shall be "given" this experience automatically, easily, or effortlessly, simply for the asking. Holiness is not the inheritance of large groups of spoiled, worldly professors whose "taking it by faith" is in reality "taking it by fancy" or presumption. Holiness, rather, is the inheritance of lone individuals who are genuinely born of the Spirit, and who seek perseveringly, obediently, and earnestly, until their faith strikes the fire.

2. HOLINESS IS INHERITED BY "LONE INDIVIDUALS": -- "Abraham was ONE, and he inherited the land." Only those lone individuals "who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham" will be given this inheritance. Rom. 4:14 Second and third generation young people of a Holiness church, dare not assume that this experience is their ancestral gift from God without individually meeting the same conditions for its reception that each of their parents and grandparents had to meet before really striking the fire.

3. HOLINESS IS AVAILABLE TO ALL WHEN CONDITIONS ARE MET: -- On the other hand, Pentecostal fire still falls, and you can have the same second-work of grace that made grandma shout and mother shine! "It is for us all today" when conditions are met. Abraham did not automatically, effortlessly inherit Canaan. God required of him both a great forsaking and a great faith. He had to forsake country, kindred, father's house, fellowship with Lot, and even the life of his greatly beloved son. So it is still. Those who inherit Canaan must follow those same lonely steps of death to self and devotion to God. Nothing less will bring the blessing.

4. THE SUCCESSFUL SEEKER OF HOLINESS IS BOTH NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE: -- However, Abraham was not required to be simply a negative forsaker, but also a positive believer: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Heb. 11:18 He didn't know where; he didn't know how; he didn't know when; but when he started out, he believed that he would get what God had promised him. Who gets sanctified? Those who exercise perfect forsaking? Yes, if while they do this they also exercise perfect faith, and believe that God is "a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" for this inheritance.

II. MOSES' DOOR--FROM THE SOUTH

A. The Door of a Specific Moment--Here we can see: WHEN one gets sanctified:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Nu. 13:30 "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."

B. ONE CAN ONLY BE SANCTIFIED AT GOD'S TIME: -- "Let us go up at once, and possess it" -- after Israel's hesitance, was quickly followed by: "Go not up, for the Lord is not among you." Nu. 14:41-42 You can get saved; you can get sanctified; but not just "any old time" you choose: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecc. 3:1 Israel, under Moses leadership, came to the precise "moment" in which God had determined that they "must enter in." Instead of doing so, they hesitated in fear, preached unbelief, procrastinated, presumed to enter in at a later moment, and forever forfeited their inheritance in Canaan!: "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" at the specific moment He commands you to enter: "For unto us (today) was the gospel preached as well as unto them!" Heb. 4:1-2

*Illus: The Packet Ship "Stephen Whitney" was at the mercy of the raging sea. Flung against a rock cliff on the Irish Coast, it clung to the cliff but a few moments. Those who instantly leaped from the ship to the cliff were saved; those who did not forever forfeited that opportunity.

III. JOSHUA'S DOOR--FROM THE EAST

A. The Door of a Specific Movement--Here we can see: HOW one enters Canaan.

"Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward." Deut. 2:3

B. How does one get into Canaan? Only the Holy Ghost can specifically, unerringly guide us into the experience, but let us note several things here:

1. They were to stop going in circles around mount Seir, and to make a specific movement northward now! When one is going in circles spiritually in the wilderness, there is always the danger of "spinning off" awry to the right or left, or southward back into Egypt. It is crucial, at the time one stops circling, to carefully obey the Holy Ghost and to follow Him Now, and Northward, directly toward your Door into Canaan!

2. They were to follow the Ark, and not to get ahead of it. Josh. 3:4 God's written Word was in that Ark on those tables of stone. The Holy Ghost will prune and prompt through the precepts, promises, and preaching of His Word as one follows the Ark to and through the Door into Canaan.

3. The priests that bare the Ark were to "rest" the soles of their feet "in the waters of Jordan," and then their door would miraculously open. Josh. 3:13 Was there not a particular spiritual lesson here for those who would "enter into His rest? David said: "There is but a step between me and death." 1 Sam. 24:3 One specific movement, one step into the Jordan of death to self, will unite the seeker with the power of the death of Christ in our behalf: "...Our old man is crucified with Him..." When your death to sin-nature meets with His death for sin-nature, then the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you becomes available.

4. However, this step into Jordan must not be only a step of utter death to self; it must also be a step of utter dependence now upon nothing but the blood of Jesus to cleanse your heart from all unrighteousness. When this death to self is perfect, and this dependence on the blood of Jesus is perfect, then the very God of peace sanctifies you wholly "through the blood of the everlasting covenant." Heb. 13:20 Carnality dies, and Canaan is experienced within. Holiness becomes more than a doctrine, and is now a delicious deliverance from inbred sin and filling with the fruits of the Spirit.

IV. THE PENTECOSTAL DOOR--FROM THE UPPER ROOM

A. The Door of a Specific Manifestation--Here we can see: WHETHER one is sanctified.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:1,4

1 Corinthians 12:7 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

B. THOSE GENUINELY SANCTIFIED, KNOW IT: -- They knew the Holy Ghost had come! He bare witness of Himself and purified their hearts with refining fire! Holiness is more than a reckoning. It is a reality! It is more than a claiming by faith. It is a cleansing by fire! It is more than a now-so truth. It is a know-so touch! They knew when He came in His sanctifying fullness, and you can too, for "the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man (who really gets the Blessing) to profit withal." 1 Cor. 12:7

C. THE SPIRIT'S MANIFEST WITNESS GIVEN TO ALL WHO MEET CONDITIONS:
-- When conditions are met, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Mt. 3:11
And, you'll know when it happens!

* * *

Outline #15

THE SHADOW OF HEAVENLY THINGS

Heb. 8:4-5 "If he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: who serve unto the... shadow of heavenly things."

I. THE DESIGN OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. "The shadow of heavenly things" is designed to make us conscious of "the substance of heavenly things:" -- "Knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and more enduring substance." -- Heb. 10:34

B. As the shadow of an individual moving across the ground causes us to look up and see the actual individual, so "the shadow of heavenly things" is meant to make us look up at the heavenly things themselves.

II. THE DISCERNMENT OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. Religious people often mistake the shadow for the substance: "And Zebul said unto him, Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as if they were men." -- Ju. 9:36

B. Some Shadows of Heavenly Things Which We Should Discern To Be But Shadows:

1. Earthly things -- "If He (Christ) were on earth," He could not be our High Priest, for material, earthly things are but the shadow of heavenly things.

(a) The present heaven and earth are but types of the New Heaven and New Earth.

2. Earthly days -- "Our days upon earth are a shadow." -- Job 8:9 This life only foreshadows our eternal existence -- time foreshadows eternity. The hours of daylight foreshadow eternal Light. The hours of darkness foreshadow eternal darkness!

3. Earthly worship under the law -- "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things.." -- Heb. 10:1

4. Earthly ordinances and special days under the law -- "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." -- Col. 2:16-17

III. THE DENIAL OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. Wicked people often deny that heavenly shadows revealed here and now point to a life beyond: "For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?" -- Ecc. 8:12

1. The shadow could tell him, if he'd listen, for above every shadow is its substance!

2. Ecc. 8:13 "But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

B. Religious people sometimes deny that a shadow is a shadow (interpret the shadow as the substance) in order to hold those under them in their bondage: "Let no man therefore judge you"

concerning those things which are but a "shadow of things to come." The real "Body" of true Christians is not made of legalistic observances, but is made "of Christ."

1. This does not mean, however, that the Church should be without rule and discipline.

IV. THE DECLINE OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. Ps. 102:11 "My days are like a shadow that declineth."

B. Job 17:7 "Mine eye also is dim... all my members are as a shadow."

1. As an earthly shadow declines as the sun goes down, so one's earthly body, which is but a shadow of our heavenly body, declines with the passing of time.

2. The time came when the Old Covenant under Moses declined and was replaced: "In that He saith, a New Covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." -- Heb. 8:13 The Old Covenant did decline and vanish shortly after these words were written -- in 70 A. D. [This, however, should not be interpreted to mean that those things in the law that were substantive and eternal were done away. It was the Jewish sacrificial and ceremonial law that was done away. The moral law remains, within the New Covenant.]

V. THE TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. Once the actual substance of heavenly things is made ours, then the shadows of those things will "flee away" -- never to return!: "I am gone like the shadow that declineth." Ps. 109:23 "Until the day break, and the shadows flee away..." -- Song of Sol. 2:17; 4:6

B. In the immediate presence of Christ, there shall be "no variableness, neither shadow of turning." -- Jas. 1:17

1. For the Children of God: the shadow of life will "flee away" forever when the substance of life is theirs.

2. For Finally Impenitent Sinners: the "shadow of death" will "flee away" from them when the substance of death is theirs forever in "the lake of fire, which is the second death."

VI. THE DEFECTIVENESS OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. They cannot make us perfect: "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." -- Heb. 10:1 "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did." -- Heb. 7:19

VII. THE DELAYING OF HEAVENLY SHADOWS

A. "Woe unto us! for the day goeth away, for the shadows of the evening are stretched out."
-- Jeremiah 6:4

B. "Why is His chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the wheels of His chariots?" -- Ju.
5:28

C. Why are "the shadows of heavenly things" "stretched out?" "Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home! Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home!" But, why is Christ's Sweet Chariot so long in coming?"

1. Not because He is defeated, like Sisera in the story of Judges 5:28.

2. "The shadows of evening are stretched out," -- lingering -- because of Christ's mercy. The "shadows of evening are stretched out" still -- holding back the substance of judgment and damnation -- but soon, -- very soon -- shall the "Sun of Righteousness arise! His bright "Day Break" shall arrive at last! -- As earthly "shadows flee away," every creature of time will be awed by the appearance of the Eternal Substance that cast those shadows. Men may ignore the shadows now, but on the Day of the Lord none shall ignore the Eternal Spiritual Realities that stood behind them. The everlasting substance of the wicked will be far worse than any earthly thing that hurt them. Along with the bliss of being with Christ Himself, the saved shall have "in heaven a better and an enduring substance" that will never lose its luster and never crumble in decay.

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Outline #16

7 WRONG GAUGES OF RIGHT

TEXT: Jere. 44:17-19 -- "We will... burn incense unto the queen of heaven... as we have done... for then had we PLENTY OF VICTUALS and WERE WELL, and SAW NO EVIL. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven.. we have WANTED ALL THINGS, and have been consumed by THE SWORD and by FAMINE. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven. . did we make her cakes to worship her... WITHOUT OUR MEN?" -- (margin: without our men = without our husbands)

INTRODUCTION

In the above passage, these idolatrous Jews attempted to justify their very, very WRONG idolatry by the following 7 WRONG GAUGES OF what makes a thing RIGHT:

I. A THING IS RIGHT IF IT BRINGS "PLENTY OF VICTUALS" -- (Food).

A. But, a thing is not right simply because it brings us "plenty"!

B. And, right is right, even if we must do without some things: "Even unto this present hour we both hunger and thirst," said Paul -- 1 Cor. 4:11

II. A THING IS RIGHT IF IT MAKES A PERSON PHYSICALLY "WELL".

A. This is the philosophy of some mercenary faith-healing mongers, but it is another wrong gauge of what is right!

B. The Bible philosophy is: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." -- 2 John 1 In other words, good health is wrong for a person if it does not bring with it spiritual health.

III. A THING IS RIGHT IF IT CAUSE ONE TO "SEE NO EVIL" -- (Have No Problems).

A. But, "God has not promised, skies always blue, flower strewn pathways all our lives through"!

IV. A THING IS RIGHT IF IT BRINGS ONE "ALL THINGS" THAT ONE COULD DESIRE.

A. But, Jesus warned: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." -- Lu. 12:15

V. A THING IS RIGHT IF IT DELIVERS ONE FROM "THE SWORD" -- (Being Slaughtered By Enemies).

A. But Jesus warned: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but A SWORD!" -- Matt. 10:34

VI. A THING IS RIGHT IF IT BRINGS DELIVERANCE FROM "FAMINE" -- (Natural Disasters).

A. But, God "maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain -- (and all sorts of natural calamities as well) -- on the just and on the unjust." -- Matt. 5:45

VII. A THING IS RIGHT IF WE ARE SPARED FROM BEING "WITHOUT OUR MEN" -- (Being Without Sacrifice)

A. Just before making the ultimate sacrifice of laying down His life, Jesus said: "Now.. what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." -- (Instead He prayed in the next statement:) -- "Father, glorify thy name," meaning: Father, glorify Thyself, even if for the time present those who love me must be "WITHOUT THE MAN" Whose earthly presence they most cherish.

* * *

Outline #17
PRESERVE ME

TEXT: Psalms 16:1 "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust."

I. PRESERVE ME -- WHO?

A. "Preserve me, O GOD."

1. Job 7:20 "O thou preserver of men?"
2. Job 29:2 "Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me;"
3. Psalms 31:23 "The Lord preserveth the faithful..."
4. Psalms 36:6 "O Lord, thou preservest man and beast."
5. Psalms 97:10 "The Lord... preserveth the souls of his saints."
6. Psalms 116:6 "The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me."
7. Psalms 145:20 "The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy."

II. PRESERVE ME -- WHERE?

A. Preserve me IN CHRIST.

1. Jude 1 "to them that are... preserved in Jesus Christ..."
2. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation..."
3. Psalms 32:7 "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah."

III. PRESERVE ME -- FROM WHAT?

A. Preserve me from THESE FOUR THINGS:

1. All Evil -- Psalms 121:7 "The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul." -- 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."
2. Fear of The Enemy -- Psalms 64:1 "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy."
3. Trouble -- Psalms 32:7 "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah."

4. The Violent Man -- Psalms 140:1 "Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;" -- Psalms 140:4 "Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings."

IV. PRESERVE ME -- HOW?

A. Preserve me BY THESE MEANS:

1. By Thy Great Power: -- Psalms 79:11 "Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;"

2. By Thy Visitation: -- Job 10:12 "Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit."

3. By a Prophet: -- Hosea 12:13 "And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved."

4. By Making Me A New Vessel: -- Matthew 9:17 "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

5. By Sanctifying Me Wholly: -- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

6. By Helping Me Lose My Life: -- Luke 17:33 "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."

7. By Helping Me To Stay in the Holy Highway: -- Proverbs 16:17 "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul."

V. PRESERVE ME -- WHEN?

A. Preserve me AT ALL TIMES:

1. When The Enemy Attacks Me: -- Isaiah 31:5 "As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it."

2. When I Am About My Business: -- Psalms 121:8 "The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in..."

3. Continually Along My Journey: -- Psalms 40:11 "Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me." -- Proverbs 2:8 "He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints."

4. Unto Jesus' Second Coming: -- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

5. Unto Christ's Heavenly Kingdom: -- 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

6. From This Time Forth: -- Psalms 121:8 "The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth..."

7. Even For Evermore: -- and even for evermore."

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Outline #18

8 TRUTHS FROM THE 7 KINGDOM PARABLES

Text: Matthew 13:3-52 "And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. 18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which

also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. 31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. 33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. 34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 51 Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. 52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

I. THE -- HEARERS -- OF THE KINGDOM (Matt. 13:3-23)

A. Four Kinds of Hearers:

1. The "Dull of Hearing" -- 13:15 -- seed sown by the wayside

2. The "Delighted but Shallow" Hearers -- 13:20-21

3. The "Distracted" Hearers, who cease to listen -- 13:22

4. The "Discerning" Hearers, who both hear and understand -- 13:23

II. THE -- HARVEST -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:24-30; 36-43)

A. Saints and Pseudo-Saints (Wheat and Tares) will worship together "until the harvest" -- and then shall come the Divine Separation -- the Wheat-Saints gathered into Heaven, The Tares-Pseudo-Saints bound and cast into hell fire.

1. "Let both grow together until" that time -- a divine command often ignored.

2. Failure to obey this command often "roots up" unestablished souls.

3. God has power and ways of rooting out tares, if such is necessary before the harvest.

III. THE -- HUGENESS -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:31-32)

A. Now, in the eyes of the world, the Kingdom of God appears like "the least" of all kingdoms, but at the Judgment, that which seemed like "the least" concern of proud men will loom larger than all else! In its "Humbleness" they disdained and ignored the Kingdom, but on the Day of the Lord its HUGENESS will stand in all its ETERNAL IMMENSITY before them! Then, it mattered not, now it is ALL IMPORTANT whether they are in, or out of, THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST!

IV. THE -- HELPMATE -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:33)

A. "A Woman Took" the leaven, or hidden influence of Christ, (her Bridegroom) and used it quietly, invisibly, but effectively, to spread the work of Christ throughout "the whole" earth.

B. Here we see that Christ's method of spreading his Kingdom is through His Helpmate, the Church, His Bride. She is to "take" of that Divine truth and grace received of Him and work it into the 3 measures of mankind -- i.e., causing the influence of Christ to reach the bodies, minds, and spirits of all men everywhere.

C. The Leaven (God's truth and grace) will always do its work, but not without the Woman, Christ's Bride, doing her part.

V. THE -- HAPPY FINDERS -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:20-21, 44)

A. There are Two Kinds of Happy Finders:

1. 13:20-21 -- The First are like the "stony ground hearers" who "with joy receive it" -- who are immediately moved emotionally and who are actually born again, but who are later offended and fall away. These are very willing to receive salvation as a free gift, but are unwilling to retain it at the price of persecution or suffering.

2. 13:44 -- The Second are those who like the discoverer of the hidden treasure; they also are very joyful -- but more than that, they go and pay the price of "all that they have" to retain the free gift.

VI. THE -- HIGH PRICE -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:45-46)

A. The Kingdom is a "Pearl of Great Price" -- not alone a "great price" that was paid by Christ, but also a "great price" that must be paid by those who obtain it. What is that price? Regardless of how little or how great may be your all -- the price is: "ALL THAT YOU HAVE".

B. The Two Ways Men Refuse to Pay That Price:

1. By Openly and Honestly Turning Away From Christ: -- Matthew 19:21-22 "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

2. By Dishonestly Pretending That They Have Paid All, When They Have Not: -- Acts 5:1-2 "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet."

C. The Consequences of Paying or Not Paying All of the Price -- Eternal in Measure

VII. THE -- HAULING TO SHORE -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:47-50)

A. Matthew 13:47-48 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they DREW to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

1. The Greek word here for "drew" is *anabibazo*, (pronounced: an-ab-ee-bad'-zo); to cause to go up, i.e. haul (a net):--draw.

B. Here we see the Resurrection of the dead, both good and evil, and their "drawing" or "hauling" to the Shore of Judgment!

1. According to the Oxford Dictionary, "to haul" is "to drag forcibly".

2. Like fish caught in a net -- moved beyond their power to prevent -- so all will be "drawn" or "hauled" forcibly by Omnipotent Power to the Judgment. The Net won't break! All who ever have lived will make a "full" net, but the Net will not break and God's power will not fail to

"drag forcibly" -- to "haul" irresistibly -- every soul into Judgment. Then, the good will be gathered into Heaven and the bad will be cast away -- into Outer Darkness, into the Lake of Fire.

VIII. THE -- HOUSEHOLDER -- OF THE KINGDOM (13:52)

A. The Householder is God's Minister

1. He brings forth things "new" -- because he is not a lazy student of the Word; he studies out and prays down fresh insights into the Word constantly.

2. He brings forth things "old" -- because he stands by the eternal, unchanging verities of God's Word, not remaining silent on the Old Path wherein is the Good Way, and not changing his message to suit the fancy of "modern" innovators.

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III -- SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS FROM POETRY

INTRODUCTION

This document presents poetry from a few authors, and spiritual insights that I have drawn from their poetry. I wrote the first little poem and the last poem in this collection. I have omitted comment on the short rhymes. While much of the poetry could not be classified as spiritual, it is hoped that the reflections and insights drawn therefrom will be a spiritual blessing and useful for preachers and Christian workers. -- DVM

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Poem #1

ROCK ME TO SLEEP

By Elizabeth Akers

"BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, O TIME, IN YOUR FLIGHT!"

TEXT: 2 Kings 20:9-11 "And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the Lord, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? 10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but LET THE SHADOW RETURN BACKWARD ten degrees. 11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto THE LORD: and he BROUGHT THE SHADOW TEN DEGREES BACKWARD, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz."

INTRODUCTION

The title of this little meditation is taken from the first line of an oft-quoted, sometimes misquoted, more often partially quoted, poem by Elizabeth Akers (1832-1911) -- a poem which expresses some of the deepest inward emotions of our human hearts.

The title of the poem, "Rock Me To Sleep," is probably much less widely known than its famous first line. I will present the full text of the poem below, followed by some observations of my own, but first let's take a look at several of the quotations of that famous first line found even in our HDM Digital Library:

QUOTATIONS OF "THE FAMOUS FIRST LINE" IN THE HDM LIBRARY

G. T. Bustin, in his booklet, "He Careth For You," (hdm0652) writes: "The very thought of those faded years and their relation to the old home is enough to melt the hardest heart and to stain the face which is long unaccustomed to tears. Such sobering thoughts tempt us to say with the poet, 'Turn backward, turn backward, O time, in your flight; and make me a child again just for tonight.' But time will not heed our childish cry. It goes onward and we are carried along at its pace. The old home is behind us, the new home is before us. The home temporal is but a shadow (a sweet and memorable shadow), of the Home eternal."

H. Robb French quotes that famous first line in "What It Takes To Make An Ideal Home" (hdm0259). He places it amidst an account of his conversion at the old family altar: "My mother got some chairs around the fireside, and she said, 'Now children, you kneel at that chair, and you talk to Jesus just like you talk to your mother.' I was four years of age, as I recall. I didn't know theological terms, but I could understand that. And I poured out the penitence of my heart, and it was a solid bottom chair and there was a puddle of tears standing there. And when I got up from that chair, I had the joy in my heart, and the reservoir. What do you call it? I call it genuine conversion. Hallelujah! I walked out on the back steps, it was an autumn evening, and it seemed like the birds were singing in a different note. All nature was rejoicing! And I said something like this: 'This is a new world I'm in!' No, it wasn't a new world, I HAD A NEW HEART! I had met the Christ! -- at the family altar.

"Backward, turn backward,
Oh time, in your flight!
Make me a child again,
Just for tonight."

"Here we are, kneeling around the altar, and we're praying. And I was one of the most timid and most reticent boys you ever looked at. And brother, the glory of God settled right down there, and I shouted the high praises of God. You should have seen my sister and my brothers make eyes at me! I was just a little fella, but I was launched, I was riding high in the chariot, I was shouting ... Where was it? At family worship! Hallelujah!"

Oscar Hudson, in his book "Gospel Dynamite," (hdm0628), quotes Elizabeth Akers' famous first line thus:

"We sing,

"Backward, turn backward, O, time, in thy flight;
Make me a child again, just for tonight!"

"Why would we like to be a child again for just one night? Oh, to feel again that happiness arising from innocence!"

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood!
When fond recollection presents them to view!
The orchard, the meadow, the deep tangled wildwood,
And every rude spot which my infancy knew!"

"Why are those memories so dear? Are there no orchards now? Yes, on every hand. Are there no meadows and tangled wildwood, such as we knew in those tender years? Yes, but they do not satisfy. It is the precious associations in the memory of those happy days that we love. Sin had not been known. It was a morning without a cloud; a rose without a thorn; honey without a sting. There was no remorse, no guilt, no sense of pollution. That day went into shadows and its sun into eclipse the moment we entered the regions of sin. Since then we have chased the rainbow of joy but it has evaded our grasp."

In his booklets, "The Sunny Side of Life" (hdm0528), and "Joseph's Little Coat" (hdm0627), C. B. Fugett misquoted or paraphrased Akers' first line a bit, but used it well in the following, sober remarks:

"In the dying hours of Queen Elizabeth, she said to her doctor, 'All my diamonds and rubies and wealth for one hour of time.' The reply was, 'Time doesn't belong to me. It belongs to God.' Friends, you can go to your home and sing that little song, 'Turn back, turn back, Oh, Time in your flight, and make me a child again, just for tonight,' but we are twenty-four hours nearer Heaven or Hell than we were this time last night."

In her book, "H. Robb French, Pioneer, Prophet and Prayer Warrior" (hdm0137), Anna Talbott McPherson records another quotation of French, using that famous first line:

"At one time, John Clement, when introducing Robb French at a camp meeting, referred to the Frenches as a strange outfit 'It takes them half the morning to have morning prayer and half the night to have evening prayer.'"

Responding, Robb French "That was stretching it a little bit," Robb commented, "but it was true that no matter how long it took, Mother would say, 'We're going to have the fire.' And we did. If you were to ask me, 'Brother French, what was the greatest service you were ever in?' I think I would have to answer, 'Family worship.' That's where I got saved. 'Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight. Make me a child again just for tonight.'"

"I remember, Mother once had us children gathered together in a little attic room upstairs, and she was sobbing. The tears splashed to the floor. Oh, she was weeping convulsively. 'Children,' she said, 'children, if you're lost, could you blame me? Have I done my best?' There was silence except for Mother's weeping. Finally my brother broke the silence and said, 'No, Mother, we couldn't blame you. You have done your best.'"

I might find and quote other references in our HDM Library to lines in Akers' poem, but here I forbear. Immediately below, I present the poem in full, and following it, some brief observations of my own:

ELIZABETH AKERS' POEM IN FULL

ROCK ME TO SLEEP

Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,
Make me a child again, just for tonight.
Mother, come back from the echoless shore,
Take me again to your heart as of yore;
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care,
Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair;
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

Backward, flow backward, O tide of the years!
I am so weary of toil and of tears,
Toil without recompense, tears all in vain,
Take them, and give me my childhood again!
I have grown weary of dust and decay,
Weary of flinging my soul-wealth away;
Weary of sowing for others to reap;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

Tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue,
Mother, O mother, my heart calls for you!
Many a summer the grass has grown green,
Blossomed and faded, our faces between:
Yet with strong yearning and passionate pain,
Long I tonight for your presence again.
Come from the silence so long and so deep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

Over my heart, in the days that are flown
No love like mother-love ever has shone;
No other worship abides and endures,--
Faithful, unselfish, and patient, like yours:
None like a mother can charm away pain
From the sick soul and the world-weary brain.
Slumber's soft calms o'er my heavy lids creep;--
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

Come, let your brown hair, just lighted with gold.
Fall on your shoulders again as of old;

Let it drop over my forehead tonight,
Shading my faint eyes away from the light;
For with its sunny-edged shadows once more
Haply will throng the sweet visions of yore;
Lovingly, softly, its bright billows sweep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

Mother, dear mother, the years have been long
Since I last listened your lullaby song:
Sing, then, and unto my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream.
Clasped to your heart in a loving embrace,
With your light lashes just sweeping my face,
Never hereafter to wake or to weep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

SOME INSIGHTS FROM THE POEM

1. TIME MARCHES ON -- "Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight," expresses the inward desire of finite, lost mankind to move the clock backward, away from the end of time, but human beings cannot stay the relentless, resistless movement of time toward eternity. Only God could perform such a miracle, and if He ever did it, it was perhaps only once, when he turned back the shadow on the dial of Ahaz. Even then, it was probably not a move backward in the total duration of Time, but rather a solar miracle given to Hezekiah as an assurance that God would add 15 years to his life. No doubt even when the sun stood still for Joshua and when the shadow moved backward on the dial of Ahaz, TIME MARCHED ON, as yet it does, and ever will until it reaches it's God-ordained END -- when "Him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein," resolutely declares "that there should be time no longer." (Revelation 10:6)

2. AN INWARD YEARNING TO BE GOD'S CHILD -- "Make me a child again, just for tonight" expresses, as it were, a deep desire to experience again the time when innocence of conscience and security from the closeness of Mother and Father soothed the soul. In 2 Samuel 23:15 we read: "And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" This may have been an unconscious crying out in David's heart for a restoration of the innocence of his childhood. And "Make me a child again" was, perhaps, an unconscious expression of Elizabeth Akers' inward yearning for the new birth, the only God-given way whereby guilty, matured men and women can recapture the innocence of childhood -- drink again of the waters of innocence -- and feel again the security and warmth of parenthood coming from God the Father, Who soothes the child of God "as a Mother stills her child."

Only the divine regeneration and the security emanating from a consciousness of His Fatherhood and the warmth radiating from the Motherhood of His Spirit can restore that for which the poetess yearned in those words. And, in her words from the second stanza: "Mother, O mother, my heart calls for you!" Akers may have been unconsciously crying out for the touch of divine Motherhood found only when one is born again and feels the spiritual caress of the One who said:

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."

3. A WEARINESS OF WORLDLY VANITY -- Also in the second stanza, Akers' words: "Tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue," speak of an inward dissatisfaction with the emptiness, degradation, and hypocrisy of mankind apart from Christ, as so starkly different from the fullness, elevation, and genuineness experienced by those who "fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth" (Joshua 24:14). A slight, but very significant, variation of Akers' words could read:

"Tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue,
Jesus, O Jesus, my heart calls for you!

Never before, in the history of our nation and the annals of the world have there been personalities so large and luminous who were so empty and void of sound substance in their character! Never before have "the base" been elevated to such heights and the virtuous been held in such low esteem -- as now! Debased presidents and Sports heroes, hollow and empty of all virtue, are made more popular by the revelation of their revelings in moral filth, while the pure are cast upon the dunghill of human opinion. And when were "the untrue" -- the liars, the cheats, the frauds, any more prevalent than now? It is those who are fatigued with the vanity of this world, who are "tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue," who cry out from within: "Jesus, O Jesus, my heart cries for YOU!"

4. A STRONG DESIRE TO HEAR FROM GOD -- "Come from the silence so long and so deep" -- may have unconsciously expressed Akers' desire to hear from God personally, Whose voice alone can relieve the loneliness of the soul. "Is there any word from the Lord?" (Jeremiah 37:17) is the inward cry of every soul, so-created by God that only the sound of His voice can cheer the deep, inward loneliness and longing for soul communion. The songwriter said:

"He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the Voice I hear, falling on my ear,
Within my heart is ringing!

"And, He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known."

5. A DEEP, HEART-CRY FOR REST -- "Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!" These words seem to plead for inward REST -- a rest that can only be found in Christ -- a rest which David sought when he wrote in Psalms 116:7 "Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee" -- a two-fold rest that Jesus promised when He invited sin-exhausted, sin-burdened souls thus: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29)

6. AN ADORATION AND WORSHIP NOT RISEN ABOVE THE HUMAN -- When Akers wrote: "No love like mother-love ever has shone; No other worship abides and endures,-- Faithful, unselfish, and patient, like yours: None like a mother can charm away pain...", she seems to betray the fact that her paramount love, worship, adoration, and comfort were experienced in the realms of finite, humanity, instead of in God -- in Christ. In praising the love, worship, faithfulness, patience, unselfishness, and charming comfort of her mother, she seems to reach the highest pinnacle of her experience -- which, sadly, is an apex far below the transcendent love, worship, and comfort of Christ. Yet, in expressing these virtues and attributing them to her mother, she, at the same time, seems to be unconsciously yearning for them from their highest source, Christ Jesus.

7. A SOUL-LONGING FOR UNCHANGING, ETERNAL LIFE --

"Clasped to your heart in a loving embrace,
With your light lashes just sweeping my face,
Never hereafter to wake or to weep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!"

Elizabeth Akers' life spanned some 79 years (1832-1911). Just when she wrote the beautiful poem, "Rock Me To Sleep," I know not. But I do know, that like all of us who dwell in this world, she experienced much of what is expressed in the words of another who wrote:

"Change and decay in all the around I see,
Oh, Thou that changest not, abide with me."

In the closing lines of her poem, we can see that Akers longed for that which "changest not" -- she wanted a repose that would "never hereafter" be disturbed by an awakening and return to that which brought separation from parental comfort and communion, tears of sorrow, and weariness of spirit.

In a word, everything for which the poetess longed is to be found, not in human beings, not in this transient world, but in Christ Jesus, and in the eternal "world to come," where "God shall wipe away all tears" from the eyes of His children, and where "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4) It is to be hoped that in Christ, in Heaven, Elizabeth Akers shall forever have that for which she so deeply longed when she penned the words of "Rock Me To Sleep."

* * *

Poem #2

A PSALM OF LIFE

Henry W. Longfellow -- 1807-1882

(From the edition of 1886.).

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
"Life is but an empty dream!"
For the soul is dead that slumbers,

And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Art is long, and time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

Trust no future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act, act in the living present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.

This poem is so much in harmony with Bible truths that nothing really need be said more. The second stanza presents quite a contrast with Bryant's false notion in *Thanatopsis* of the grave ending it all:

Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

These lines from the fourth stanza: "Act, act in the living present! Heart within, and God o'erhead!" seem to present a picture of God afar off, somewhere way up there "o'erhead" with the impetus for the one who should act being his human "heart within"; whereas, with the Christian it is both "Christ within" and "God o'erhead." But this is a rather technical criticism. And, I refrain from commenting more on this excellent poem. It speaks eloquently for itself.

* * *

Poem #3
FAITH

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"I will not doubt though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;
I will believe the Hand that never fails
From seeming evil worketh good to me.
And though I weep because those sails are tattered,
Still will I cry while my best hopes lie shattered,
'I trust in Thee.'

"I will not doubt though all my prayers return
Unanswered from the still white realm above;
I will believe it is an all-wise love
Which has refused those things for which I yearn;
And though at times I cannot keep from grieving,
Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing
Undimmed shall burn.

"I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain
And troubles swarm like bees about a hive,
I will believe the heights for which I strive
Are only reached by anguish and by pain;
And though I writhe and groan beneath my crosses,
Still I shall see through my severest losses
The greater gain.

"I will not doubt, well anchored in the faith,
Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every gale,
So strong its courage that it shall not fail,
To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.
O, may I cry when body parts from spirit,
'I DO NOT DOUBT,' so listening worlds may hear it,
With my last breath!"

I memorized this poem when I was but a youth, and, since the fourth stanza was not included with the poem as obtained from an online source, I typed it in from memory. I consider this poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox to be an inspiring work, the lines of which can be a means of bolstering and encouraging those whose faith is being tested. I have placed below some information about the Author, written by her brother, but which I have edited and shortened:

"Ella Wheeler Wilcox was born November 5, 1850, in the village of Johnstown, Rock County, Wisconsin. Her parents were Marcus H. Wheeler and Sarah Pratt Wheeler. In the spring of 1852 the Wheeler family settled in Dane County, Wisconsin and in 1853 were at home on Section 2, town of Westport, where Ella grew up, in the home where she made her reputation as a writer of appealing poetry, until her marriage in 1884, when she went to Connecticut. She wrote verses which appealed to the public, and was known and loved by thousands of readers. She wrote for the

same reason that a bird sings. It was what she was made for. Her marriage was a love match, 1884. [She died, apparently of Cancer] October 30, 1919, at her home in Short Beach, Conn."

Of her religion, her brother wrote: "'The art of being kind' was her religion, and she lived it every day of her life." Hopefully, at some point, her religion went beyond her brother's description, for it will take more than simply "being kind" to folks to get to heaven. And, while the declarations of faith, "I will not doubt, etc.," can be uttered from a deep, inward confidence in Christ, they could also be the strained assertions of one with nothing more than an intellectual belief in Christ, having never experienced the new birth. God knows of which sort they were coming from the author. Regardless of what the case may have been with her, as mentioned before, the lines of this poem can be a means of encouraging and bolstering true faith in Christ during a time of great testing.

It is to be hoped that when her body parted from her spirit on October 30, 1919, she was able to cry from a true heart, born of God, "I DO NOT DOUBT, so listening worlds could hear it, with here last breath!"

* * *

Poem #4

THANATOPSIS

By William Cullen Bryant

(1794-1878)

I have purposely omitted presenting the whole of the first two stanzas of this poem, which express thoughts about death quite different from the truth declared in God's Word on the subject. For example, in the following lines from the first stanza, William Cullen Bryant presents the false notion that upon death, one's individual being is forever gone, every trace of it being lost in the elements of the earth:

And, lost each human trace, surrendering up
Thine individual being, shalt thou go
To mix for ever with the elements,
To be a brother to the insensible rock
And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain
Turns with his share, and treads upon.

Job 14:10 asks where a man is after he dies: "But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?" It is true that after death one's body returns to the dust, but it is totally false to assert, like Bryant, that following death every trace of one's individual being is forever lost in the elements! Jesus said in John 5:28-29: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." And, Hebrews 9:27 declares: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

NO INDEED, DISSOLUTION AFTER DEATH DOES NOT FOREVER ERASE ONE'S BEING! That philosophy originates with the devil! Shall both the deeds and very existence of wicked individuals be forever lost without a trace by dissolution into "the insensible rock" and "sluggish clods"? Evil men and women wish it was so, but it is not. Bodies may be cremated into the finest possible powder, and that fine dust be scattered from an airplane at 5,000 feet over 25 miles of ocean, and the processes of nature in turn break down and distribute the atoms of that dust around the globe so that indeed every trace of that individual's body is forever lost to the eye of man -- BUT THAT PERSON STILL EXISTS! -- and in the Last Day that individual will be raised from the dead and brought to stand before the Great White Throne. Job 34:22 declares: "There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves."

In the second stanza of *Thanatopsis*, William Cullen Bryant continues spinning the yarn of the first death being eternal:

Yet not to thine eternal resting-place
Shalt thou retire alone... All that tread
The globe are but a handful to the tribes
That slumber in its bosom.

Sleep eternally in the grave? Slumber forever in the bosom of the earth? Not according to the Bible! According to Daniel 12:2, "them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." That does not sound like eternal sleep in death! There is a death that is eternal -- the second death, but that eternal death will be one without one wink of sleep: Revelation 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night..." There will be no sleep in the Second Life for the saints, and no sleep in the Second Death for the wicked. Far from sleep being eternal, sleep will be eternally done away with when all are awakened by the Last Trump.

It is the final stanza of *Thanatopsis* that squares best with the Biblical teaching about death. He speaks therein in of so living as to be prepared for death, and of being "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust" -- of approaching the grave as one lies down for a pleasant nap.

So live, and when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like a quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

The sentiments expressed in the last stanza of *Thanatopsis* seem to be quite noble, but they are devoid of any association with the Bible or with Christ. "So live" he writes, but by what rule? The Bible? or by some non-Biblical code of behavior? Be "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust," he says, but by an unfaltering trust in what, or in whom? He does not say.

Indeed, if one's individual being forever ceased with death, what need would there be to "so live"? If there is no existence after death, then there is no accounting to anyone or anything as to how one has lived! Why "so live" if there is no reason to "so live"? And did Bryant think that the "unfaltering trust" one was to have when dying was an "unfaltering trust" in annihilation? -- a trust that there was nothing to worry about, because there was no existence or consciousness forever after the bodily death?

It is only when the last stanza of Bryant's poem is associated with the Bible, with Christ, and with true Christian faith that its sentiments are wise and safe. If "so living" is taken to mean living spiritually in a state of salvation and living by the Bible, then, and then alone, is Bryant's advice good. Then coupled with that if "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust" is taken to mean "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust in Christ," then, and then only, is that good counsel. Interpreted, and practiced in connection with the Bible, Christ, and true salvation, the last stanza of *Thanatopsis* is warm and encouraging advice. Separated therefrom, its counsel is both dark and damning -- advising one to "so live" with no guidelines as to how that must be done, and encouraging one to trust without pointing to what or whom one must trust in order to be truly sustained and soothed at the time of death.

* * *

Poem #5
ODE TO A WATERFOUL
By William Cullen Bryant

Whither, midst falling dew,
While glow the heavens with the last steps of day
Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou pursue
Thy solitary way?

Vainly the fowler's eye
Might mark thy distant flight to do thee wrong
As, darkly seen against the crimson sky,
Thy figure floats along.

Seek'st thou the plashy brink
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,
Or where the rocking billows rise and sing
On the chafed ocean side?

There is a Power whose care
Teaches thy way along that pathless coast--
The desert and illimitable air--
Lone wandering, but not lost.

All day thy wings have fanned,

At that far height, the cold, thin atmosphere,
Yet stoop not, weary, to the welcome land,
Though the dark night is near.

And soon that toil shall end;
Soon shalt thou find a summer home, and rest,
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend,
Soon, o'er thy sheltered nest.

Thou'rt gone, the abyss of heaven
Hath swallowed up thy form; yet, on my heart
Deeply has sunk the lesson thou hast given,
And shall not soon depart.

He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone,
Will lead my steps aright.

In this poem, William Cullen Bryant seems to express a belief in the Creator and His minute guidance of His creatures, and a belief that the same Wise and Watchful Creator Who guides the solitary, migrating fowl will guide him individually also. Thanatopsis does not appear to reflect any such faith in either the Creator or His Personal guidance of His creatures. Whether "Ode to a Waterfowl" marked some change in Bryant's thinking I know not, but the thoughts of this poem are more in harmony with the infallible truth of the Bible, and the figure used to illustrate God's guidance for each individual is a good one.

* * *

Poem #6
RIGHT IS RIGHT
By F. W. Faber -- 1814-1863

For right is right, since God is God,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.

* * *

Poem #7
HOW HE PREACHED
By Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

I preached as never sure to preach again,
And as a dying man to dying men.

* * *

Poem #8

PUBLISHING OUR NEIGHBOR'S SHAME

By Stephen Harvey

(circa 1627): Juvenal, Satire ix.

And there 's a lust in man no charm can tame
Of loudly publishing our neighbour's shame;
On eagles' wings immortal scandals fly,
While virtuous actions are but born and die.

* * *

Poem #9

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Laugh and the world laughs with you;
Weep and you weep alone,
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has troubles enough of its own;

Rejoice and men will seek you,
Grieve, and they turn and go,
They want full measure of all your pleasure,
But they do not need your woe;

Be glad and your friends are many,
Be sad, and you lose them all;
There are none to decline your nectar'd wine,
But alone you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded,
Fast, and the world goes by,
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,
But no man can help you die!

There is room in the halls of pleasure,
For a large and lordly train,
But one by one we must all file on,
Through the narrow isles of pain.

This little poem simply "tells it like it is," not saying how it ought to be, but rather, the way it is whether we like it or not. The poem suggests that it is better to keep your troubles to yourself

and share your joys with others. This philosophy is no doubt wise much of the time. I recall a similar philosophy related by a Christian woman who always seemed to be shouting the high praises of the Lord: "I tell the world my victories, and I tell Jesus my troubles."

Sometimes, though, a Christian can best get relief by unburdening to a fellow-Christian. "Frightened by the clamor of thunder in the night, a little child cried out. Holding her securely in his arms, her father explained that she needn't fear. God would take care of her because He loved her greatly. 'I know God will take care of me and love me,' she replied. 'But right now, Daddy, I want someone with skin on to love me.'" Yes, perhaps most of the time it is best that you not unload your troubles on others, but sometimes you need to do so, and you should.

* * *

Poem #10
GOD'S WAYS
Author Unknown

I asked for grace to lift me high
Above the world's depressing cares:
God sent me sorrows -- with a sigh
I said, "He has not heard my prayers."

I asked for light, that I might see
My path along life's thorny road:
But clouds and darkness shadowed me
When I expected light from God.

I asked for peace, that I might rest
To think my sacred duties o'er,
When, lo! such horrors filled my breast
As I had never felt before.

And, "Oh," I cried, can this be prayer
Whose Plaints the steadfast mountains move?
Can this be heaven's prevailing care?
And, O my God, is this thy love."

But soon I found that sorrow, worn
As Duty's garment, strength supplies,
And out of darkness meekly borne
Unto the righteous light doth rise.

And soon I found the fears which stirred
My startled soul God's will to do
On me more lasting peace conferred
Than in life's calm I ever knew.

As I recall, I clipped this out of a Nazarene Sunday School paper when I was about 18 years old -- about 1955. I memorized that poem, and most of its lines have remained with me to this very day, November 2, 1999. At different times I have quoted portions of the poem, and its lines have always seemed to have a special message in them for me. I pasted that poem in a Bible that I still have, and in which I scribed: "This Bible was purchased while I was attending summer school at Bible Missionary Institute, June 16, 1961.

In the first stanza, the writer's prayer for a grace that would lift him "high above this world's depressing cares" was answered with "sorrows" and evoked the feeling of disappointment coupled with a failure to recognize that those "sorrows meekly borne" would bring the pliant spiritual strength -- not with a grace that exempted him or her from trouble, but with a grace more able to endure life's troubles and grief. The writer's plea for light -- so that it would be possible to walk by sight -- was answered by a darkness that made visible the light of Christ. The plea for peace was answered with "such horrors" as had never before been known, but those fears later bestowed "more lasting peace" than had ever been known "in life's calm."

In a word, this poem is a commentary on Romans 8:26: "We know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The poem could aptly be titled: "The Paradoxes of Answered Prayer," for it shows how God often answers the Christian's prayer with something quite the opposite of that which has been requested, but which in the end either brings the thing desired in a better way, or brings something much better than requested.

* * *

Poem #11

THE CROSS KNOWS NEITHER EAST NOR WEST

Author Unknown

The Cross knows neither east nor west,
And all lands face the sky;
Who works for God is truly blest.
And asks not where nor why.

This little rhyme is a commentary on Acts 4:12 -- "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." It asserts that it is a blessed privilege to be one of Christ's laborers, and that one who is truly taking "orders from Headquarters" in Heaven obeys and goes to work for God without reservations regarding "where" he or she will work, and without insisting upon knowing "why" Jesus leads to this or that spot on the globe. The last two lines of the rhyme could be quoted in connection with Jeremiah 1:7 "But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." and in connection with John 15:14 "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

* * *

Poem #12
TREES
By Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's hungry breast;

A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree!

Romans 1:20 tell us that "the invisible things of him [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

In the oft-quoted last two lines of this poem, Joyce Kilmer illustrates the truth of the above scripture. It is "clearly seen" by those who are honest and unprejudiced in their minds that the living plants and creatures of the world point to God as their Creator. Even the earth taken in its entirety as a sphere testifies to a Creator who designed it, as do all of the heavenly bodies: Psalms 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."

Go into the presence of an atheist or agnostic carrying a round globe mounted in a stand -- a man-made object representing the sphere of earth in space. Ask such an one if they think this globe just happened into existence or whether it was manufactured by someone. Quick as a flash they will tell you that, of course, it was manufactured! Everything about it testifies to the fact that it was MADE, it was CREATED by some intelligence, and that it did not take on its shape by some mindless, chance collision and adhesion of atoms and molecules. Any atheist, agnostic, or evolutionist would tell you that it did not simply come into existence in this manner nor evolve into that form. Now, ask the anti-Creationist: "If you are convinced that this sphere, this globe that I hold before you was MADE by intelligence, how is it that you cannot also see that the sphere of the actual earth that this globe represents was also MADE by an Intelligent being, God the Creator?!" The earth "showeth His handiwork," His existence, "clearly seen" by all who are not willfully blind to that revelation.

Let every atheist, every agnostic, and every evolutionist speak the truth: "THESE FALSE THEORIES WERE MADE BY FOOLS LIKE ME, FOR ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE!"

* * *

Poem #13

THE RAVEN

By Edgar Allan Poe

(1809 - 1849) American Poet, Author

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door --
Only this, and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow; -- vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow -- sorrow for the lost Lenore --
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels named Lenore --
Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain
Thrilled me -- filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating "
'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door --
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door; --
This it is, and nothing more,"

Presently my heart grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,
"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was sure I heard you" -- here I opened wide the door; --
Darkness there, and nothing more.

Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken, and the darkness gave no token,
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, "Lenore!"
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word "Lenore!"
Merely this and nothing more.

Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,

Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.
"Surely," said I, "surely that is something at my window lattice;
Let me see then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore --
Let my heart be still a moment and this mystery explore; --
'Tis the wind and nothing more!"

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately raven of the saintly days of yore.
Not the least obeisance made he; not an instant stopped or stayed he;
But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door --
Perched upon a bust of Pallas* just above my chamber door --
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

[*According to my Oxford Dictionary, Pallas was thought to be a protecting deity. -- DVM]

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,
"Though thy crest be shorn and shaven, thou," I said, "art sure no craven.
Ghastly grim and ancient raven wandering from the Nightly shore --
Tell me what thy lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian* shore!"
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

[* Plutonian adj. = infernal, of the infernal regions -- Oxford Dict.]

Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly, Though its answer little
meaning -- little relevancy bore; For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being Ever
yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door -- Bird or beast above the sculptured
bust above his chamber door, With such name as "Nevermore."

But the raven, sitting lonely on the placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.
Nothing further then he uttered -- not a feather then he fluttered --
Till I scarcely more than muttered "Other friends have flown before --
On the morrow will he leave me, as my hopes have flown before."
Then the bird said, "Nevermore."

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters is its only stock and store,
Caught from some unhappy master whom unmerciful Disaster
Followed fast and followed faster till his songs one burden bore --
Till the dirges of his Hope that melancholy burden bore
Of 'Never-nevermore.'"

But the Raven still beguiling all my sad soul into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird and bust and door;
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking

Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore --
What this grim, ungainly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking "Nevermore."

This I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet violet lining that the lamp-light gloated o'er,
But whose velvet violet lining with the lamp-light gloating o'er,
She shall press, ah, nevermore!

Then, methought the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer
Swung by angels whose faint foot-falls tinkled on the tufted floor.
"Wretch," I cried, "thy god hath lent thee - by these angels he has sent thee
Respite - respite and nepenthe* from the memories of Lenore!
Quaff, oh quaff this kind nepenthe, and forget this lost Lenore!"
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

[nepenthes n. poet. a drug causing forgetfulness of grief. -- Oxford Dict.]

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil! -- prophet still, if bird or devil! --
Whether Tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,
Desolate yet all undaunted, on this desert land enchanted --
On this home by Horror haunted -- tell me truly, I implore --
Is there -- is there balm in Gilead? -- tell me -- tell me, I implore!"
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil! -- prophet still, if bird or devil!
By that Heaven that bends above us -- by that God we both adore --
Tell this soul with sorrow laden if, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a sainted maiden whom the angels named Lenore --
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden, whom the angels named Lenore?"
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked upstarting --
"Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!
Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!
Leave my loneliness unbroken! -- quit the bust above my door!
Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

And the raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor

Shall be lifted -- nevermore.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The facts in the following material about the author were found online as taken from the Encarta Encyclopedia. I have edited, re-written and re-arranged that material, and added some of my own thoughts.

Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809 -- October 7, 1849) died at age 40, about 3 months prior to his 41st Birthday. His brief life is a study in unrighteous parentage and upbringing, unfulfilled potential, undisciplined efforts, and unending remorse. His parents were touring actors who both died before he was age 3. John Allan, a well-to-do businessman of Richmond, Virginia made a home for him and had him baptized Edgar Allan Poe. He was a student in England from 1815 to 1820, which would have been from about age 6 through age 11, and back in the United States, he attended the University of Virginia for a year, starting in 1826, and he was a good student.

However, in spite of a moneyed benefactor and inherited talents, Poe was a man of unstable temperament who began gambling and ran up debts that John Allan would not pay. Allan also blocked his return to the university and nullified Poe's engagement to Elmira Royster, his Richmond sweetheart. Poe entered the Army as a means of support, and published his first book of poems in 1827 -- at about age 18. Later John Allan helped get Poe an appointment to West Point, but again his unstable character surfaced and he managed to get himself dismissed after being there only 6 months.

Poe continued, however, to write poetry, and published poems in 1829 and 1831. He seemed to bounce around a good deal, but his love for writing remained. But apparently nothing in Poe's writing indicates that he had any inclination toward Christ and the things of God, and his subjects seem rather to point to irreligion. Along with poetry Poe wrote fictional stories. Among them five comical/satirical works in 1832, in 1833 a work titled *Found in a Bottle*. The story, *Berenice*, was a horror story. He published *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* in 1841, *The Mystery of Marie Rogêt* in 1842-1843, and *The Purloined Letter* in 1844, which works have been regarded as the predecessors of the modern mystery and detective stories. He was apparently the first, or one of the first, in our country to focus on writing short stories and is said to have originated "the novel of detection" or the detective story.

Poe worked some as an editor and literary critic, but was fired as editor of the *Messenger* near January, 1837 because of his drinking. As a writer and editor he succeeded, but one more time his unstable character and godless living landed him out of work. He continued to bounce from pillar to post: -- to New York City in 1837, to Philadelphia, 1838-44, and back to New York, 1844-49.

The bright, the cheerful, the hopeful seems to be absent in Poe's works, while the grotesque, the morbid and the haunting, and the hopeless seem to mark his compositions. He wrote *The Pit and the Pendulum* in 1842, which work was a tale of cruelty and torture. *The Tell-Tale Heart*, published in 1843 involved a maniacal murderer who was haunted into confessing his guilt.

The Cask of Amontillado, published in 1846, was, according to one writer, "an eerie tale of revenge."

HE WROTE "THE RAVEN" IN 1845, about five years before his tragic death. His wife Virginia died in January of 1847, at only about 25 years of age -- and her passing was a hard blow to him, himself only about 39. In the summer of 1849 Poe went to Richmond and, as one writer put it, he "was accepted anew by the fiancée he had lost in 1826." It is not said that he married her.

But the candle was already burning low on the life of this talented, but unstable and godless man. Death was soon to snuff that candle out. He returned north to Baltimore and was found unconscious on the street. The obituary in a Baltimore paper reported that he had died of "congestion of the brain." As I recall from something I read or heard years ago, his death may have been brought about either by alcohol, drug-overdose, or both. Whatever the facts are, Poe appears to have shortened his life by his indulgences.

INSIGHTS FROM THE POEM

The Raven as a creature is a black-feathered foul, and "The Raven" as a poem is an ominous, dark and portentous literary creation, born in the heart of one whose outlook was eternally dark and foreboding, and conjured from a brain perhaps both intoxicated with liquor and stimulated by drugs. In the poem, Poe refers to "nepenthe," which poetically speaking was "a drug causing forgetfulness of grief." What the writer expressed in verse, he may have exercised in his life -- the taking of a narcotic for the purpose of drowning out his sorrows and forgetting his woes -- for he penned: "vainly I had sought to borrow, From my books surcease of sorrow -- sorrow for the lost Lenore." It sounds like he often found no relief from his sorrows and woes in his books, and that he turned to alcohol and "nepenthe" to drown those thoughts and griefs.

Were I to make an application of the vivid figures in this poem, I might liken "THE LOST LENORE" to Poe's LOSS OF ALL HOPE -- all that contained true love, all that he felt was worth living for. But perhaps in the depths of his soul, although not recognized, "Lost Lenore" was the eternal FORFEITURE OF CHRIST, HIS LOVE, HIS HOPE.

"And THE RAVEN, never flitting, still .. sitting, still .. sitting," always saying NEVERMORE, might have been the divine harbinger of impending doom -- nevermore to leave, evermore to haunt and torment him throughout eternity with the remembrance of what he has forfeited and lost in this life: Christ, Love, Hope, Heaven.

The final stanza of this poem seems to express sentiments and thoughts similar to those of king Saul when he visited the witch of Endor -- full of the darkness of impending doom -- and in particular, the last three lines of the poem seem to be the expressions of one who sees himself forever lost, lying on the very bottom of Hell's pit, never again to be lifted up and out of that dark damnation.

And the raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,

And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted -- nevermore.

Some five years beyond their publication, the ominous and dark portents of "The Raven" seem to have reached their fulfillment when this gifted, but disillusioned and foreboding young poet fell to the street in Baltimore, Maryland, and continued his plunge headlong into the hopeless depths of dark damnation -- the victim in part of a godless upbringing and education, the victim in part of an unstable character, the carnal mind, and life's disappointments, the victim in part of satanic deceptions, and the victim, most of all, of his own wrong choices and indulgences. But who, I wonder, ever witnessed to him of the love of Christ and His Redeeming, Transforming grace? If none ever did, then Edgar Allan Poe may have also been, in part, the victim of a neglected duty by some Christian who had the opportunity to do so, but failed to warmly witness to him of the saving power of Jesus Christ. Whatever the case, it seems most likely that it will be THE RAVEN of dark damnation, and NOT THE DOVE of everlasting peace, that is forever fixed in his view. Selah.

* * *

Poem #14
WHO WALKS WITH GOD
Author Unknown

Who walk with God must take His way
Across far distances and gray
To goals that others do not see,
Where others do not care to be.

Who walks with God must have no fear
When danger and defeat appear
Nor stop when other hope seems gone,
For God our God still leadeth on.

Who walks with God must press ahead
When skies are cloudy, full of dread,
When all the waiting thousands cheer,
Or when they stop to sneer.

When fierce the challenge of the hour
And not is left but jaded power,
But he will someday reach the dawn,
For God our God moved ever on.

This poem is written in the front of one of my Bibles. It was handed to me by Bro. R. D. Ulrich, 10/28/61, when I was a student at BMI, Rock Island, Illinois. The lines were penned in ink and very faded. One key word in the first line of the last stanza was so difficult to make out that I

finally decided to rewrite the line a bit. I hope that I hit close to the original meaning in so doing. There is a great challenge in this world for the one who walks with God; there is a great change in the world to come for the one who walked with God to the end of life's journey -- a great challenge now, a great change then. And what shall that change be? It is mentioned in Revelation 3:4, and it tells of another walk with Christ in the heavenlies: "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." For the finally persevering saint, "the earthly walk by faith, not sight," is succeeded by "the heavenly walk with Christ, in white."

* * *

Poem #15
WHAT TO SEEK FIRST
Author Unknown

The little rhyme below is written on a page at the front of one of my old Bibles. I know not the author, but it is very good advice.

Seek ye first, not earth's aspirings,
Ceaseless longings, vain desirings,
But your precious soul's requirings,
Seek ye first.

* * *

Poem #16
A VERSE QUOTED BY WESLEY
Author Unknown

With me no melancholy void,
No moment lingers unemployed,
Or unimproved below.
My weariness of life is gone,
Who lives to serve my God alone,
And Jesus only know.

I'm not sure, but I think that John Wesley himself may have written the above rhyme. At any rate, I have written in my Bible beside the lines: "a verse quoted by John Wesley."

* * *

Poem #17
FROM A BOOK BY L. E. MAXWELL
Author Unknown

From subtle love of softening things,

From easy choices, weakenings,
From all that dims Thy Calvary,
O Lamb of God, deliver me.

This rhyme is also written in the front of one of my old Bibles. Quite a prayer!

* * *

Poem #18
WEATHER IS NOT A FACTOR
Unknown Author

No pelting rain can make us stay,
When we have tickets for the play,
But let one drop the pavement smirch,
And it's too wet to go to church!

Here again, is a little rhyme that I have written in the front of one of my old Bibles. No title was with the lines as written in my Bible. I attached my own title to it.

* * *

Poem #19
THERE'S A WIDENESS
F. W. Faber

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice
Which is more than liberty.

There's a welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour;
There is healing in His blood.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

On July 7, 1962, I wrote the words of verses 1, 3, and 4 in the front of what is now one of my old Bibles, with the comment in parentheses: "(words from a song I liked)". This song speaks of "the goodness of God" which stands in contradistinction to "the severity of God". The apostle Paul preached a balanced gospel when he wrote in Romans 11:22 "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

The human tendency, when preaching the gospel, is to get lop-sided, leaning too much toward an emphasis of one or the other of the above-mentioned characteristics of God. Liberals lean too much toward "the goodness of God," and Legalists lean too much toward "the severity of God." And, there are all too few holiness preachers that maintain a proper balance, both in their concept of God and in their preaching of the gospel. One cannot accurately categorize all holiness preachers as either Liberal or Legal, but most do seem to lean, to a lesser or greater degree, toward preaching that dwells too much on either the goodness or on the severity of God.

The first two stanzas above of Faber's song could be good medicine for some who are overly inclined to think that God is going to cut off and damn all who do not quite fit into their own concept of what a true Christian is.

* * *

Poem #20
HOW THE HEIGHTS WERE GAINED
Author Unknown to Me

The heights that some men gained and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

Probably more than one of my readers will be able to name the author of the above rhyme that I have written in the back of an old Bible, but I cannot. Furthermore, I think I may have the wording wrong.

Beverly Carradine quoted it in his book, "A Journey to Palestine," as he was near the sight of West Point, just before sailing. I lift the following by Carradine from that book:

"Lower down the river, on the western side, nestles West Point, the cradle of our military greatness. Washington himself selected the spot. It is certainly lovely and commanding. The buildings and grounds are on a plateau half way up the tall bluff that faces the river. Further down still is Stony Point, which, if my historical memory is not at fault, was taken from the British by Gen. Wayne in a night assault. Up those rocky sides our men climbed and swept all before them. Strangely, there comes to my mind a verse, suggested by this incident of war. Let, the young reader stop and memorize this stanza of a famous poet:

"The heights by great men reached and kept,

Were not attained by sudden flight;
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

"Near this point Washington flung an iron chain across the river to stop the English fleet. They broke it easily, and called it "the American pumpkin vine." A little further down, on the eastern bank, we pass in a few yards of the place where Arnold and Major Andre had their midnight interview in regard to the surrender of West Point. How they whispered here in these dark woods together. No one heard them; and yet all the world knows today of that guilty midnight conference of wickedness. The leaves overhead sighed over the treachery; the boughs of the trees wrung and tossed their hands in horror, and flung the dark secret to the waves at their feet, and they, the waves, sped away with the history of the act to an astounded nation. So truly did the night-whisper of Judas and the priests become a mighty voice that has filled the world. They thought no one would ever know of a thing whispered in the night! Here was a double guard or wall -- a whisper and the night! They forgot that Jesus said, 'There is nothing hid but shall be known.'"

Carradine's version of the rhyme is probably the most accurate, but while he attributes it to "famous poet," he does not name the bard. Nonetheless, the message of the poem is profound, and Carradine's comments involving Major John Andre lead naturally to the poem below.

* * *

Poem #21
MY HIDING PLACE
By Major John Andre

This poem made a profound impression upon me the first time I read it. The circumstances out of which its inspiration arose and the whole story surrounding it are themselves remarkable. Do yourself a favor -- read it.

I will introduce Major Andre's poem with the following paragraphs lifted from an article that I wrote perhaps about 10 or 12 years ago, and later included with other writings under the title: "Striking the Source":

In 1973 I received a church publication from Rev. Lowell Foster containing a story that made a lasting impression on me. Now, more than 20 years later, I still have that story. It is entitled: "Hiding Place For A Spy," and it tells of how one who "felt secure" outside of Christ, until suddenly he faced his eternal jeopardy. Then, after feeling "the arrows of distress," he found real security in "Jesus as a Hiding Place." This remarkable account is quoted below:

The H.M.S. Vulture crept up the Hudson River, early in the Fall of 1780, to an anchorage above Stony Point. In the Dusk a young army officer clambered down into a small boat, and was rowed to the shore. There the Britisher was met by Benedict Arnold, commander of West Point. General Arnold was prepared to sell out to the enemy. During the night plans were laid and a bargain was struck to put West Point into the hands of the British.

The British officer returned to Governor Clinton's headquarters in New York by horseback. Near the end of his journey he was waylaid by three American soldiers. They searched him, and the plot was discovered. The captured officer was brought to trial and sentenced to death as a spy. The spy's name was Major John Andre', of the British Army. Meanwhile, Benedict Arnold escaped to the British lines.

While Major Andre' was awaiting his execution, he seems to have given serious thought to eternal matters. Doubtless he recalled his early training given him by his Huguenot parents who had found spiritual refuge in England.

Until he faced death, Andre' had lived the usual social life of an army officer--one continuous whirl of gay functions, but his capture and trial changed all of that. Death for him was but a matter of days. In repentance and faith, he turned to that blessed One who had long before said, "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." -- John 6:37

Major Andre' found there was amazing grace even for him, and he tasted the fruits of conversion -- joy and peace in believing after full repentance. This is set forth wonderfully in his own words in a poem, "My Hiding Place," found in his pocket after he was hanged at Tappan, New York, October 2, 1780. Here is the poem.

Hail, sovereign love, which first began
The scheme to rescue fallen man!
Hail, matchless, free, eternal grace,
Which gave my soul a Hiding Place!

Against the God who built the sky
I fought with hands uplifted high--
Despised the mention of His grace,
Too proud to seek a Hiding Place.

Enwrapt in thick Egyptian night,
And fond of darkness more than light,
Madly I ran the sinful race,
Secure -- without a Hiding Place!

But thus the eternal counsel ran:
Almighty love, arrest that man!
I felt the arrows of distress,
And found I had no Hiding Place.

Indignant Justice stood in view;
To Sinai's fiery mount I flew;
But Justice cried with frowning face,
This mountain is no Hiding Place!

Ere long a heavenly voice I heard,
And mercy's angel soon appeared:
He led me, with a beaming face,
To JESUS as a Hiding Place.

On Him almighty vengeance fell,
Which must have sunk a world to hell!
He bore it for a sinful race,
And thus became our Hiding Place.

Should sevenfold storms of thunder roll,
And shake this globe from pole to pole,
No thunderbolt shall daunt my face,
For Jesus is my Hiding Place.

A few more setting suns at most
Shall land me on that glorious coast,
Where I shall sing the song of grace,
And see my glorious Hiding Place!

God's Word tells us in Isaiah 28:17--"Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." Like Major John Andre, many, who have sought to find refuge outside of Christ, have painfully discovered that they had no real Hiding Place. God's providential judgment will often "sweep away the refuge of lies," and "overflow the (false) hiding place," which is actually no real shelter from the wrath to come. After such revealing distress has come, many have happily discovered Jesus, their Hiding Place -- have found real security in Christ, and can testify as the psalmist: Psa 119:114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word." -- Psa 32:7 "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah."

* * *

Poem #22
HAIL GUEST!
Author Unknown

Hail guest! We ask not what thou art;
If Friend, we greet thee hand and heart,
If Stranger, so no longer be --
If foe, our love shall conquer thee!

This rhyme is written in the front of one of my old Bibles. I quoted it some from the pulpit when new visitors came into our service.

* * *

Poem #23

JESUS, THE ANSWER TO EVERY NEED

Author Unknown

I've tried in vain a thousand ways
My fears to quell, my hopes to raise,
When all I need, the Bible says,-- is Jesus.

My soul is night, my heart is still;
I cannot see -- I cannot feel--
For light, for life, I must appeal -- to Jesus.

He dies, He lives, He intercedes,
There's love in all His words and deeds--
All, all a poor, lost sinner needs -- is Jesus.

Though some will mock and some will blame,
I'll go to him, because His Name -- is Jesus.

This little poem too, was written in the front of one of my old Bibles. I added two words to one of the lines for poetic balance. Beneath the words of this poem, on the same page of my old Bible I scribed a rather good acrostic using the letters of the word GRACE. I don't know who originated it. Because of the difficulty in aligning the text perpendicularly at right angles beneath the letters, I will show them horizontally, using a dash after each capital letter. The acrostic shows that GRACE is: G-od's R-edemption A-t C-hrist's E-xpense.

* * *

Poem #24

JUST A CHILD AT THE ALTAR

By Duane V. Maxey

Just a child at the altar -- but is that really all?
It might be a soul who has answered God's call,
A soul in dead earnest, though little in size,
Just a boy or a girl, -- but do you apprise
As highly as Jesus the form that kneels there?
All melted and weeping the penitent's prayer?
Or is the small seeker on that hallowed spot
In your mind unimportant, a person of naught,
Who is not really lost and who needs no concern, --
While for adults a-plenty your prayer fires will burn,
And for men and for women you will pray until late?
If this is your thought, then your error is GREAT!

When the evangelist, pastor, or altar worker sees only 1 child (or just a few) at the altar, and is tempted to write that altar service off as a failure, this divine counsel should be carefully remembered: "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones!" The little form(s) kneeling at your altar may look small to you, but they may represent BIG BUSINESS FOR GOD! -- much bigger than you may imagine -- and the size of your concern should not be measured by the size or number of your seekers. Sometimes, the greatest failure of an evangelist, pastor, or altar worker may be the blind, but sad, underestimation of how important it is to pray with children with the same concern they have for adults. It is a HUGE failure in God's sight, for when a child is saved, the entire life from thenceforth can also be saved and used for Christ, while often a redeemed adult can offer Him nothing but the dregs of a few paltry years.

* * *

Poem #25

IF IT HAD NOT BEEN THE LORD

By Duane V. Maxey

TEXT UPON WHICH THE POEM IS BASED: -- Psalms 124 "IF IT HAD NOT BEEN THE LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say; 2 IF IT HAD NOT BEEN THE LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: 3 Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: 4 Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: 5 Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. 6 Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. 7 Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

If it had not been the Lord,
After our first parents fell,
Guilt had swallowed them up quick,
Plunged them down to endless hell.

If it had not been the Lord,
Who was on our side that day,
There had been no ray of hope;
Sin had doomed us all for aye.

Blessed be the Lord who came,
Cursed the serpent for his deed,
Took our place upon the Cross,
As our Saving, Bruis-ed Seed!

Died the Death we should have died,
Went into our Lake of Fire,
Set the devil's captives free;
Led them out to realms up higher.

Our help is in Jesus' Name;
For Escape, He is the Key;
All who trust Him and obey,
Shall forever be set free!

Neither wrath nor streaming fire,
Ever overwhelms the soul
Who abideth in His grace,
While still pressing toward the goal.

If it had not been the Lord,
On the Cross of death and doom,
If he had been but a man,
Then He'd still be in the tomb.

But IT WAS THE LORD in truth!
And He rose up from the grave,
Lives forevermore on high,
To the uttermost can save!

Jesus showed Himself alive,
Forty days unto His own --
And with proofs infallible,
Ere He left for Heaven's throne.

Not the Gardener was He,
Mary heard amidst her gloom --
But her risen, "Rabboni!"
Sent her joyous from the tomb!

"Children, Have ye any Meat?" --
Sad disciples heard that Word;
John, who leaned on Jesus' breast,
Said to them, "It is the Lord!"

"My Lord and My God," said one,
Bidden touch His hands and side;
Thomas' doubts all fled away,
And for Christ he lived and died.

If it had not been the Lord,
Pouring current down the line,
Upper Room saints had not seemed,
As if drunken with new wine!

But the grapes were not of earth,

That produced what they drank in,
They were bubbling with joy
And from hearts made free from sin!

If it had not been the Lord, --
But it was, -- when Fire fell
Giving power to His Church,
For to turn lost souls from hell.

If it had not been the Lord,
Whom proud Saul of Tarsus met,
To Damascus he had gone,
Carried out his wrathful threat;

But when smitten to the ground,
Blinded by the brilliant Light,
Then he knew that Jesus lived, --
Reigned as One he dare not fight;

Saul surrendered, served the Lord,
Knew His smile without a frown,
Fought the good fight, kept the faith,
Went to wear the martyr's crown.

If it had not been the Lord,
Giving us the Written Word,
Who had ever seen the Way?
Who had felt the cleansing blood?

If the Bible is of men,
If its lines are nought but lies,
None who follow what it says,
Could find that which satisfies.

But its witnesses abound,
Who about the Word are sure.
Will obeys and Faith believes,
And they know the double cure.

If it had not been the Lord,
Who said "I will come again."
What is coming on the earth,
Would be what has always been.

But the Trumpet soon shall sound,
Ending time and earthly play,

Christ shall come and shock the world,
On that Great and Dreadful Day!

All shall come to Judgment then --
Stand before His Great White Throne,
Each receive endless reward,
For the deeds that have been done.

If it had not been the Lord,
Set by God as Judge of all,
Some might die that ought to live,
Others rise who ought to fall,

Some might pass themselves as saints,
That belong in hell's dark pit
But the Lord is wise to all,
He will render what is fit.

Goats shall be cast in the fire;
Sheep be gathered to His fold,
All according to God's Word,
Just as Jesus has foretold.

* * *

Poem #26

WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN THE KING OF THE JEWS?
By Duane V. Maxey

This is a Poetic Sermon arranged and used as the Christmas Service at Portland, Oregon
Bible Missionary Church, Sunday Night, December 19, 1976

As I now recall, I think that copies of the complete service in print were given to adults in the congregation, so that they could better follow along, even though the lights were dimmed. This printed copy of the service included just about everything: Scriptures, Poem Parts, and in the back of the printed copy were included even the Music and Words to the Songs.

A CLUE TOWARD FOLLOWING THIS POETIC CHRISTMAS SERMON: The Scripture Readings show various places that Jesus WAS FOUND when on earth, IS FOUND today, and SHALL BE FOUND in the great, coming Tomorrow, and a CLOSING ADMONITION. The 30 parts into which the poem is divided were recited by the Sunday School children and tell of the places where Jesus was, is, and shall be found, with Poem Parts #29 and #30 relating the Scriptures used in the Closing admonition.

The entire poem by itself is found at the end of this portion of the publication.

* * *

THE OPENING OF THE SERVICE

SONGS #1 AND #2 BY THE CONGREGATION: -- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-2 "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, WHERE IS HE that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

PRAYER

THE OFFERING

* * *

INTRODUCTION TO THE POETIC CHRISTMAS SERMON:

(Call Forward to the Platform: Ricky Thurman, Jim Schoebel and Ron Helgerson.)

Comments by the pastor, giving the Title and explaining that the Sunday School children will participate with the pastor in giving the sermon by reciting successive parts of the poem when called upon.

(Overhead Lights Out)

POEM PART #1 --- Recited by Ricky Thurman

Since Christ was born in Bethlehem,
He has been sought, and found by some.
Where was He found while here on earth,
This Heavenly King of Noble birth?

* * *

SERMON DIVISION I -- WHERE WAS HE FOUND WHILE HERE ON EARTH?

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Luke 2:8-16 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host

praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

POEM PART #2 -- Recited by Jim Schoebel

Once He was found in a manger of hay,
Where wrapped in swaddling clothes He lay,
The King of the Jews, The Savior of men,
Was born in a stable, just outside the inn.
The Shepherds there found Him in humble repose,
The King of the Jews, in swaddling clothes.

SONGS #3 AND #4 BY THE CONGREGATION: "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night"

POEM PART #3 -- Recited by Ron Helgersen

Again, He was found beneath a bright star
By wise men who followed that light from afar.
"The star which they saw in the east went before,"
And guided their feet to just the right door.

SONG #5 BY THE CONGREGATION: "The First Noel" (Call Tammy Drennen, Terry Helgersen, Scott Johnson, Loretta & Louise Lanz)

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Luke 2:42-49 "And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

POEM PART #4 -- Recited by Tammy Drennen

He was found in the temple when just twelve years old.
"In the midst of the doctors" He sat, we are told.
His mother and Joseph had sought Him in vain,
Until they returned to the temple again.

SONG #6: "In The Temple" by Jim Schoebel

POEM PART #5 -- by Tammy Drennen

He was found near the River of Jordan by two,
And one of these men was named Andrew.
The other was John, and soon there were more
Who found Him beside the Galilee shore.

SONG #7: -- "Jesus, Wonderful Lord" by Loretta and Louise Lanz

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Mark 3:32-33 "And THE MULTITUDE sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. 33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?"

John 6:24-25 "When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. 25 And when THEY had FOUND HIM on the other side of THE SEA, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?"

Luke 19:1-5 "And Jesus entered and PASSED THROUGH JERICHO. 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house."

Luke 6:17-19 "And he came down with them, and stood in THE PLAIN, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; 18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all."

Luke 9:28 "And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into A MOUNTAIN to pray... 36 And when the voice was past, JESUS WAS FOUND alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen."

POEM PART #6 -- by Terry Helgren

He was found in a crowd; He was found by the sea;
He was found on the Jericho road one day.

POEM PART #7 -- by Scott Johnson

He was found on the plain; He was found on the hill;
But, wherever the place, He was found in God's will.

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Mark 1:35-37 "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. 36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee."

POEM PART #8 -- by Sonny Schoebel

He was found "in the morning, a great while before day"
He had gone to a solitary place to pray.
It was Simon, with others, who followed Him there.
The right place to seek was the place of prayer.

SONG #8: -- "Teach Me To Pray" by Norma Kennedy

SCRIPTURE READING: -- John 7:2 "Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand." -- John 7:11 "Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?" -- John 7:37 "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." -- John 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."

POEM PART #9 -- by Tony Melius

He was found at a feast in the Fall of the year
In the city of Jerusalem; they sought for Him there.
"In the last day" He stood, and spoke with great power,
As never a man had spoken before!

SCRIPTURE READING: -- John 18:4-8 "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. 7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:"

POEM PART #10 -- by Tony Melius

He was found in the Garden of Gethsemane,
Where He sweat drops of blood in great agony.
Betrayed by a friend, and found by His foes,
Deserted by all, the death-cup He chose.

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Luke 23:1-3 "And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the

nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. 3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it." -- Luke 23:38 "And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

POEM PART #11 -- by Scott Charlson

He was found before Pilate, by the rulers accused,
He was found on the cross, THE KING OF THE JEWS!
Rejected of men, as sin before God,
To save a lost race, He shed His own blood.

SONGS #9 AND #10 -- "Alone" and "A Crown of Thorns" by the pastor

(Call Barbara Melius, Jim Schoebel, Michelle Helgersen, John Sullivan)

SCRIPTURE READING: -- John 20:15-16 "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master."

POEM PART #12 -- by Barbara Melius

He was found with the living; He rose from the dead,
Fulfilling God's word, just as He had said;

POEM PART #13 -- by Barbara Melius

But where is the King of the Jews found today?
"I don't see him now anywhere," they will say.

* * *

SERMON DIVISION II -- WHERE IS THE KING OF THE JEWS FOUND TODAY?

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 1:11-12 "They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

Hebrews 5:6 "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

POEM PART #14 -- by Jim Schoebel

He is found now in heaven, within the great veil,
He's ever the same; His years "shall not fail."
To make intercession, He liveth today.
A High Priest forever, for all who obey.

POEM PART #15 -- by Michelle Helgersen

He is found with the humble, the two or the three,
Who seek Him in earnest, in humility.

JESUS' HUMBLE LIFE IN THIS WORLD, described in the little sketch, ONE SOLITARY LIFE: -- He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE. -- Author not known to DVM

POEM PART #16 -- by John Sullivan

He is found with the wise who will walk in the light,
Who will follow His Star that is guiding aright.

[GOD'S WORD -- HIS STAR OF GUIDANCE -- NEEDED BUT NEGLECTED]

A minister was once asked unexpectedly to conduct a service in a country home. He called for a Bible, but none could be found. At last, however, they found one in an old sea chest in the attic. On the outside of the chest were the words: "Not Wanted For The Voyage."

POEM PART #17 -- by D'Lisa Botel

He is found in the temple by worshippers true,

Who assemble together the entire year through.

A father once told his son that he was going to take him to visit the country church he used to attend as a boy, and where he often rang the bell to call the people to the house of God for worship. So, he took his son out to the old country church, but great was their disappointment when they found the old church-building locked and deserted. Looking through a window they could see the long bell rope. The father managed to borrow a key, and opened the door. The little son looked up into his father's face and eagerly exclaimed, "FATHER, RING IT AGAIN! RING IT AGAIN!" So, once again the old church bell rang out. Made curious by hearing the old church bell ring again, people came from far and near to see what was the matter. He told them what the church had meant to him in his boyhood, and with his help the old church was re-opened for worship.

While simply going to church will not get anyone to heaven, could it not be that if some mothers and fathers would return to the old-fashioned church of their childhood, much more eternal good could be wrought in their own hearts and lives, and in the hearts and lives of their children?

POEM PART #18 -- by Derek Botel

He is found on the plain, on the top of the hill,
But, wherever the place, he is found in God's will.

POEM PART #19 -- by Shawn Bratcher

He is found in the solitary place of prayer
By the few who are faithful to follow Him there.

POEM PART #20 -- by Matthew Hodgkin

He is found in the message anointed with power,
As never the preacher has spoken before.

POEM PART #21 -- by Sonny Schoebel

He is found in the garden of great agony
Where choices are made for eternity.

POEM PART #22 -- by Tammy Drennen

He is found on the cross, rejected of men,
By those who will bear the reproach of the same.

POEM PART #23 -- by Scott Johnson

He is found with the living, who are born of His Word,
Who are quickened to life through the power of His Blood.

* * *

SERMON DIVISION III

WHERE WILL THE KING OF THE JEWS BE FOUND TOMORROW?

(Call Scott Charlson, Mark Haffey, Cindy Sullivan, Tracy Morgan)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Revelation 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

POEM PART #24 -- by Scott Charlson

He is found now in heaven, but soon He will leave,
And return in the clouds, His own to receive.

SONG #11 -- "Are You Watching For His Star?" by Loretta and Louise Lanz

POEM PART #25 -- by Scott Charlson

The One Who was born the King of the Jews,
Who stood before Pilate, by rulers accused,
Who died on the cross, rejected of men,
Ascended to heaven, shall soon come again.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Zechariah 13:1 "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

Zechariah 13:6 "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."

POEM PART #26 -- by Scott Charlson

All Israel shall mourn, beholding His wounds,

Which He has received in the house of His friends.
A fountain for them shall be opened that day;
For sin and uncleanness shall be put away.

(Overhead Lights On)

SONG #12 -- by the Congregation: "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zechariah 13:2 "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land."

Zechariah 14:9 "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."

Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"

POEM PART #27 -- by Cindy Sullivan

The names of their idols remembered no more,
And Jesus be King of the Jews evermore.
"The Lord shall be King over all of the earth,"
"His Name shall be one," the Name of His birth,
And ev-er-y tongue shall confess Jesus, Lord,
While every knee bows "to the glory of God."

SONG #13 -- by the Congregation: "Look Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious" (Verses 1)

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zechariah 14:20 "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar."

Revelation 19:15-16 "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

POEM PART #28 -- by Tracy Morgan

With sin done away by the Lamb, or the Sword,
The bells shall ring "Holiness Unto The Lord."
The curse shall be gone while Holiness rings,

And Jesus shall reign the King of all Kings!

SONG #13 -- by the Congregation: "Look Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious" (Verses 2-3)

SERMON DIVISION IV -- THE CONCLUSION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Corinthians 6:2 "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

POEM PART #29 -- by Tracy Morgan

But now is the time accepted of God
To let Him be King and give Him abode.
Tomorrow rebellion shall all be put down
By the One Who was born in Bethlehem-town.
No room shall be found in the Heavenly-place
For those who made no room for Christ and His grace.

POEM PART #30 -- by Tracy Morgan

But "if any man hear," and will "open the door,"
The King will now enter, and dwell evermore.
"Where Is He That Is Born The King Of The Jews?"
He is found in the hearts of those who thus choose.

THE CLOSING OF THE SERVICE

SONG #14 -- by the Congregation: "Joy to the World"

THE CLOSING PRAYER

* * *

THE ENTIRE POEM BY ITSELF

WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN THE KING OF THE JEWS?

Since Christ was born in Bethlehem,
He has been sought, and found by some.

Where was He found while here on earth,
This Heavenly King of Noble birth?

Once He was found in a manger of hay,
Where wrapped in swaddling clothes He lay,

The King of the Jews, The Savior of men,
Was born in a stable, just outside the inn.

The Shepherds there found Him in humble repose,
The King of the Jews, in swaddling clothes.

Again, He was found beneath a bright star
By wise men who followed that light from afar.

"The star which they saw in the east went before,"
And guided their feet to just the right door.

He was found in the temple when just twelve years old.
"In the midst of the doctors" He sat, we are told.

His mother and Joseph had sought Him in vain,
Until they returned to the temple again.

He was found near the River of Jordan by two,
And one of these men was named Andrew.

The other was John, and soon there were more
Who found Him beside the Galilee shore.

He was found in a crowd; He was found by the sea;
He was found on the Jericho road one day.

He was found on the plain; He was found on the hill;
But, wherever the place, He was found in God's will.

He was found "in the morning, a great while before day"
He had gone to a solitary place to pray.

It was Simon, with others, who followed Him there.
The right place to seek was the place of prayer.

He was found at a feast in the Fall of the year
In the city of Jerusalem; they sought for Him there.

"In the last day" He stood, and spoke with great power,

As never a man had spoken before!

He was found in the Garden of Gethsemane,
Where He sweat drops of blood in great agony.

Betrayed by a friend, and found by His foes,
Deserted by all, the death-cup He chose.

He was found before Pilate, by the rulers accused,
He was found on the cross, THE KING OF THE JEWS!

Rejected of men, as sin before God,
To save a lost race, He shed His own blood.

He was found with the living; He rose from the dead,
Fulfilling God's word, just as He had said;

But where is the King of the Jews found today?
"I don't see him now anywhere," they will say.

He is found now in heaven, within the great veil,
He's ever the same; His years "shall not fail."

To make intercession, He liveth today.
A High Priest forever, for all who obey.

He is found with the humble, the two or the three,
Who seek Him in earnest, in humility.

He is found with the wise who will walk in the light,
Who will follow His Star that is guiding aright.

He is found in the temple by worshippers true,
Who assemble together the entire year through.

He is found on the plain, on the top of the hill,
But, wherever the place, he is found in God's will.

He is found in the solitary place of prayer
By the few who are faithful to follow Him there.

He is found in the message anointed with power,
As never the preacher has spoken before.

He is found in the garden of great agony
Where choices are made for eternity.

He is found on the cross, rejected of men,
By those who will bear the reproach of the same.

He is found with the living, who are born of His Word,
Who are quickened to life through the power of His Blood.

He is found now in heaven, but soon He will leave,
And return in the clouds, His own to receive.

The One Who was born the King of the Jews,
Who stood before Pilate, by rulers accused,

Who died on the cross, rejected of men,
Ascended to heaven, shall soon come again.

All Israel shall mourn, beholding His wounds,
Which He has received in the house of His friends.

A fountain for them shall be opened that day;
For sin and uncleanness shall be put away.

The names of their idols remembered no more,
And Jesus be King of the Jews evermore.

"The Lord shall be King over all of the earth,"
"His Name shall be one," the Name of His birth,

And ev-er-y tongue shall confess Jesus, Lord,
While every knee bows "to the glory of God."

With sin done away by the Lamb, or the Sword,
The bells shall ring "Holiness Unto The Lord."

The curse shall be gone while Holiness rings,
And Jesus shall reign the King of all Kings!

But now is the time accepted of God
To let Him be King and give Him abode.

Tomorrow rebellion shall all be put down
By the One Who was born in Bethlehem-town.

No room shall be found in the Heavenly-place
For those who made no room for Christ and His grace.

But "if any man hear," and will "open the door,"
The King will now enter, and dwell evermore.

"Where Is He That Is Born The King Of The Jews?"
He is found in the hearts of those who thus choose.

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THE END