

BIBLE MONITOR

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JULY, 2021

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JESUS GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

Jesus, great Shepherd of the sheep,
To thee for help we fly;
Thy little flock in safety keep,
For O! the wolf is nigh.

Us into thy protection take,
And gather with thine arm;
Unless the fold we first forsake,
The wolf can never harm.

O do not suffer him to part
The souls that here agree;
But make us of one mind and heart,
And keep us one in thee.

Together let us sweetly live,
Together let us die;
And each a starry crown receive,
And reign above the sky

— Charles Wesley

THE HEAD, THE BODY, AND ME

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is declared to be the head of the body, the church. Paul's use of this illustration is based on the human body. Who knew more about the human body than God, who had created it? Adam was formed from the dust of the newly created earth but animated by the Spirit of God.

The bulk of that body was the torso, legs, and arms, but it was powered by the heart's pumping blood and the brain's dynamic energy. The brain gave direction through the nervous system and its thoughts and memories. All parts of that body were interconnected. The blood from the heart kept the body including the brain alive by circulating continuously. Without the electrical energy of the brain the heart would not have

operated. Each part of the body operates at maximum value by involving the rest of the body.

The head controls the body through its ability to animate the body. The signals of the brain cause the rest of the body to respond and react in appropriate ways. The brain brings recognition and understanding to the body, while the body's heart supplies the lifegiving blood.

To illustrate the relationship between the body and the head, Paul also uses the picture of marriage. In marriage two lives and bodies are brought into a relationship that is physically and emotionally one. The love of the two members of the marriage prompts them to act as if one body. There is an exchange of love and submission that

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brings the two into oneness. From physical oneness comes the fruit of the womb. From their emotional oneness comes serving and promoting each other. They are no longer two but one and God looks negatively upon men's efforts to break that bond. The two should seek the same level of oneness in serving and imitating God.

Our present social and culture environment works against oneness in both marriage and spiritual fellowship. We are told that each should pursue their ultimate desires. They should not be bound by any rules, restrictions, or commandments that limit their advancement. With each seeking their own fulfillment it is no wonder that marriages fail and that spiritual bodies deviate from God's Word.

Before Jesus fulfilled God's plan through His death, burial, and resurrection, the world was divided into two groups of people, the Jews, and all other peoples, often called Gentiles. When Jesus completed His work He established the Church, which was composed of both Jews and Gentiles, who believed Him to be the Son of God. Those who assent to His gospel and allow His Holy Spirit to lead them are

a part of His body. The church is also peopled by both those who are present on the earth now and those who are already in Heaven.

His Church should have the same relationship with Him that our natural bodies have with our heads. He as the head desires to direct the body to find its fulfillment in His will. They are not free to do what seems logical but rather do what His Word commands.

Just as the body and the head of our physical bodies need each other so the spiritual body and head need each other. Without the head, the church has no reason to be. Without His sacrifice upon the cross and subsequent resurrection the church would have no hope of eternal life. Without the church, the head would be minus its arms and legs here on earth since the Holy Spirit does not have human form but indwells believers so they may act out His ways. The church provides the visible, human response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The body would be unable to choose wisely without the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said it was beneficial for Him to disappear from their midst and to return to His Father.

He would shortly send the Holy Spirit to animate and direct the church in preaching, teaching, and living the Christian doctrine and life. As those indwelt by His Holy Spirit, it should be our desire to follow His will, even when it may not fulfill the logic and desire of our surrounding culture.

As constituents of the body, we are called to be a Brotherhood rather than a denomination. This body is knit together by the most precious sacrifice ever offered

and as a Brotherhood we desire the wellbeing of all the members of the body. We seek the same heart and mind as we pursue our journey through a world which is not a friend to the ways of God. We must yield to the expressed will of our head, who seeks the best for us.

Where do you and I fit into this body? Will we yield to our Spiritual Head and earthly body?

M. C. Cook

IS JESUS YOUR GOOD SHEPHERD?

John 10:1-16

1. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

6. This parable spake Jesus

unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11. I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

Jesus says here that He is the Shepherd, but not only a shepherd, but THE GOOD SHEPHERD!! We want to investigate the responsibilities and duties of a shepherd. To help understand the importance of a shepherd, we should first investigate the characteristics of sheep.

Sheep are:

*Dumb; one news article stated that approximately 1500 sheep walked off a cliff to their death because the first sheep fell off and the others followed. I have

been told, if the first sheep is to jump across an object, the object can be removed and still all the following sheep will jump in that same spot for no other reason than the previous one jumped there.

*Directionless; Even when left in a perfect environment, sheep will wander until they are lost without any idea how to get back home. Without constant supervision, sheep will wander off and be lost.

*Defenseless; Most living things have the fight or flight response. Sheep have nothing to defend themselves with...no claws or fangs, no ability to breathe fire, no quills, or spikes to poke or stick the enemy with. The only thing left is flight. Sheep cannot run very fast especially when wet. Their wool is heavy and in no time, they are too tired to keep going, and get overtaken by whatever is chasing them. Sheep cannot even make themselves look scary. Other animals can arch their backs, growl, and show their teeth, but the best a sheep can do is give out a pathetic BAA!! Their standard defense is to herd together and hope that the enemy picks someone else.

*Susceptible to disease; Flies and other insects lay their eggs on and in the sheep. They hatch and the larva infect their nose, eyes, and ears. Without treatment, the

sheep is tormented. It will drive the sheep to beating its head against trees and rocks searching for relief. This action will often bring death before relief.

Sheep are dumb and directionless and defenseless. So, I guess when God says that we are sheep who need a shepherd, He does not mean it as a compliment to us. It is just a very realistic assessment of who we are and what we need. We are sheep who are completely dependent upon a shepherd.

If we are like sheep and dependent on a shepherd, what are we needing or expecting from a shepherd?

Sustenance for our daily needs.

Protection from danger.

Healing.

Locating us when we are lost.

Forgiveness of our mistakes and failures.

Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

The question is how do you and I find a shepherd? Let us see what scripture has for us. From the Old Testament, a piece of prophecy, Isaiah 40:11, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his

arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." John 10, our text, has multiple mentions of Jesus claiming to be the good shepherd.

Luke 15:3-7, "And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Romans 5:3-13, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet

peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.”

Scripture seems plain that we do not need to find the shepherd, He is already seeking us and all we must do is respond to His call.

Hebrews 13:20-21 speaks of Jesus the great shepherd equipping us... “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be

glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Let us investigate Psalm 23 to get some insight as to how Jesus cares for and equips us.

1. “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” I lack nothing...I have everything that I need to be complete in Him.

2. “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.” Sheep are finicky eaters. They may or may not like the grass they are on. Something tastes funny, something makes them uneasy, the grass is too short. In Australia, the sheep ranchers do not like kangaroos for this reason. Sheep will not drink out of moving water...it must be calm and still. Both green pastures and still waters portray a picture of abundance.

3. “He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” The Shepherd treats our sores with ointment, heals us, forgives our sins and trespasses. Brings us to a place that is in full fellowship with Him. Through His word and the Holy Spirit, He guides us and leads us on good paths. He does this for His name’s sake...His reputation. Exodus 32:7-14

4. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with

me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Even in dangerous or scary places, we will not fear... Thy rod...A stick with a hook for guidance and retrieval. Thy staff... for protection and defense against enemies. 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

5. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Even when our enemies are present, we can rest and feast at the table the Shepherd has prepared for His sheep. He provides abundantly: food, protection, shelter, everything. The anointment protects from the insects and the thorns. We have more than we could possibly ask or think. Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

6. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." "Follow" refers to being chased by attackers. They plan to overtake and subdue. Relentlessly!! God's goodness

and mercy cannot be outrun or left behind. All the days we live and on into eternity we will dwell with God.

To say that God is our shepherd, and we are sheep, is to humble ourselves, admitting what is true about us, and to elevate God, declaring what is true of Him. When you say, "The Lord is my shepherd," you are saying something that ought to move your heart in praise and gratitude. To declare that God is your shepherd is to praise and glorify Him because God the shepherd stoops down to care for poor, lost, not-so-smart sheep like you and me. If that is not enough, He promises reward to them that are faithful.

1 Peter 5:1-4, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

Isaiah 40:11, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and

carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

1 Peter 2:25, “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

Romans 8:35-39, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor

things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor death, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

When Satan comes around, tempting, teasing, tantalizing, digging up our past shortcomings and failures, reminding us of our past, remind him of his future and quote this scripture to him. Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Remind him of our Good Shepherd and tell him, “I am with HIM!!”

Brother Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

CHANGE THAT REALLY MATTERS

Everyone has some perception of God, but not necessarily based upon the truth. Listen to some people's conversations, and their perception of God comes to the forefront. Usually, that perception is a little different from what the Bible says.

Some phrases that I really do not like are “The Man upstairs”, and, of course, “Someone up there likes me.” Where these phrases have come from, I have

no idea.

The problem with this is, nobody really thinks about God until they need something from God. The rumor has been going around, insinuating that God is patiently waiting for instructions from us so that he can do something for us. Where this has come from, I will never know.

Only perceptions based upon truth have any real bearing upon life. If you asked people to define or describe God, they would

come up with many things that are not really based on reality let alone truth. The God some people think about is not the kind of God I really want to serve or even worship.

Many people need a deep change in their perception of God.

Only the Holy Spirit can inspire this kind of change. When in trouble, people search around for some definition of God that will help them in their trouble. Then, when the trouble seems to disappear or solve itself, they go back to life as it was before without any real thought about God.

The Holy Spirit is the only one that can manage an inward change in my life to such a degree that my perception of God will be based upon the truth he reveals to me. This change on the inside will affect my outward behavior.

It is interesting to see people who claim to be Christian and know God but live a life utterly contradictory to the Scripture's very plain and simple teaching. If you claim to be a Christian, but your life is not in complete harmony with the Word of God, your claim is not based upon reality.

Change is desperately needed to bring us to a place

of understanding and then to appreciate the God we serve and worship.

Everybody says they are for change, but nobody believes in change in their personal life. Every year they want to change their old car for a new car. It does not matter if the old car is in bad repair, or they just want to change. Everybody seeks to change.

Our culture says it is for change, yet I believe that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

With all the so-called change in our culture and society, man remains the same as he was one hundred or a thousand years ago. Technology has changed, but it has not changed the heart of man.

The more we concentrate on changing exterior things, the less interested we will be in changing the inner man as the Bible points out.

One of the most significant changes in our society today is what is called plastic surgery. Some people call it a face lift or a tummy tuck. The more money you have, the more you want to change your outward appearance.

No matter how much you change your outward appearance, it does not really change the heart,

because the new facelift becomes old very quickly. The outside of a man or woman constantly changes and, most of the time, for the worse. If we would take the time and the money spent on outward beautification and use it for an inward transformation, our society would be better off.

We do not need better-looking men and women. We need better men and women. And this type of better flows from an inward change of the heart but can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-filled heart is what is desperately needed to make a person better.

Once we have run the gamut of outward purification, if there is such a thing, and realize that it does not do the job we think it is doing, we can begin to focus on an inward change, which is all that matters.

To have a positive perception of God and his holiness is the beginning of an ongoing heart

transformation. The heart is not of such a nature as to be changed once, and that is it. It is a continuing process. It is a process that begins with the work of the Holy Spirit and continues until we see Jesus face-to-face.

The work of the Holy Spirit is never finished until that time. There is much that He needs to do. Many changes will come to the surface of my life as I allow Him the authority to do what He wants to do.

The changes that the Holy Spirit has in mind from deep within the heart are what will bring me to where God wants me to be. If I am the captain of my own ship, God's orders will never be obeyed.

Only that outward change that is inspired by an inward transformation will glorify God.

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THE KINGDOM

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:20-21

Verse twenty-one is very often taken out of context.

The scripture tells us to be careful not to do that. (No prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation. II Peter 1:20.) Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees, which He had already called a "generation of vipers" (Luke 3:7). We all know that the Pharisees could not have the kingdom of God "within" them. Jesus is simply telling them, "I am standing here among you and you do not even recognize who I am." The kingdom of God implies God ruling and reigning in a person's heart, and these rulers of the Jews were not willing to let Jesus into their hearts.

The scripture says the kingdom does not come with observation. When Jesus was in the world, people came to Him to be saved. Today people read the Word of God or hear it preached. The Holy Ghost

works in their hearts. Jesus is the incarnate word. The Holy Ghost testifies of Jesus Christ and will be with all those who honor Him in their lives and give Him the glory.

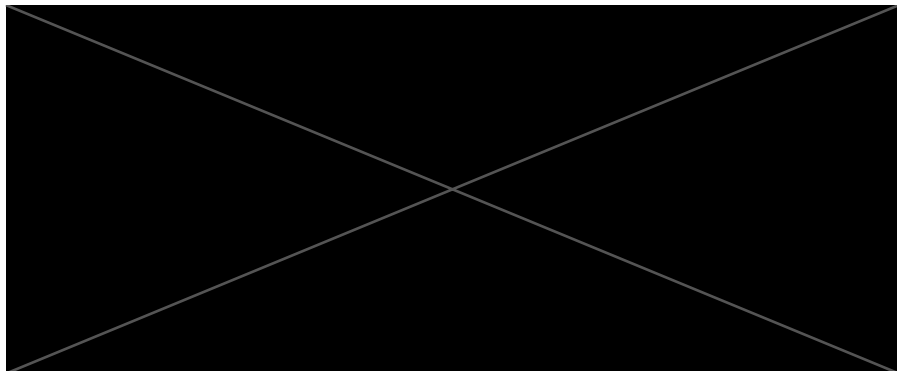
Not far from the Kingdom of Heaven-
The Kingdom of Heaven with men,
And yet in the bondage of Satan,
And yet in the shadow of sin!

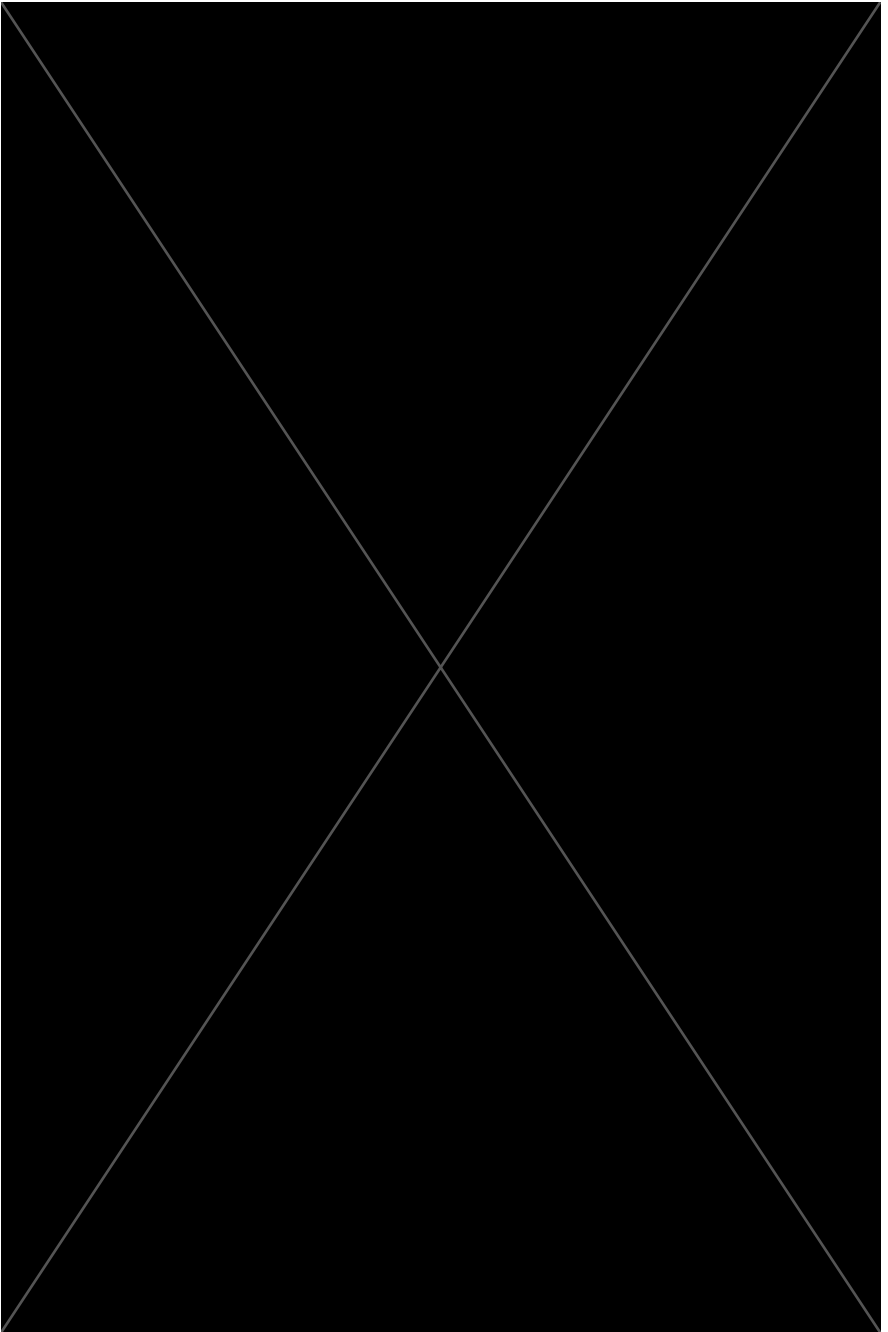
Not far from the Kingdom of Heaven,
Yet will not on Jesus believe!
O sinners, what terrors await thee!
The blessings of pardon receive!

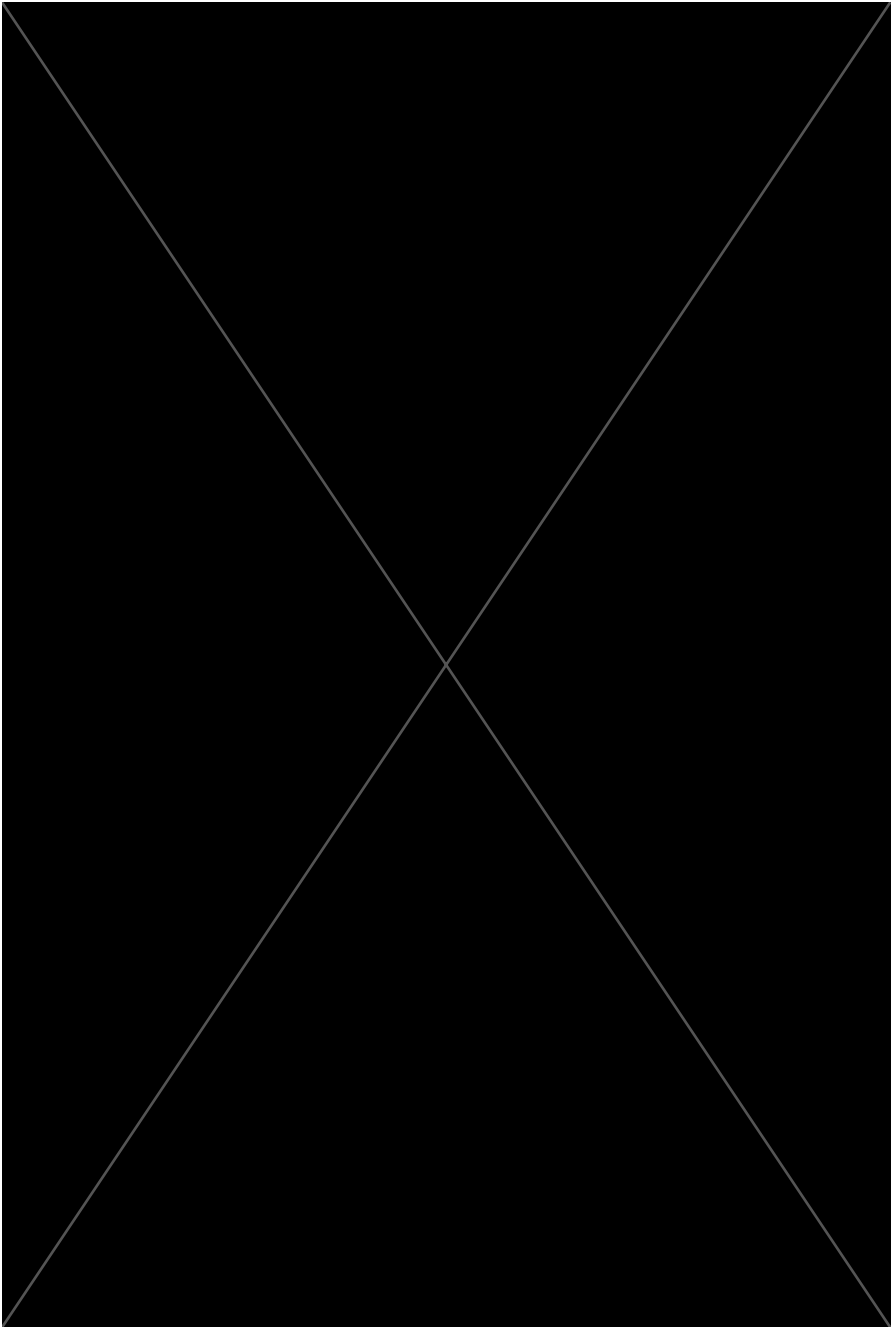
The portals of mercy is open,
Poor prodigal, do not delay!
Arise, and return to the Father!
O enter the Kingdom today!

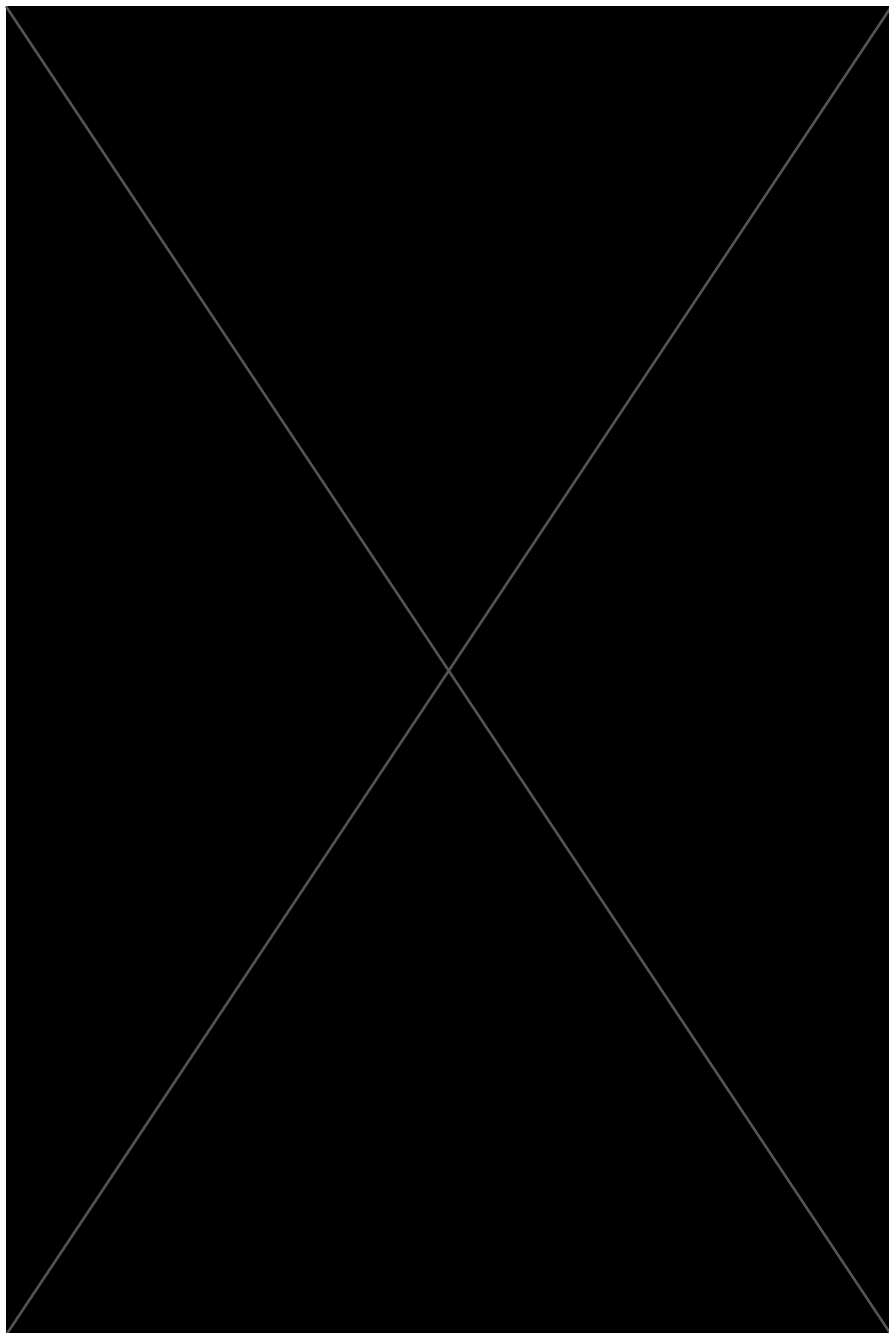
—E. R. Latta 1886

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohlers Congregation









“NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN”

Rudy Cover

John 7:11-47

Wouldn't you have liked to live when Jesus was here? Jesus preached to the people and healed them of their diseases. He never did anyone any harm. He was tender, compassionate, kind and loving. Never was there a man like Jesus. He was the Son of God, but He came to this earth to visit mankind, to teach them how to live. He came to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. Anyone can come to Jesus and be saved. Jesus promises, those who will live for Him, everlasting life. After this life is over Jesus wants those, who choose to serve Him, to have a home where all is joy, and peace, and love.

Jesus was getting too popular with the common people to suit the leaders of the Jews. Why wouldn't the people like Him when He had helped them so much? What had the Jewish leaders ever done to help the poor? They only made things hard for them by demanding more taxes and making laws that were next to impossible to obey. The Jews were trying to arrest Jesus and were planning many ways that they might take Him. The

leaders had spoken against Jesus and the people were confused. Some said, "He is a good man" and others, "Nay, but He deceives the people."

Jesus was not an educated man as far as going to school was concerned, but when He taught the people the educated class of Jews said of Him, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" Of course, we know that Jesus knew all things. He had created the world and all that we see around us. He knew more than all the people in the world put together, but the Jews could not understand.

When Jesus spoke in the Temple, some said, "Is not this He, whom they seek to kill. Do the rulers know that this is the very Christ?" Others said, "We know this man whence He is, but when Christ comes, no man will know from whence He is."

Jesus answered them, "You both know me and you know from whence I am: And I am not come of myself, but He that sent me is true, whom you know not." Jesus was speaking of His Heavenly Father, and this provoked the Jews and they tried to take Him, but no man

laid hands on Him because the time for them to do this was not yet come. Many of the people believed and said, "When Christ comes, will He do more miracles than those which this man has done?"

The Pharisees heard what the people said and decided that something must be done. They sent officers to arrest Jesus. When the officers came to where Jesus was speaking in the Temple, they stopped and listened. Jesus said, "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink." And He told them of the Holy Spirit that God would give unto them.

The officers were so impressed that they would not arrest Jesus

but returned to the ones who sent them. Then the Pharisees and chief priests said, "Why haven't you brought Him?" The officers answered, "Never man spake like this man."

No, no one ever did. Jesus had the words of eternal life. He was teaching the people about God and what He would do for them if they would only believe on His Son, whom He had sent. Jesus gives us the same opportunity today.

He will give you eternal life if you choose Him as your Saviour.

Selected from the
January 15, 1981
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WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING

The merriment ceased and
consternation

Seized on the mighty in the
banquet hall,

Belshazzar quailed, and saw with
condemnation

The hand inscribe his doom upon
the wall.

Wise men were called to interpret
the forebodings

That veiled in gloom the
monarch's troubled heart,

But vainly do they scan the
dismal tidings---

No sage in the realm their
meaning can impart.

Where's Daniel now, the man of
true devotion,

Who prayed to his God despite
jealous foes?

Soon comes he to the scene of
their commotion,

And he alone the writing can
disclose.

Daniel declares it with a heart
undaunting

It is thy doom, oh, king; thy

doom is sealed;
Weighed art thou in the balance
and found wanting,
Who didst not heed the word that
God revealed.

Truth is the balance that weighs
all our actions,
And tests the thoughts of every
human heart,
Just are the weights and right are
the exactions,
Nor can sin screen its vile,
deceptive art.

Men still will violate the laws of
heaven,
To enforce instead their meager
human creeds,
But how their souls will be with
anguish riven

When in the balance weighed to
test their deeds!

They now indulge in ease and
sensual pleasure,
Laughing and feasting in their
temples gay,
But, oh, their woe no human mind
can measure,
When weighed in the balance at
the judgment day.

Now, while we live in mercy's
dispensation,
Let us the Gospel balances
apply,
Or like the king, in trembling
condemnation,
We must sink beneath the frown
of God and die.

—Anonymous

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

D. W. Hostetler

Sovereignty means quality, power, right, authority or status of a sovereign. It is the supreme power that determines or administers the government necessary to good citizenship. It carries the idea of dominion; therefore, the world in a sense is his dominion. We are in his dominion and become responsible to the great sovereign. In order for us to enjoy the benefits and blessings of

the Divine Sovereign, we must render habitual obedience to the Divine law.

God possesses attributes, and through these attributes he has revealed himself to the world. We must understand these attributes in an unlimited sense. They are:

1. Power. To this belongs omnipotence (all powerful), might, Strength and ability. It is said

that "God created the heaven and the earth." In this we see wonderful power. God was able to create the heaven and earth, which is to bring something into existence out of nothing.

2. Wisdom. To this belongs knowledge, understanding, perception

(seeing and feeling) and discernment. From these terms it is seen that God is all wise, all understanding. We can not evade the wisdom of God. He knows all about us, for Paul says, "But all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

3. Goodness. To this belongs loving kindness. We hear Paul say,

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." God's loving kindness comes through Jesus Christ and gives a disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others. In God, all this is exercised cheerfully in supplying our needs.

Paul says: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." (II Cor. 1:3.) In that God is the Father of Christ, he is the Father of mercies; hence, Christ is the expression of mercies. It is the act of God extending his favors to us. God has exercised great patience toward us. God is compassionate toward us. Compassion is sympathy or pity. It is remarkable that in spite of all we do against God, he still exercises sympathy and pity. He is also benevolent. Benevolence is a disposition to do good.

4. Justice. To this attribute belongs righteousness. God is

Righteous, and Jesus Christ is his righteousness revealed to mankind. Paul says that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe, and that in the gospel is revealed the righteousness of God. (Rom. 1:16-17.) God uses equity. God is no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34.) God judges according to life and based on truth. "The words that I speak shall judge men in the last day. God is faithful to his word, and to his promises.

5. Vengeance. "Vengeance is mine. I will repay saith the Lord."

We read about the "wrath of God" being "poured out without

mixture" upon them that reject Jesus Christ. Vengeance covers indignation, which is anger mixed with contempt. It also means hatred, anger, severity, jealousy, and fury. (Psa. 103:6-12.)

I would point us all to Christ on the cross, shedding his blood for us. His blood speaks to the

sinner. The first thing it says is Love; the second, Mercy; the third, Pardon; fourth, Acceptance; fifth, Adoption; and sixth, it whispers, Heaven.

Selected from the
July 1, 1931
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Howard J. Surbey

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16. This word power is translated from the Greek word "dunamis" from which our word dynamite is derived. The power of the Gospel of Christ is much greater than even that of dynamite. It can not only destroy but convert and change to a useful purpose, souls who are in the deepest of sin and degradation. This power of the Gospel of Christ is only such, when believed and used by the servants of Christ. We all know of the many good uses of dynamite, if properly handled by man.

Let us notice some effects of the power of the Gospel of Christ. Peter was preaching to the Jews from the Gospel and even these hard-hearted stubborn Jews

were impressed, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:37-38. The Gospel also brings a curse unto those who resist it, as we see in many places of those who resisted Paul's teachings and became violent even unto the extent of violence and intended murder.

The power of the Gospel of Christ will bring about a changed life in man, if one will only follow it. "But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even

to them that believed on his name." John 1:12. Perhaps we do not realize how much power it takes to change vile, sinful men into the sons of God. The Gospel has power to so change our life that we will not only put off ungodliness, but we also will put on Godliness. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 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." 2 Peter 1:3-4.

The Christian's life is so changed that he does not love the carnal things of the world but rather avoids them. This changed life loves the fruits of the Spirit and enjoys the pleasures of God. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind: and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:22-24.

A victory over the world and sin would not be possible without

the power of the Gospel of Christ. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:4-5. Through God's Word we have knowledge of what is sin. However, it is a glorious fact that God's Word does not leave us there but tells us how to wash away our sins and take on the works of Christ. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:22-23.

We are cleansed and able to avoid the influences of sin, through the power of the Gospel of Christ. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalms 119:9-11. One of the greatest comforts of

man is, when he learns to enjoy God's teachings. May we love to practice the Gospel of Christ in our lives, for true happiness in this life and un-estimable reward in eternity.

The full power of the Gospel of Christ is open only, to those who read, study, and obey Christ's teachings. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Rev. 1:3. The Gospel of Christ is so powerful that it enlightens us, protects us, and makes us ready for the judgment day. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith

and love: and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:8-9.

Why should anyone be ashamed of the good tidings of salvation through Christ, when we contemplate all the power that is connected with it? May our prayer be that of the poet; "More about Jesus; in His Word, holding communion with my Lord: hearing His voice in every line, making each faithful saying mine."

Selected from the

July 15, 1961

issue of the Bible Monitor

MEDITATION

Otto Harris

It is said that meditation is a word that many cannot spell. They may be able to repeat the letters of the word correctly, but they cannot spell it in the reality of life. The simple statement is, in point of fact, they do not meditate.

Meditation was considered a must among the apostles. "And in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians

against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give

ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:1-4.

We find Paul giving to Timothy similar instructions, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which, was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." 1 Timothy 4:12-15. We note that Timothy is to meditate on these things and give himself wholly to them.

While the scriptures we have quoted apply more directly to the ministry, yet we believe they will apply to all who are striving to live the Christian life. Our forefathers sought, at all costs, to keep some time inviolate for meditation on the Word of God. The Bible was their rule of life. All interests and affairs were planned and executed in reference to it. No serious step was taken without prayer and meditation. They met the many problems of their day, acted upon them, and gave a good account of themselves.

I believe that meditation is a must for the Christian. I should almost question the being of a Christian, and I should positively question his well being who lives without meditation. I think that meditation must exist where there is prayer, and prayer will be sure to exist where there is meditation. It is said that reading is like gathering flowers, after they have been gathered and tied together, they must be put in water, or they will die. What we read must be put in the water of meditation to keep it alive.

The writer would like to quote a few words from a sermon by Elder James Quinter. In speaking on Psalm 39, verse 3, the quotation reads as follows: "The intense religious feeling which seems to have been experienced by David was produced by meditation. Musing means meditation or contemplation. It has been said, and probably with much truth, meditation, which is the mother of devotion, is the daughter of retirement. The humble believer, in retirement from the world, and engaged in pious meditation, will be likely to share in David's devout feelings. Meditation is an excellent promoter of devotion."

If those who attend public worship would spend more time in meditation before coming to

God's house, we believe it would be manifest in their devotions at church. We believe that it would take away the fear of singularity which seems to be an embarrassment to many who attend church services. We live in a day when timidity is a poor match for the evils that are arrayed against us. Let those who are afraid of singularity in a good cause remember the words of Christ: "strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." The writer, however, cannot hope by the humble means of this discourse

to affect any extensive correction of the seeming apathy which prevails in church gatherings. When a hymn is announced it seems to be taken by some as the signal for silence. "O COME, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1. The writer believes that a good many sincere people have not weighed the impropriety of complete silence in church services.

Selected from the
July 1, 1961
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

J. F. Britton

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work". (II Thess. 2:7.) Yes, like leaven. Those modern satanical emissaries are at their jobs, busily "deceiving and being deceived." As an evidence of this statement, read the appalling description, as given by Divine predictions in II Tim. 3:1-9: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection,

trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sin, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth;

men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further; for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was."

Reader, just stop and do a little serious thinking. Suppose those twenty carnal and evil propensities were transformed into a herd of ferocious animals and turned loose in a forest or community, with little or no restrictions; would you venture through those sections without being safely guarded or protected? Therefore, it stands to reason that we should be as much concerned about protecting our moral and spiritual lives as we are our physical lives.

The "mystery of iniquity" symbolizes and points to the Apostate Church, which has been decoyed and seduced by heretical schemers, as depicted in II Tim. 3:9. One has only to lift up his eyes to behold the repulsive, shameful, and debasing conditions in the modern church. Greed, dishonesty, immodesty, immorality, conceit, and deceit are rampant everywhere, and like Jannes and Jambres, who "withstood Moses", they are lifting up their diabolical voices against the Holy Oracles of the Eternal God.

It has been truly said that liquor

and war have slain hundreds of thousands of human lives, leaving in their stead great suffering, desolation, and ruin, but Eternity alone will reveal the indescribable havoc of the mystery of iniquity, when directed by the prince of the power of this world in the lives of individuals. And those broken mangled and ruined homes, and the unthinkable irreverence, desecration, and depreciation of Spirituality in the church have corrupted and degraded the morals of society.

No wonder Paul wrote that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (II Tim. 3:13.) "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe

a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (II Thess. 2:7-12.)

And now, with the distressing and horrifying conditions confronting us, in business circles, and in every department of the commercial world, and also in the church itself, are we not forced to conclude that we are in the "last days" when "perilous times shall come", for "the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." (I Tim. 4:1-2.)

Thus, we see, and it goes without saying, that "That old hydra-headed monster", mystery of iniquity, is exerting his nefarious influence and diabolical mandates in every phase of human life. His secret councils are held behind locked doors and painted windows, and are tremendously fortified, and have almost monopolized this country.

No wonder we have the Divine injunction to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them, for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of

them in secret." (Eph. 5:11-12.) "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquity." (Rev. 18:4-5.)

In order to get the full force of its contents, the reader should read the entire 18th chapter, and should note that the Babylon referred to represents the great world power of later days, and the archenemy of the church.

Last, but not least, Jesus gives the final verdict: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt. 7:22-23.) Thus, we see, and are assured that the great host of the workers of iniquity will never get into that Eternal City, whose builder and maker is God, where the wicked will cease from troubling, and the weary will be at rest. Amen.

Selected from the
July 15, 1931
issue of the Bible Monitor

NEWS ITEMS

DEACON LIST CHANGE

Please change the address of Brother Jeff Davison to 23766 NW Iowa Road, Welda, KS 66091. The telephone number remains current.

CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Brother Paul Skiles will be our evangelist for revivals for the Chambersburg congregation, July 18-25, 2021. Sunday A.M. services start at 9:30, Sunday evening, July 18, services at 7:00 P.M., week-night services are at 7:30 P.M. A fellowship meal will be at the church on July 25, with the last service at 2:00 P.M. We invite all to come worship with us.

Sister Bev Priest, Cor.

CONNECTIONS

Contributed by the Bible Study Board in reference to this month's Sunday School Lessons. Our hope in writing a monthly article is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

The church in Sardis had a reputation of being alive yet they were lifeless. They were encouraged to remember what they first heard and believed. They had let things slide and were not vigilant in their faith. The opportunity was given for them to wake up and repent.

The church in Philadelphia had kept the Word. They were obedient and faithful. They were encouraged to continue holding fast to what they had and the crown that awaited.

The church of Laodicea was lukewarm. They thought they were rich and had everything they needed, yet they were spiritually poor. Christ told them to get spiritual treasures from Him. The city was proud of its cloth industry, but Christ told them to buy white raiment from Him symbolizing His righteousness. The city also had eye salve that helped heal eye problems. Christ told them to anoint their eyes with His salve so they would truly see the Truth.

We must hold fast to what we have heard of the Truth. When we slip or fail, we need to be awakened to the Truth. We must repent and

make changes that will honor God. We must be alert and aware of what is happening in our life.

The rebuke and chastening are because of love. God's purpose in discipline is to bring people back to Him. The true valuable riches are ones heavenly and eternal. One is a right relationship with God through Christ that He has graciously given us the opportunity to have.

Temporary satisfaction can make us indifferent to God's offer of lasting satisfaction. He is knocking at our heart's door desiring a relationship with us. He will not break in to enter but is patient and persistent waiting for us to open the door. We also must use what we have been given to live for Christ and then receive a crown.

The invitation Christ gives us to be zealous, to repent, and to be an overcomer is foundational as we move forward in Revelation to future events. The world is not spinning out of control. God is still on the throne and will carry out His plan.

Revelation is a book of warning. Not everyone is living as they should, so Christ calls for us to commit to live in His righteousness.

Revelation is a book of hope. Our victorious Lord will return to vindicate the righteous and judge the wicked. Christ the Lion is victorious with authority and power because of what Christ the Lamb has done in submitting to the Father's will.

The victory is sure not because of anything we have done but because we trust in Christ we will be saved. All things were created for His pleasure and He alone is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Jason Carpenter

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2021

Aug. 1 – The 144,000 and the Numberless Multitude – Rev. 7:1-17

1. What details does scripture give us about the 144,000 sealed servants?
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2. Who are those mentioned in verse 9 that are clothed in white robes? Why would they be holding palms?

3. Why does one of the elders ask John who those in white robes are in verse 13? How will those in white robes be treated?

Aug. 8 – Since Before the Trumpets Blow – Rev. 8:1-13

1. Why do you think there was silence in heaven after the seventh seal was opened? (verse 1)

2. Do you see parallels here with some of the plagues of Egypt? What was the purpose of these plagues and these trumpets?

3. Do you long for God's judgement? Should we long for God's judgement?

Aug. 15 – The First Woe is From the Pit – Rev. 9:1-12

1. What is the purpose of the locusts that come upon the earth? What commands are they given?

2. Verses 7-10 indicate strange descriptions of the locusts. What might these be?

3. What is the meaning of the names Abaddon and Apollyon?
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Aug. 22 – No Repentance Keeps God a Mystery – Rev. 9:13-10:7

1. Verse 15 indicates that these four angels were prepared for a specific time. Who prepared them?
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2. Verses 20-21 suggest that men can still repent at this time. In such a time of judgement, why would men not repent?
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3. What is happening in Verses 5-6 of Chapter 10?
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Aug. 29 – The Sweet and Bitter Book; Two Tormenting Witnesses – Rev. 10:8-11:10

1. Comment on the results of eating the little book described in Verses 9-10.
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2. Comment on the two witnesses being described as two olive trees and two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth in Verse 4.
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3. Why would those who dwell on the earth be jubilant at the deaths of the two witnesses of God? (Verse 10)
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