



# Golden Rays

Ulysses Phillips



# **GOLDEN RAYS**

**By**

**Ulysses Phillips**

**Author of**

**“Inspiring Poems and Verses”**

From Calvary’s Cross in rays of gold,  
A light is shining in my soul;  
While walking in this light divine,  
Sweet fellowship with Christ is mine.

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## Preface

While men slept, in the night watches I dreamed, and in my visions I saw a pile of certain manuscripts under a cross in verse, out of which gleamed golden rays of light. And as I beheld I was enraptured by its beauty, and much impressed by its intrinsic value. So I awakened, and with pencil and paper in hand I endeavored to reproduce the cross in verse as I beheld it in my dream, and have submitted the same to the publishers for publication, and it has gone the rounds of the press, having been published in *The Hennessey Clipper* and the *Faith and Victory* papers.

A goodly portion also of the manuscript that I saw under the cross has previously been submitted for publication and has appeared in the form of “tracts” and “articles,” and many have said they have been an uplift and a source of encouragement to them. I have had a desire and impression to assemble these and have them published in book form so that many others might be benefitted by the reading of the same. At the suggestion of Bro. Hyrum Ray of the publishing force at the “Faith and Victory” office, and by the statements and desires of others. I have been encouraged to press on in this effort, and so this little book containing gems of truth is sent forth in the name of the Lord Jesus; bearing messages of salvation, exhortation, warning, and consolation.

It is our desire that this little messenger “Golden Rays” (this title being suggested by the vision) may prove a blessing to many and lead some soul to the Saviour’s Cross.

Yours under the blood,

The Author

## Expression

The apostle John closed the gospel which bears his name with the words, “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.” Since John’s time, book after book has been written concerning the works of Jesus, and still we realize the half has not been told.

We thank God for the liberty granted in our country to publish the gospel, and we believe true children of God who have the pure gospel should put forth untiring efforts to publish it for the benefit of honest souls, for darkness is swiftly closing in around us, and we know not how soon this privilege may be taken from us.

For many years Bro. Phillips has been writing articles for the “Faith and Victory” paper, which have been a great blessing to my soul and to others who have read them, so we desired to see them reprinted in book form, and trust they may in this way prove a blessing to many other souls.

—Hyrum Ray

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## O Sacred Cross

Thou sacred cross  
Of Mount Calvary  
Where Jesus died  
To make me free;  
'Twas there he did  
My burdens bear,  
That I the love of God should share.  
"Father, forgive them," hear him say  
On that dark crucifixion day.  
While mockers stood around with glee  
And knew not that he died for me.  
On thee, O cross, the darkness fell;  
When Jesus died  
To save the world  
The rocks did rend  
The land did quake,  
All this was done  
For my soul's sake.  
While there upon  
The cross of wood  
His side was cleft,  
Out came the blood,  
The cleansing tide,  
Oh, precious flow,  
To wash and make  
Me white as snow.  
From thee, O cross,  
To Joseph's tomb  
They took the body  
Of God's dear Son.

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Though watchers stood to keep him fast; He triumphed over death at last. And now he sits with God above, Where all is peace, and joy, and love: From whence he shall come on that great Day, and bear my ransomed soul away. Glory, praise, and honor to his name!

## The Name of Jesus

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily, but while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost, and she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her first born son: and he called his name JESUS.” Matt. 1:18-25.

Here we have in the book of Matthew the most wonderful, and miraculous name of Jesus recorded for the first time; a name that is destined to live on and on, when many other names have been forgotten and erased from the minds of men, a name that was given by the Father before he was born into the world. Just think of it,

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my dear friends, a God-given name, a God-ordained name, a name that was proclaimed by angels, and exalted, and honored by righteous and God-fearing men and women; and not only by men and women, but by God the Father himself, as we read in Phil. 2:9, 10, “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth.” Search if you will, in all dictionaries and all the lists of names that have been known and compiled by man, comb them through, and you will not be able to find a name that has been coined or written by man that will in any wise compare with the sweet and lovely name of Jesus. Search, and search again the lists of the names of kings and queens, princes, rulers, and governors, and of all others whose names have been recorded on the pages of history, and you will find that he is King of kings and Lord of lords. His name is first; his name is last; and may it so be, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”—“And when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead and he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not, I am the first and the last” Rev. 1:8 and 17. He is the first. His name is the first to be memorized and quoted by thousands of lisping children yet in their mother’s arms; and how glad and thankful that mother feels when her little one, through her patient endeavors, has learned and can repeat that memorial verse, “Jesus wept.” No doubt she feels, and rightly so, that she has made one step toward teaching her child the Holy Scriptures which are able to make it wise unto salvation.

He is the last. How many thousands have sung, or whispered, or breathed his holy name in prayer at the closing of life’s day. Truly he is the first and the last, and should be in each individual

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life. What would we do without Jesus? What would we have done without the promised Messiah? He was in the mind of the prophets and sages, who by inspiration of the Holy Spirit proclaimed his coming for hundreds of years prior to his advent in this world. The Holy Ghost, speaking through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah, said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful counselor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6. This prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of the holy child Jesus. Why was he called Wonderful? Because of the wonderful love he had for fallen man, and the wonderful deeds that WERE done by him in behalf of the sick and suffering, the down cast and lonely, the demon possessed, and broken hearted.

When he saw the multitudes of afflicted, weary, suffering, hungry, and distressed, his great heart of love was moved with compassion; he beheld them as sheep without a shepherd; he sent forth his word and healed them; and many who were eye witnesses to his performances said, "We have seen strange things today." He healed the lame, opened the eyes of the blind, touched those who were burning with fever, and caused them to be whole again. He caused the dumb to speak, raised the dead, cleansed the lepers; and, too, praise God, he spoke the wonderful words that are sweet music to any mortal ear. "Thy sins be forgiven thee," "Go and sin no more," "Go in peace," and so on.

### **Wonderful**

Yes, his name shall be called Wonderful. When we see him humble himself and become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, there to yield up the ghost, not for any evil or

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unrighteousness which he had done; for Pilate, after that he had scourged him, said, "I find no fault in him;" and in a certain place it is written of him that "He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth;" also, one of the malefactors which was crucified with him said, "This man hath done nothing amiss." But why did he die? Wonderful love, thank God! He died that we might live. It was for our sins, it was for our transgressions that he died. Our sins had separated us from God, and without the shedding of blood is no remission. The blood of bulls and goats and such creatures as these could not take away sins, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; then said he. Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Heb. 10:4-10.

This Jesus, "Wonderful Saviour" for the word JESUS means "Saviour"—This Jesus, I say, bore our sins in his own body upon the cruel cross. So says the Word of God,

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. John saw him as the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world. The angel that spoke to John, saying, "Weep not," saw him as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah." We see him as "Wonderful." "A wonderful



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Saviour is Jesus my Lord”; he took away my burden of sin and gave me joy for ashes, and the spirit of praise for the spirit of heaviness, “Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Heb. 7:25. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12. O the lovely name of Jesus! His is the sweetest name, a refuge from the stormy blast; his name is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe. Yes, there is deliverance in his name.

### **Counselor**

His name shall be called “Counselor.” “Never man spake like this man.” He was a man of authority, and master of the situation. His advice and counsel was always sound. It was safe to follow his instructions, as his mother said unto the servants at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee; so can we also unhesitatingly say; “Whatsoever he saith unto you do it.” One will never be a loser by following his advice; one will never have reason to be ashamed nor confounded for obeying his counsel. He hath said, “Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.” Matt. 7:24, 25. This was one of the closing remarks of his wonderful sermon upon the mountain. And he went on to say, “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” So it is plain to be seen that everyone who will not

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obey the advice and instruction of this Wonderful Counselor will be a loser in the end, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

O, that men would follow his advice and counsel! What a happy world this would be! But he said to a certain class of disobedient ones, “Ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.” Prov. 1:25, 26. His decisions are final, and from them there is no appeal. Woe be unto the man or woman who will not obey his voice.

### **The Mighty God**

His name shall be called “The Mighty God.” There are gods many, and there are lords many, but in comparison to the Mighty God they are powerless, they have no might, they cannot give life, they cannot make one hair either white or black. But this man Jesus, in whom is vested all the fullness of the God-head bodily, has said, “ALL power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” And, dear ones, there is nothing hid from the eyes of him with whom we have to do. He has power over the stormy winds, and the raging sea, power over sickness and disease, power over death, hell, and the grave, power to restore life to the dead; yes, he has power to break the power of every evil habit. He can break the power of sin and set the captive free. There is no need for men and women to be bowed down under the powers of sin and Satan, pining away under his grievous yoke any longer, for Jesus came with power and might to set the captive free. Isaiah, looking down through the annals of time with a prophetic eye, said, “Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees, say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not: behold, your God will

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come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you.” Isa. 35:3, 4. He shall send them a Saviour and a great one, and he shall deliver them, Praise God. This Jesus, the mighty God, has power to deliver. In Rev. 7:9-12, we read, “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, saying, Amen: Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.” Yes, he is a Mighty God. Power and might belongeth to him. He is not a little puny, weak and frail one that is not able to do things. He is able to save to the uttermost. His blood can make the vilest clean. He can purge the most guilty conscience; and fill the soul with joy. O, yes, he has conquered death and taken away its sting. The sting of death is sin, and sin is the work of the devil; and the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil. He is fully able to destroy every evil work out of the heart and life of everyone who will yield unto him. “Wherefore he saith, when he ascendeth upon high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men.” What a blessed consolation! And we read again, “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.”

## **The Everlasting Father**

His name shall be called “The Everlasting Father.” Praise the Lord: “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.” He has promised to be a Father to the fatherless; yes, the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless. “Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me.” Jer. 49:11. Truly he is a Father to all those who put their trust in him, to those who by faith can say that, “He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” They say, I am his child. “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.” Romans 8:15. Thank the Lord for that blessed Spirit of adoption that he has given to all those turned from darkness to light to serve the living and true God, for the Spirit of God itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. We feel that blessed relationship with him. We have fellowship with him because we are walking in the light; and he has said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. He is full of tender compassion, and will provide for us the necessities of life. By walking in his counsel, we have the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. He has said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you:” In Psa. 37:25 we find a very encouraging testimony of one who made the Lord his trust. He said, “I have been young, and am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” Yes, we say that “The Everlasting Father” is fully able to provide for his children, and to supply all their needs, both spiritual and temporal. He has said, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” One thing the Lord requires of us, and that is that we meet the conditions laid down in his holy word, and this we must do if we would enjoy our heavenly relationship with him,

and have him own us as his children. In 2 Cor. 6:14-18, we read, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” And so it is, perfect obedience to the word of God will give us a perfect right to claim his promises true in our behalf. God never fails; His promises are yea and amen to everyone that believeth them. He is, and will be an “Everlasting Father” to all who will trust and obey him.

### **The Prince of Peace**

HIS name shall be called “The Prince of Peace.” This wonderful Saviour: Jesus Christ, His name is Peace, He is our peace and without him there is no peace. It is beyond the feeble powers of the minds of unregenerated men to comprehend the meaning of the glorious message proclaimed by the angel of the Lord to the lowly shepherds on that star-decked night, when he said, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

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Praise God, the sweetest anthem ever sung by angels and repeated by mortal men. Christ is Peace. If you have not found Christ, you have not found peace, for there is no real peace without him. He who spoke to the stormy winds on the Galilean waters, and said, "Peace, be still," can speak to the tempest tossed heart today and there will be a great calm. Open your heart's door and invite the Saviour to come in, and you can sing, "Happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away." In homes where the storm clouds of hate and jealousy are rolling, and the winds of mistrust and broken confidence are blowing, and the dust of dissatisfaction is filling the air, and the blissful and honored treasures of hope, happiness, love, and peace are being blown about and beaten to shreds; if the inmates who have been caught in such a tempest would only humble themselves to each other and to God; get down upon their knees, and from the depths of their hearts ask and invite the "Prince of Peace" to come in, they would find themselves in each other's arms. And they could sing: "Peace like a river, flowing on forever." Jesus is the author of peace; his name is "The Prince of Peace;" he is the foundation of peace and love; he is the network of the structure of the temple of peace; he is the roof that covers and shelters its inmates. If thou wilt hearken unto him, thy peace will be like a river.

Men and nations will strive in vain to draft and formulate plans for lasting peace, if they leave the "Prince of Peace" behind. If men would have peace in reality, they must needs invite him in and give heed to his wholesome counsel and advice. If men would believe it, he has the solution to the problem, and will help to work it out when given an opportunity to do so. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken

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down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.” Eph. 2:14-15. I will say upon the authority of the Word of God, that no man, nor body of men will ever be able to form any kind of peace structure that will long endure if they fail to give consideration to the doctrine of the “Prince of Peace.”

There have been efforts put forth at different times and in different ages to formulate plans of peace; and some went about crying, “Peace, peace,” when there was no peace. The plans failed because men failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the counsel of “The Prince of Peace.” Jesus never fails. He has said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.” His word is a sure foundation. It can yet be said of him, “Never man spake like this man.” When the waves of sin are rolling high, and the storm tossed soul has no rest, Jesus can speak the comforting word that will give peace, and that soul will have peace with God. When the home is in turbulent waters, so to speak, and threatened to be dashed to pieces against the rocks of divorce and separation; if the inmates would only call upon the lovely name of Jesus, “The Prince of Peace,” and heed his counsel and advice, the turbulent waters would abate and the dove of peace would come in, and there would be quietness, blessed quietness; tranquility and love would reign supreme, and home would be the sweetest place on earth.

If Jesus could have his way, if men would obey his voice, there would be peace in the home, peace in the community, peace among the nations; there would be peace on earth and good will toward men; peace, wonderful peace, would be our portion. There is peace in his name. His name should be exalted in the individual

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life, it should be exalted in the home, in the sanctuary, in the community, and in the nations. “O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Psa. 34:3.

### **The Word of God**

“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called the word of God.” Rev. 19:13.

His name is called the “WORD OF GOD.” There is no other one that bears a name so high or so glorious, neither on earth among men, nor among the angels in heaven above; as the blessed Jesus who gave his life a ransom for fallen man. In St. John 1:1-5 we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, The same was in the beginning with God, All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” Behold, what might, power, authority, and durability in that name, the source from which all things were created: “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

When the earth was without form, and darkness covered the face of the deep, the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And that was before he made the sun, or the moon, or stars, or any other luminous body. Light sprang forth in obedience to his word. God spoke and it was done. Souls today who are wandering about in darkness and sin without God and without hope can have the blessed light of the Son of God to shine upon them and disperse the darkness and gloom, if they would seek him while he may be



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found and call upon him while he is near; if they would but open the door of their heart and invite "THE WORD OF GOD" to come in. One of old has said, "The entrance of thy Word giveth light"; and again, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." There is power in the name of the "LIVING WORD OF GOD;" power to save and keep from sin. "Where withal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psa. 119:9. The Word of God stands as a beacon light to lighten everyone who will give heed to his gentle voice. He says, "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." Rev. 3:20. Yes, yielding in humble submission to his name, in obedience to his word will bring one into direct communion and fellowship with him. But "if we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:6, 7. If one is walking in the light; or in other words, walking in obedience to the "Word of God," he has no fellowship with darkness and sin, for he hath said, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness and sin, for he hath said, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." There is light in his name; he is the "Light of the world." If we are ashamed to confess his name in this world, he will be ashamed to confess our name before the Father and the holy angels. Dear reader, do you believe in the name of the SON OF GOD? He that believeth shall not be ashamed. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people,

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and nation.” Rev. 5:9. Glory, praise, and honor be to his matchless name!

“Thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21.

What a wonderful blessing  
Christ doth impart,  
Peace like a river flows in my heart;  
The storms and tempests  
No more my soul fill,  
Since Jesus has spoken  
And said, “Peace be still.”

## Reverencing God

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.” Psa. 89:7. I would like for the reader to think down beneath the surface of this Scripture and ponder for awhile; and then to think again above the foundation upon which this text is laid. Because by observation, I am thoroughly convinced that far too many people read this verse; or hear it read or quoted, and pass on like a leaf blown by the wind without receiving any weight, food, or essence therefrom. Yes, this is true.

We shall consider the first word, God. Who is God? What is God? We might say, “God is a spirit.” That is true, but is that all we know him to be? “God is love.” Right again; for without God there is no love. And then what? “God is light.” Yes, without him we would all be in darkness. Someone has said, “God is the strength of my life,” and we would be obliged to accept this as a necessary fact because Jesus said, “Without me ye can do nothing”; and David said on one occasion, “God is our refuge and strength.” If he is not our refuge, we have no shelter in which to hide from the stormy blasts of life. Somebody said, “God is good.” It is true that God is good, and the source of all goodness.

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No doubt, we could continue on and on and never fully explain what and who God is, but there is one thing that we must own and confess; and that is, that the world by wisdom does not know God. The only way we can know God is through personal experience and contact. It was experience that caused Moses and the children of Israel to sing, “The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will exalt him.” Exod. 15:2. “Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power, not one faileth.” Isa. 40:12, 15, 22, 25, 26.

God proclaimed himself and said, “I am God, and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me.” By the use of these paradigms, terms, and phrases, we are able to comprehend in a very faint measure something of the power, greatness, and ability of God, and to get a faint understanding of what and who God is. Job says, “Lo these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him?” and Paul goes on further and says “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire.”

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No wonder then that he is to be greatly feared in the assembly of the saints. Do not lightly pass over the word “greatly”. God, being a great personage, is greatly to be feared, which means considerably above the average; and not only to be feared, but also to be had in reverence in the assembly of the saints. According to the statement made by the apostle Paul, it takes grace to have this reverence and godly fear in our hearts to the degree that would cause us to be accepted of God, for indifference is nauseating to God. He cannot and will not stand it.

How did Moses reverence God at the burning bush? By taking off his shoes and listening to God’s voice with a mind to obey the same. How did Paul reverence God when he met him on the road to Damascus? By saying “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” with a heart ready to obey. How did the children of Israel reverence God when Moses read to them his commands and statutes? By saying, “All that the Lord has said will we do, and be obedient.” Obedience is the greatest evidence of reverence and respect. The tipping of the hat, the bowing of the head: the lifting of the hands, the bowing of the knees, and so on, are all right, each in its time and place: but obedience is the greatest evidence.

One definition of reverence is: “A feeling of profound respect, often mingled with awe and affection,” or we might say, “with love and regards.”

Jesus said, “If a man love me he will keep my words.” So we conclude that to reverence God as he would have us to, we must keep his commandments. Jesus said in another place, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Mary manifested her love to the Savior by sitting at his feet and drinking in the gracious words that fell from his blessed lips.

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As we have been taught to fear and reverence God by our parents, God's ministers, workers, and ambassadors—many of whom have been called from their field of labor and have gone on to be with the Lord—we, too, should be as some of them were: say to our children. “Come ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” Bring them to the house of God. teach them to reverence the service of the Lord, to give heed to the messages, prayers, and exhortations from time to time, to be quiet and attentive, and not to be making unnecessary passes in and out while service is in session, nor standing around outside the building or around the corner somewhere, but to listen with reverence and respect to the word of the Lord which is able to make them wise unto salvation. I realize that for them to know God they must contact him personally themselves: but there is something the Lord would have us do: “Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” by precept and example.

Dear ones, reverence for God, for his word, for his people, and for his ways is fast decreasing in the world today. Let us who know God by personal experience and contact, do what we can to keep the fear and reverence of God great, both in the assemblies and in our homes, by his help and grace.

## Rejected

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16, 17.

Man had sinned and severed himself from God. He had fallen into guilt and condemnation, and was under the sentence of death. He was not able to pay the debt he owed to God, although through Moses God had extended mercy unto them by giving them the sacrificial law, which would atone for their sins in a measure until the time when the true sacrifice for man’s sins should appear. God in his love to his chosen people, the Jews; raised up prophets from time to time, which foretold the coming of this sacrifice, or spotless lamb that was to give his life a ransom for fallen man. Many received the good news, with joy, and looked forward with hope and anticipation when he should appear, but many died without the sight. The promise was not fulfilled in their day. But again and again God would raise up prophets and give them the heavenly vision of the coming Savior and King who would take away the sin of the world, while at the same time sacrifice and burnt offerings were being made according to the Mosaical law,

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but we find that God had no pleasure in those carnal sacrifices. Wherefore we read, "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, for then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he [Jesus] cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will O God." Heb. 10:1-7. Jacob, when he was about to pass on, called his sons together to tell them what would come to pass in the last days. Said he, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Gen. 49:10. The vision was so vivid to Isaiah that he broke forth with those immortal words, For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful; Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6. The angel told Joseph, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

That was Jesus' mission in this world: He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to give His life a ransom for many. He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He came preaching repentance. He came a "Light into the world." John tells us, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him



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not. He came unto his own and his own received him not.” John 1:10, 11. This is a sad and pathetic statement, although his coming had been foretold with precision, holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, yet the majority of the people turned Him down. Many of the lawyers and doctors of the law who should have known Him, rejected Him, as did many of the Pharisees. But why did they reject Him? Why did they refuse to receive His doctrine? Because sin had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so they could not know Him. Jesus said they hated him because he testified unto them that their deeds were evil. He said that men love darkness rather than light, for the same reason, their deeds were evil. They would not come to the light lest their deeds should be made manifest. We are made to believe that the same condition exists in the heart of many today. They love their sins and evil ways more than they love the Saviour, although He has given His life a ransom on Calvary to save their never dying souls, yet they reject the Saviour’s love and trample His tender mercies under their wayward feet and say by their ways and actions, “I will not have this man to rule over me.” What a pity! What an awful sight to see a blind, stony hearted generation of sin loving people pushing and crowding their way down to hell, when the Saviour stands with outstretched arms, saying, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Just as he wept over Jerusalem and said, “How oft would I have hovered you. . . . and ye would not.” Ye would not; why not? Listen! “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: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life; and few there be that find it” Matt. 7:13, 14. Why so few? Because of the deceitfulness of sin. Many are nullified by its soul destroying influence until they

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cannot see their need of a Saviour. They do not really know their own miserable state and condition. They will not come to the light that they may see just how they appear before God. They will not give ear unto his gentle pleading voice; and it shall be said of them, "Because I have called and ye refused: I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded: but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh." Prov. 1:24-26.

It is no light thing to reject Christ and His word. Whosoever he be that rejecteth Jesus Christ and turneth down his word, and refuses the counsel and wooing of the Spirit of God, turns down all that is real, all that is holy and eternal. He turns down heaven and its enduring treasures, he rejects life, and chooses death. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man but God." 1 Thess. 4:7, 8a. Because the Jews rejected Christ, he told them with weeping: "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Many today are rejecting Christ and turning him down for the vain and sinful pleasures of this perishing world. The holy Scriptures reveal to us that in these last days many will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof, reveling on in sin and folly at the dance, the theater, the card table, and drinking, gambling in the night life, adultery, uncleanness, hypocrisy, pride, sham, and vanity, and will awake some day to find that they have been reaching forth for a bubble that has bursted in their hand and left them to face the grim realities of a never ending eternity without God and without hope. They will have nothing to stand upon but a sandy foundation; no promise of a reward, only that which is given for a wasted and blasted life without Christ. With all heaven rejected in this life, after death at the great judgment bar of God they will hear those

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awful heart rending words: “Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you.” There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, darkness and despair, no hope, no joy, no happiness, no deliverance. In this time world, God’s plan rejected, no time for Jesus, no time for salvation, no time for heaven; in eternity by Christ denied, refused, and rejected, *rejected*, REJECTED.

Oh, be wise, do not continue to harden your heart, do not continue to refuse the counsel of the dear loving Lord. Just think for a moment what value He has placed upon your soul and what a tremendous price he has paid to redeem you and bring you back into favor and fellowship with God. Why still remain in sin? Why still be numbered with the throng that cried, “Away with him, away with him?” This is the day of grace; now is the accepted time. You may have salvation if you will. If you be one of them that have not yet made Christ your choice, bid him come into your heart and life. Look up by faith to Calvary’s cross. See the open fountain flowing freely to wash away your sins. Confess and forsake your sins, step into the fountain and be made whole while it is called today. Consecrate your heart and life to God, and you will not be one of them that will stand at the last day, REJECTED.

# **Life**

## **(Physical)**

Life is one of the great mysteries of God. We sometimes speak of the mystery of death, but there is a greater mystery in life. There is nothing so mysterious about a dead tree, but when there stands before us a tree that has within itself the sap of life, and is capable of producing leaves, blossoms, and finally fruit, and we behold the blossoms or the ripening delicious fruit, then there is a mystery before us that none but God can solve, who is the Creator and Giver of all life. Every living creature received the life that is in itself from God. The flowers of the field, the trees of the wood, the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea, birds, beasts, and cattle, creeping things, and all else, and, last but not least, man. God placed a value upon all life; but he values the life of a human being above the life of all other creatures, as man is the crowning piece of God's creation, and was made especially to glorify, or to bring glory to God. All other creatures he spoke into existence by the word of his power; but man he formed, or molded, and then gave him life. "And the Lord formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Gen. 2:7. "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Psa. 100:3. Everything that God created he

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created it for a purpose; and his object in creating man was that he should glorify his maker. Therefore God has placed a premium upon his life.

The question that Jesus asked when he healed the man's withered hand shows that he valued the life of a man above the life of beasts. "And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? how much then is a man better than a sheep?" Matt. 12:11, 12a. "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?" Mark 3:4. The law said, "Thou shalt not kill," and the penalty was, "he that sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

There are some people who call themselves vegetarians; and they seem to believe that that section of the law that reads, "thou shalt not kill" includes all animals and fowls, the same as man. The Scripture says. "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed, to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so." Gen. 1:29, 30. "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hands are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Gen. 9:2, 3. Now it is plain to see that when God said, "Thou shalt not kill," he meant that one should not take or destroy the life of his fellow man.

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One day as Abraham sat in his tent door, he lifted up his eyes and saw three men. He ran to meet them, and after words of greeting, “Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.” Gen. 18:7, 8.

Now God hath given life unto man, and it was his purpose that man should give glory to God, that he should glorify God. It was also God’s will that man should be happy in life, and he has placed everything at man’s disposal to the intent that he might enjoy that happiness. However, there is one thing that God requires of the man, and that is, he must reverence and obey his Creator. So long as this requirement is complied with, life will be sweet and happy, and God will be pleased to bestow upon him many varied and countless blessings. “No good thing will he withhold from him that walketh uprightly.” And he will have the testimony that he pleases God. He enjoys life and the presence of his Maker. But when he steps over the line and disobeys God, he immediately falls into condemnation, guilt, and shame, and in many instances he feels that he is not worthy of life, neither fit to die. At the same time he has brought the displeasure of God upon himself, and the face of God is against him. Things begin to go wrong; he is no longer satisfied; he has lost the joy of life; the besetments, snares, ills, and misfortunes that he finds in his path are far less than his iniquities deserve. If God were to mete out justice to him, his life would be taken away and he would perish and die. The Scriptures plainly teach that the lives of many have been destroyed on account of sin and disobedience, God having made them examples to others to warn them not to go in the ways of transgression and sin. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see

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good? keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” Psa. 34:12, 14. Good and evil is set before men, life and death. They are advised and warned to do good, and choose life. The road of sin is filled with instruments of death of every description. God has no pleasure in the death of a wicked man. He extends mercy and pleads with the wicked to turn; but if the wicked refuse to turn, that is not God’s fault.

Just think how many thousands are lying in the graves even now directly on account of disobedience and sin. They failed to glorify God with their lives. Dear ones, life is precious. It is precious in the eyes of every rational man. We sometimes see the sign warning motorists to “Drive Carefully; Don’t Kill a Child.” It would not be out of order to have one in some places to read, “Drive Carefully; Don’t Kill Yourself.” How are you driving over life’s road? Are you driving carefully or carelessly? There is a quotation in Job which says, “All that a man hath will he give for his life.” I have been told that a certain Queen, when she realized that her life was about gone, said, “All my possessions would I give for a moment of time.”

Dear reader, God has given you life. God values your life above the material things around you. He is the only one that can give life. You owe your life to God. If you will live to glorify him in this mortal life you will be in possession of the life everlasting. All of this necessitates the experience of the new birth. “Ye must be born again” to be in possession of the godly life. The word of God teaches that “godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” The little measure of time that has been allotted each one between birth and death, called life, is a time of great opportunity to embrace the

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truth, to find the Lord, to prepare for the future life, or the world to come.

When this mortal life shall come to an end the door of opportunity will be closed. Therefore one should work while it is day, for Jesus has said the night (death) cometh when no man can work.

When our work on earth is done,  
And this mortal life shall cease;  
May our spirit still live on .  
In the land of joy and peace.



# Death

## (Natural or Physical)

“Behold, thy days approach that thou must die.” These words were spoken by the Lord to his servant Moses, and here he has reference to natural death, or the state in which the spirit is separated from the body. These words are applicable to all men, for all must die. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” Eccl. 12:7. There is no discharge in that war. There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit. When God calls the spirit must take its flight and leave the old clay behind to mold and crumble in the dust. Death is no respecter of persons. The rich and the poor alike must go; the learned and the unlearned, men of every race, nation, kindred, and tongue, regardless of their business profession, social standing, rank or class; all must answer the solemn summons, for “the sentence of death fell upon all men.” The monster Death knows no mercy and takes no bribes. It takes the grandmother from the rocking chair and the little babe from its mother’s arms. And, too, dear reader, “Thy days approach, that thou must die.” Prepared or unprepared, when the summons comes, you must go. The just and the unjust, the righteous and the wicked, all must leave this time world and face the realities of a world unknown. Yes, and so must I some day, some time, somewhere, give up the ghost and

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die. In I Samuel 14:43, “and lo, I must die.” Each individual should give this fact serious thought, and should pray as one of old: “Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.” “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” What kind of wisdom? The wisdom that cometh from above, that we may not be as the five foolish virgins, but as the wise who had made ample preparation to meet the bridegroom. God hath no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Jesus has warned all men, saying, “Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.” So in this life while the blood is flowing through the veins is the time to prepare to meet God in peace. It will be too late when death comes, for Jesus told the Jews who believed not on him, “Ye shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.” Death closes the door of the opportunity to find salvation; for in death, “The light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.” Job 18: 5, 6. “The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.” Prov. 14:32. To die in sin and fill a Christless grave is a horror that neither tongue or pen can describe; but the death of the righteous is something to be desired. “Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.” “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Psa. 116:15.

“And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.” Rev. 14:13. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art

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with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

But we are thankful to know that death is not the closing scene. Praise the Lord for the hope which he has given his faithful ones of a life beyond the regions of the shadow of death; for “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” Job asked the question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” And he said again, “And though, after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold.” Job 19:26, 27a. Jesus said, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves 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.” John 5:28, 29. “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” “But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

# Life

## (Spiritual)

“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath life: and I will raise him up at the last day, for my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.” John 6:53-58. In the tenth verse of the tenth chapter of John’s gospel we find this statement, made by the Lord Jesus: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” He said again, “I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish.” We read again, “And this is the record, that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:11-13.

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The foregoing Scriptures, and many others, make it very plain that it is the will of the Father, that his people be in possession of eternal or everlasting life; and they also set forth the fact that one cannot have this life apart from the Son. They are co-existent the one with the other. One cannot be in possession of eternal life without being in possession of the Son of God. Jesus Christ must actually be permeating and dwelling in the heart and being of the possessor of everlasting life. He is the life and without him the soul abides in darkness, and death. There is life in no other name, only in the name of the only begotten Son of God. There have been many names offered to men, which promised eternal life: but all who looked to them have been deceived, and have fallen short of their hopes and expectations, falling into eternal death instead. Mohammed, Confucius, Diana, Dagon, and other names to which many thousands have looked for protection and life, have utterly failed to grant to their adherents that for which they vainly hoped— happiness and life. Many have gone on long pilgrimages in search for that which their souls longed, and have returned without satisfaction. But all who come to Jesus and eat his flesh and drink his blood shall have life eternal. As he has said, “He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.” John 6:56-58. What did Jesus mean by these words? “eat my flesh and drink my blood.” He meant that whosoever would hear and believe or receive his words in their heart would have life, spiritual life, the life that endures. As he said in verse 63 of the same chapter. “It is the spirit that quickeneth: the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” So we see

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plainly that whosoever receives the words of Christ receives life; and whosoever rejects his words, rejects life. As Jesus was presenting these truths to the people, there were many who for some reason failed to grasp the meaning of his words. It was a hard saying to them. They could not understand them. "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him." "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." Verses 66-68. Peter understood very clearly that the words that Jesus spoke were the words of eternal life; and he received them with joy. In Jesus' conversation with Martha (when he came to comfort the two sisters concerning the death of their brother), he spoke those immortal words, "I am the resurrection and the life." Paul said on one occasion: "When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." And John said, "He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life. And this life is in his Son."

"The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3: 35, 36. It is necessary to believe the record that God hath given of his Son; to believe on the name of the Son of God; to believe and accept his word as truth, and to receive it in the heart; to come in possession of eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Everlasting life, "the crown of life," that is the eternal prize. All those who have received the witness in their breast have reason to rejoice because their names are written

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in the “Book of Life” and they shall no more come under condemnation, because they keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. Therefore upon them the second death shall have no power; for they have been partakers of the first resurrection, and have passed from death unto life. When Jesus shall return, and the trump of God shall sound, those who have fallen asleep in him shall hear his voice and come forth unto the resurrection of life, and shall ever after live with the Lord.

Dear reader, have you eaten of the living bread which came down from heaven? Does Christ at this moment abide in thy soul? Have you received life from the dead? “He that believeth on the Father and the Son hath an everlasting life.”

# Death

## (Spiritual)

When we speak of death, it brings a solemn feeling and a meaning we cannot altogether understand. It is shrouded in a kind of mysterious something no one has ever been able to explain, yet it exists all around us. We observe it every day; no man can stay it; it is sweeping the globe. There are, Scripturally speaking, two kinds of death: physical and spiritual. Generally speaking, the one that should be dreaded most is feared the least, and that is spiritual death. When we speak of natural, or physical death, we have reference to the state or condition that exists when the soul, or the spirit, is separated from the body. For illustration we refer the reader to Gen. 35:18a. Speaking of the death of Rachel, Jacob's wife, it says, "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died). . . ." So death means separation.

When we speak of spiritual death, we have reference to the state or condition of the soul that is separated from God, and has come under condemnation on account of sin. "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek. 18:4. Also we read again: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and



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the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” Ezek. 18:20. Paul in his letter to Timothy, speaking of those pleasure loving women, said, “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.” 1 Tim. 5:6. We read in Matt. 24:27, Jesus’ words to some hypocritical Pharisees: “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are full of dead men’s bones, AND of all uncleanness.” We could give other texts along this line, but we believe the ones given are enough to clearly set before the reader the sad state and condition of one who is in sin. One of the saddest thoughts is that the majority of those who are away from God do not realize their miserable condition. Sin is deceitful, and its effects so nullifying that it has caused a deep sleep to fall upon them. Therefore the Lord speaking through the apostle Paul, says, “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light.”

The world is in a sad condition, going farther and farther away from God, and thousands who profess to be followers of the meek and lowly Lamb are at this very moment dead in trespasses and sin. They are dead while living; the body being the instrument of the soul is full of dead works, and these dead works are an abomination in the sight of God, and a stench in his nostrils. He has no pleasure in them at all; neither has he pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Sin is no part of God. God cannot fellowship sin, and it was not his purpose in the beginning that men should live in sin. But since sin has come into the world, and death by sin, death has passed upon all, for that all have sinned. God loved us with such a great love that he sent his only begotten Son into the world to suffer and die, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish

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but have everlasting life. He tasted death for all, and bids all to look unto him and live. "There is life for a look at the crucified one." O souls dead in sin and away from God, "Look and live."

Jesus taught in his doctrine that "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." And we are further exhorted: "In the day ye hear his voice, harden not your heart." Paul said that he was not disobedient to the heavenly calling, but that he immediately gave heed. God is calling now though his word, through his Spirit, through his ministers, to wake poor sinners from the dead.

Dear reader, if there is sin between you and God, you are dead; dead in trespasses and in sin. You have no fellowship with God, and his approval is not on your life. You are in spiritual darkness, and the sting of death, which is sin, has power over you; and if you die a natural or physical death and that sin is not pardoned or blotted out by the precious blood of Jesus, the second death will be your never ending portion. Jesus is the life giver. He came that those who sat in the land and the shadow of death might have life. Repent and call, upon God for mercy and forgiveness of sins, that you might have life through his Son Jesus. Give heed to his voice that you may live and be numbered with those who have been quickened, and received life from the dead. "Cast away from you all your transgressions whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? for I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezek.28:31,32.

## Some of the Effects of Sin

One could write a book of a thousand pages on the subject of the effects of sin and then as much more could be said or written, and yet the subject would not be exhausted. We shall not attempt to cover so much of the ground that this subject occupies; but we would like to turn the searchlight of God's eternal truth upon some of the high spots here and there—if we would be permitted to call them high. There is really nothing high about sin. Sin in all forms and effects is low and degrading. But by taking a “close up” we may be able to more clearly see what an enemy sin is to the human race.

Ezek. 18:3, 4, has this to say on the matter: “As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” The proverb referred to above is one that had been used among the children of Israel which was as follows: “The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.” Each individual is responsible to God for himself; for God hath said, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” One cannot lay the blame on another. Each one must give an account of himself to God. The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

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Death means a separation. Sin has separated the soul from God. There is no more sweet communion, no sweet fellowship, but a sense of guilt and condemnation. God will not answer his prayers any more except he repents and comes back to God. Isa. 59:1, 2 says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Man is unable to comprehend what a deplorable predicament a soul is in that is separated from God, the divine Father, on account of its sins. Sin has blighted the entire human family, and has brought suffering, shame, disgrace, despondency, sorrow, and death. The word of the Lord tells us in Romans 5:12, "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." All are under the sentence of death, for all have sinned, and the soul that sinneth it shall die. This does not mean the natural or physical death only, but also spiritual death in particular. There are many seemingly strong and robust men and women who are the picture of health, from a physical point of view, who are dead in trespasses and in sin. Paul tells us in Tim. 5:6, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Just think how many pleasure loving and pleasure seeking souls today are in their spiritual graves; lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Hear the voice of inspiration: "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light." Eph. 5:14.

The sin of lust and adultery have broken many homes, separating husbands and wives, scattering innocent children to the four winds, so to speak, and is filling the world with disgrace and shame. Do not forget Sodom and Gomorrah. Do not forget that God's eye runs to and fro throughout the whole earth beholding the

evil and the good. Remember also that “God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, for he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Gal. 6:7, 8. Sin is taking its toll through the channel of hatred and strife, drunkenness, murders, and so on; also the penitentiaries and houses of correction have been, and are being filled with the victims of sin. Prov. 14:34 reveals to us the fact that “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Regardless of their social standing or position in life, people who love sin do not love God. John tells us that if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Too many people are professing to be followers of the meek and lowly Lamb who are yet living in sin and disobedience to the commands of God even pleading for and holding to the God dishonoring thing.

Jesus taught in his doctrine, “No man can serve two masters.” God and the devil never were in partnership, and no man can serve God and the devil at the same time. When we see the awful devastating effects of sin, we are made to confess that “sin is the most destructive element that ever struck this world.” It is worse than any cyclone that ever passed through the land; worse than any flood, earthquake, typhoon, tornado, blizzard, wild fire, or what. Sin is more destructive than them all. It destroys fellowship with God, brings one who commits it under guilt and condemnation, blasts hope, happiness, peace, kills high aspirations, destroys life and limb, sends thousands to an untimely grave. It fills many hearts with sorrow, grief, and pain, and will finally bar many, many precious souls out of heaven forever. Sin is not a friend, but an enemy to humanity.

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Thanks be to God, Jesus devised a plan whereby men can be delivered from sin through the power of his precious blood which he so freely spilt on Mount Calvary.” “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matt 1:21. “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.” Heb. 7:25. Jesus came to bring life. He said, “I am that bread of life.” The wages of sin is death.

## The Power of Words

We read in Prov. 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” I find the Word of God to be a great instructor. It teaches us many lessons on various lines. We find also that God has given his Spirit unto his people to lead them into all truth. Jesus said, “Thy word is truth.”

We find there are some words that are profitable, and some are unprofitable. Some are light and chaffy, others are weighty and of more worth. Jesus said in Matt. 12:36, “But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.” Oh how careful we should be of the words we speak and the way we speak them. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. We can speak words to our fellowmen that will be uplifting and encouraging, words that will bring comfort and cheer to someone who is weary, words that will be like soothing oil to a bruised soul. How much we need to humble ourselves before the Lord that we may manifest the real Spirit of Christ by the words that we say. Well hath the poet said, “I need thee, Lord, I need thee, to teach me how to think and speak.”

The Spirit of the Lord, speaking by the mouth of the prophet Isaiah, said, “The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him

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that is weary”—note the phrase, “know how to.” It is one thing to know what to say and another thing to know how to say it. Oh, how much harm has been done on account of a lack of wisdom along this line. “There is that speaketh like the piercing of a sword.” David tells of a class of people who “whet their tongues like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words.” Someone has rightly said, “Many have been slain with the sword, but many more with the tongue.” Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

“A word fitly spoken is like apples in pictures of silver.” Prov. 25:11. The prophet Isaiah said of Christ “A bruised reed shall he not break, and a smoking flax shall he not quench: until he send forth judgment unto victory.” A word spoken in kindness to an erring one may be more profitable than twenty spoken in a sharp unkind way. Kind words never die.

“Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,  
Cords that were broken will vibrate once more.”

In Gal. 6:1 we read, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” Unkind words and sharp sarcastic looks have no place in the kingdom of Christ, nor in the midst of his people.

There are discouraging words. We read how the children of Israel were discouraged when they heard the report of the spies, the ten spies that brought back the evil report discomfited the camp of Israel insomuch that they lifted up their voice and wept, and refused to go over and take possession of the land of Canaan. Caleb tried to still the people and encourage them to go over, but



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the spirit of discouragement was so great in the camp that they refused to go. And the result was that all that army of Israelites which God so wonderfully delivered from Egyptian bondage, with the exception of two, perished in the wilderness. Just think of the power of discouraging words!

Have you heard any discouraging words? Have you seen any of the effects of the power of discouragement in these days? If you have not come in contact with the spirit of discouragement, amen. But if you have, just go in your secret closet and tell Jesus. He fought the battle in Gethsemane and received strength from on high. In the stillness of the night you can hear him say. Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee. Praise his name.

Then there are devouring words. In Gal. 5:14, 15 we find the following words which were written by Paul to the churches of Galatia. "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." James likens the unruly tongue to a fire, and says, "Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" Just think how fire will spread and what destruction lies in its path. Just a little gossip, an unkind remark about someone, a little tale bearing, backbiting, and so on. Oh, how destructive they all are. "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor." Psalm 15:1-3.

"Where no wood is there the fire goeth out; so where there is no tale bearer, the strife ceaseth." Prov. 26:20. Dear ones let us

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follow after charity and the things which make for peace. Why be a tale bearer, or one that sows discord throughout the land, or one to cast down and discourage when the reward of such is so undesirable?

Then there are comforting words, words of instruction and advice to enlighten and direct the traveler on his way. "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" Prov. 15:23. How many of the youth of the land have escaped the snares and pitfalls that awaited them on the way of life because someone who loved them and was interested in their welfare gave them some wholesome, timely, and godly advice and instruction. And how thankful they have been as they have looked back and remembered the sweet words of counsel that fell upon their ears. Those words have been like seed sown by the waters, that have yielded a bountiful harvest, the effects of which will roll on and on until they touch the shores of eternity, where the instructor and the instructed no doubt will stand and hear the Master of the harvest pronounce the blessed "Well done." Yes, "Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life." "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones." Prov. 16:24. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

May God grant that we may be so filled with his Spirit and grace that we may ever be able to speak the life giving word to some care worn pilgrim or some weary traveler on life's journey.

## Temptation

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him.” Jas. 1:12. According to the foregoing Scripture, we find that temptation is something to be endured, not so much enjoyed; but something to resist, or stand against and oppose. To be tempted, is to be allured or enticed to do wrong. In the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples was a request that we well remember, which said, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” No doubt you have heard the song many times, which says, “Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin. Each victory will help you, some other to win.” It is not a sin for one to be tempted, but it is a trial or test, and sometimes the test is severe or hard, but the Bible tells us to “endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” James tells us in the beginning of his letter. “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trial of your faith worketh patience, but let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” By close observation we find that the joy is not in the temptation, but in the “knowing” what the temptation would work out for those who endure. Paul tells us that “no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised

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thereby. Heb. 12:11. While it is the purpose of the temptation to try one's faith and stability, yet "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God can not be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man; but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then lust when it hath conceived bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death." James 1:13-15. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

It is not a sin to be tempted, for Christ was tempted of the devil, but overcame him because he would not yield to any of his suggestions nor stoop to accept any of his offers. Where the sin comes in is when one yields to the thing. Resist the devil and he will flee. We are exhorted in the word of God to "flee also youthful lusts that war against the soul." "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."

I cannot conceive the idea that it is God's plan for one to voluntarily expose themselves to temptation, or to just saunter carelessly around and be ensnared by the wiles of the devil; but to watch and pray and gird up the loins of your mind, and have the sword of the Spirit ready to fight the enemy. That is how Jesus overcame him. And he left us words of encouragement, saying, "as I have overcome, so shall ye overcome." He is the one that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; as he was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." "My grace is sufficient for thee." Blessed is the man that endures.

## Stop and Think

If in life you would succeed,  
Work and think.

'Tis a lesson all should heed:  
Work and think.

For you cannot make the grade  
As you march in life's parade  
Lying idly in the shade;  
Work and think.

Note the ant and busy bee,  
Work and think.

Let them both thy tutors be;  
Work and think.

They are busy all the time  
While the summer sun doth shine.  
Note their toil, then look at thine—  
Stop and think.

Let the spider teach thee too,  
Stop and think.

See the things she loves to do;  
Stop and think.

In trees, halls, and all around  
Her magic ball she has unwound;  
And in kings' palaces she's found—  
Stop and think.

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Toil not alone for things that rust;  
    Stop and think.  
For die and leave them soon you must.  
    Stop and think.  
Yes, my friend, study hard;  
Get acquainted with the Lord;  
Search and read his holy word;  
    Pray and think.

Obey its precepts one and all;  
    Watch and think.  
Christ will never let you fall—  
    O, just think!  
That when you are called to go,  
And time for you will be no more,  
With him you'll dwell forever sure:  
    On these things think.

## The Temple of God

“. . . My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer.” Mark 11:17. The God of Israel, who had been their leader and deliver, had dwelt among them for many years in a tabernacle that was built after the manner and fashion of the pattern that he had given to his servant Moses in the Mountain which was moved about from place to place according to the journeyings of the Israelites. God, going before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The Israelites also dwelt in tents which were taken down and folded to be carried onward in their course of travel until they were again ordered to encamp. But after they had become established in the promised land, they began to build houses and enjoy the blessings of more comfortable dwelling places. As the years rolled on, David, their king, built a house of cedar wood which was well furnished and enjoyed by himself and his household. And in the process of time when the Lord had blessed him with peace and rest, he sat in his house thinking and meditating over the many ways that God had graciously dealt with them, and how he had so wonderfully delivered them from time to time. He also thought of the many years the ark of God had been resting in the old tabernacle made of curtains. A deep desire came into his heart to erect a permanent resting place for the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat where the priests could commune with God and offer up sacrifices for the people, a place where

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prayers and supplications could be made in behalf of the multitudes of the children of Israel. We read, "And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the Lord had given him rest round about from all his enemies; That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. And Nathan said unto the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the Lord is with thee." 2 Samuel 7:1-3. But the following night God spoke to Nathan the prophet and sent him to rehearse to David the many ways in which God had blessed him, and how he had taken him from following sheep, and had exalted him to be king over Israel, and to remind him that God had not complained because a house had not been built where his name should dwell. He also promised to establish David's house because of the interest he had in the things of God. Although David himself was not permitted to build a temple for the Lord because he had been a man of war and had shed blood. Nevertheless God gave him the promise that when he had passed on and slept with his fathers, that his son Solomon would build the house or temple of the Lord. In this David greatly rejoiced, and praised God, and made ready in abundance a great preparation for the building of the temple of God, and gathered great supplies of gold, silver, precious stones, and other material so that after his death his son Solomon might be able to take hold and carry the work on to perfection. He also gave to Solomon the blue print, or pattern, which he had received from God, that he might know the manner in which the building was to be constructed. So we find that after the death of David, it was so that Solomon began to build the temple, known as Solomon's temple, or "The house of God." This building was different from any other building that had been or ever will be erected. It was the most precious, the most costly,



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and the most beautifully decorated building of which we have any account.

With its porches, courts, walls and pillars decorated with carved works of lilies, pomegranates and open flowers and wreaths of chain work, and many other figures, such as lions, oxen, angels, etc., carved and overlaid with gold; its golden floors, golden doors, the golden altar, the golden table for the shewbread, the golden candlesticks, and other things in comparison, it was the glory of the nation, and the envy of the heathen round about. We read, "And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the Lord. And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in height, thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar. So Solomon overlaid the house with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold. And the whole house he overlaid with gold until he had finished all the house; also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold, and within the altar he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high and five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub, from the uttermost part of the one wing to the uttermost part of the other wing were ten cubits. And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubs were of one measure and one size. The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub. And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house, and he overlaid the cherubims with gold. And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm

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trees and open flowers; within and without, and the floor of the house he overlaid, with gold, within and without. 1 Kings 6:19-30. It would consume too much time and space to try to give a complete description of the carvings and furnishings in detail; but what has been given is enough to help us in a measure to see and understand the grandeur, splendor, and beauty of the structure. We are told that when the rays of the rising Sun would fall upon the golden surface of this temple, the glorious light would be reflected for miles and miles. It was the joy and beauty of the whole earth. It was God's dwelling, God's resting place. It was the house of prayer, and God heard and honored the prayers that were offered from its sanctuary.

But Solomon's temple has long since been destroyed, and while other buildings have been erected to replace it, none have ever equaled it in grandeur and beauty, and none have been a source of joy and happiness as it was. And yet, may I say, that God has a temple in the earth today that is far more precious and glorious than the one that was built by Solomon. Believe it, my friends, for it is true. The Word of God says, "For ye are the temple of the living God."

David asked the question, "What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor." Psa. 8:4, 5. As Solomon's temple superseded all other structures in grandeur and beauty, so God has made man more glorious and handsome than all other beasts and animals of his creation, having made him in the image and likeness of God, and just a little lower than the angels. David said again, "I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psa. 139:14. And the

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apostle Paul says. "God that made the world and things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us." Acts 17:24-27. This seeking after the Lord concerns every individual, and is an individual matter; because everyone must give account of himself to God; and his word says that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Sin has separated man from God, and has left man void of the grace and presence of God in his soul. God has been put out of his temple by the degrading acts of sin, and is pleading for entrance again for the good of the man himself. Because man without God is in a deplorable predicament, in a most miserable state and condition. He is under guilt and condemnation, and abides under the sentence of death; therefore he is urged to seek after the Lord while he may be found, and to call upon him while he is near. By divine appointment and the plan of salvation, the way has been provided whereby fallen man can be restored to favor and fellowship with God. He said seek and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Through repentance and faith man can again be raised from the depths of sin and shame to the plane of holiness and purity. God has commanded that men should repent. Through ignorance and disobedience he has become defiled and unclean before God, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30. On account of the unclean nature and filthiness of sin; God

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was compelled to vacate, because he will not dwell in an unclean temple. Therefore the prophet Isaiah breaks forth and cries “Wash you, and make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool.” Isa. 1:16-18. Sin is as the disease of leprosy, and the sinner must be cleansed before he can partake of holy things. But it is a joy to know that the Scripture hath said, “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.” Zech. 13:1. That fountain was opened when the Saviour’s side was pierced and the blood and water freely flowed. Praise God for the precious cleansing tide.

Plunge in, wash and be clean, that ye may be in a condition to invite the Spirit of God to come in and dwell in his temple; for he will not dwell in an unclean temple or an unclean man or woman. Ye must first be cleansed. “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 1 Cor. 6:18. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” 1 Cor. 3: 16, 17.

Why did God permit the destruction of Solomon’s temple? and why did he permit the Jews to be taken into captivity? Was it not for the reason that they had forsaken God? And had they not defiled themselves and the holy place by wicked abominations?

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God could not have fellowship with such works, and by their sins and wickedness God was crowded out. As with the nation, so with the individual: sin crowds God out of the individual life. He will not stay in an unclean temple or person. They must be washed from their filthiness and sin in the fountain of blood, and thereby be at peace with God. Then he says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." This is a wonderful promise; and God will not fail them that obey his word. Speaking of the temple, it was said, "My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer." A man who has his heart set to serve the Lord is a man of prayer. The Spirit of prayer is continually operating in his soul, and he can readily receive the admonition to "Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. 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. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 2 Thes. 5:17-24. Yes, God will sanctify his temple by sending the Holy Ghost into the heart of the believer as a refining fire, and as a Comforter and keeper. We read in Romans 5:1-5, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulation 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."

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God dwells in the heart of every sanctified man or woman in the person of the Holy Ghost, and it is God's will that all believers be sanctified, or filled with the Holy Ghost, for they are the temple of God.

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor.” 1 Thes. 4:3, 4. We are exhorted to be filled with the Spirit. Jesus said on one occasion, “If a son ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? or if he ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Luke 11: 11-13. Yes, God wants to dwell in, through, and around his temple, that is his dwelling place upon the earth.

Now we would like to quote a few Scripture phrases to this effect: “And he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.” Luke 1:15. “Even the Spirit of truth which the world can not receive, because it seeth him not neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:17. “The Comforter which is the Holy Ghost.” Verse 26. “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 4:31. “Look out seven men full of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 6:3. “And God . . . bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost.” Acts 15:8. “Then Saul (called Paul) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.” Acts 13:9. “That thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 9: 17. “Christ in you the hope of glory.” Col. 1:27. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall

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God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” 1 Cor. 3:16, 17. These texts and quotations should make it clear to every unbiased mind that the living Spirit of God does in reality dwell in the very being of his sanctified saints. He longs for admittance into every justified heart, and he is calling to repentance, every sinner, that he may wash in the fountain of blood and be made clean from every guilty stain, so that his body may be prepared as a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. O, how softly and uprightly men would walk before God if they only realized the depths of these solemn truths. Peter gives a beautiful picture of the spiritual temple of God when he says, “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scriptures, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” 1 Pet. 2: 1-6. Just as the stones that were used in the construction of Solomon’s temple were taken from the quarry and fitted and prepared for the building before being taken to the building site, so is each individual who constitutes a stone in the spiritual temple of God, taken from the pit of sin and is made a new creature in Christ Jesus, having been raised from the dead state of sin and transformed into a living stone to be placed in the holy temple of God. These are they who have tasted and seen that the Lord is gracious.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes, “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore

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ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” No, dear ones, God is not seeking to dwell in some elaborate edifice, covered with beautiful and artistic designs carved by men’s hands though they be ever so expensive; “For the most high God dwelleth not in temples made with hands,” but he dwells and abides in the hearts of his people, individually, and collectively; for Jesus prayed that they might be sanctified, and that they might be brought into the bond of perfect unity or oneness; that they should be fitly framed together for a place of his dwelling: “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and loved them as thou hast loved me.” John 17:23. The glory and splendor of Solomon’s temple fades into insignificance when compared with the glory that rests upon them who are filled with the Holy Ghost, for Jesus said, “The glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.” He said also, “That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:22, and also the 21st verse.

As Solomon’s temple, where the different stones had been fitly placed into one perfect building, and overlaid with gold inside and out, was the glory of the nation and the joy of the whole earth; so is the spiritual temple which is filled with the presence and power of God. There is nothing on earth more glorious than an individual, or body of people filled with the Spirit and glory of



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God and enshrouded in his holy presence. That is where God dwells; that is the temple of God.

## The Portion of the Wicked

Sometimes when we look around us and see how wicked men who have no fear of God upon them prosper in this world and seem to have everything going their way, so to speak; and again we see some who seem to be doing their best to fear and reverence God buffeted about with misfortunes and adversities of various kinds; the question arises in our minds: Why? And then like a flash our thoughts fly to the Bible, that blessed book of divine inspiration and wisdom; and as one text after another comes before our vision, we realize that the wicked have their portion in this world and that the joy and rejoicing of their heart is of short duration.

David mused upon these conditions at one time, and he said, "I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked, for there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment, their eyes stand out with fatness; they have more than heart could wish, they are corrupt and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily, they set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth." Psa. 73:3-9. They give God credit for nothing, but attribute their success and prosperity to their own skill and ability,

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and in the pride of their hearts speak against heavenly things. They curse the weather when it is dry, and curse and swear when it rains too much for their own selfish and conceited plans; and yet they seem to prosper right along.

But David said again, "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree, yet he passed away, and lo, he was not: yea, I sought him but he could not be found."

Job gives us a little sketch of his observations of the wicked: "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty. If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep. Though he heap up silver as the dust and prepare raiment as the day; he may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver." Job 27:13-17.

We learn by the foregoing Scriptures that many times the plans and purposes of the wicked fail. Yes, "the expectation of the wicked shall perish, but the righteous hath hope in his death." "Knoweth thou not this of old, since man was placed upon the earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds; yet he shall perish forever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he? he shall fly away as a dream, as a vision of the night. . . . his bones are full of the sins of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust, though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue; though he spare it and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth: yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him." Read the remainder of

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the chapter. The 29th verse says, “This is the portion of a wicked man from God, mid the heritage appointed unto him by God. He shall be driven from light into darkness and chased out of the world.” What is there about the portion of the wicked to be desired? Though at times it seems to be inviting and enticing like a beautiful basket of fruit, it is full of worms and the poison of asps.

The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.” Psa. 11:5, 6. It grieves the great heart of God to see the wicked going on in their wicked and sinful ways, and he in his mercy is pleading with them to turn from their wicked ways and live. The word of God is filled with exhortations to this effect. “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.” Isa. 55:7. But why do men continue on in sin and wickedness in the face of all the facts presented, showing that there will be a disastrous ending? Listen: “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the hearts of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him; but it shall not be well with the wicked, which are as a shadow: because he feareth not before God.” Eccl. 8:11-13.

Do not trample the rich mercies of God under foot. But be as one of old who said, “Deliver me from the wicked. From the men of the world, who have their portion in this life.” Just think on the word of Solomon when he said, “I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy.” Just think if it was

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even so that one could have uninterrupted joy in his wicked ways, and then come down at the last to fill a Christless grave, how sad it would be; but David said, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Psa. 9:17.

This is the portion of the wicked. Stop and think; think a little while; think it over, and let the thoughts turn over in your mind and imagine with what an awful thud those solemn words will fall upon the ears of the wicked in that day when Jesus says, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” This is the portion of the wicked.

## Thanks Be to God

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 15:57.

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place.” 2 Cor. 2:14.

Praise God for the victory that he gives unto his people over the world, the flesh, and the devil, which fills their hearts with thanks and praise and keeps them everywhere and in every place with a knowledge of his saving grace and keeping power. When most worldly minded people meet together and converse over the activities of life and the happenings of the time, even in a general way, their conversation is sprinkled with slang and profanity. It seems as though they would be at a loss to know how to express themselves if they could not bring in the many useless and God dishonoring words they have in their vocabulary. It never comes in their minds to give thanks and praise to God for his love and protecting care that he has bestowed upon them, but they just use slang and profane words even in telling how they escaped from being seriously injured at a certain place, or escaped mishap of some kind on a certain occasion. But how blessed it is to converse with one who knows the Lord and who has the experience of sins forgiven. Their conversation is sprinkled with thanks and praises

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and gratitude to God for the manifestation of his love and care to them through Jesus Christ. And the victory they have obtained over the world and the devil is manifested in their daily conversation, mingled with thanksgiving for the way God provides for and protects them while journeying through this pilgrim land.

Thank God for victory over the flesh and its lusts and carnal desires. Many who do not have this victory seem to enjoy sitting around the card tables shuffling cards and smoking cigarettes, saturating the air with the smoke and odor of the narcotic weed, and sipping from the social glass of beer, wine, champagne, and other intoxicating drinks. But those who are drinking from the living stream of the fountain of life and have tasted of the goodness of God (“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good”) have no appetite for such; but to be filled with the Spirit is the joy of their hearts. Instead of boasting for some brand of beer or such, they praise and exalt the name of the Lord, and instead of a foolish and vain glib and talk, they give thanks to the blessed Lord.

Everyone should be thankful to God for the blessings he enjoys in life. Even the unsaved should be glad and thankful that a way has been provided whereby they can be saved and have victory over sinful habits; but should be in earnest about it and press forward and obtain it for themselves before it is too late.

“But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

## Predictions and Prophecies

On that cold, bleak Tuesday night, December, 18, 1945, about 6:24 p.m., I looked up into the sky to see the moon, which at that time was not far from the horizon. For several days I had anticipated observing the moon on this particular night. My reason for wanting to look at the moon on this night was: the astronomers had informed the public that there would be an eclipse of the moon. They gave the hour and the minute that the moon would enter the shadow and the minute it would leave. Sure enough, it came to pass. Every few minutes I would go back and look at the moon, until finally it was engulfed in the shadow and the night had become as dark as if the moon had not risen. Then in a few minutes it began to brighten on one side and continued to brighten until all was clear and bright again.

The mystery in my mind was, how did the astronomers know this incident was going to happen on this particular night and at this designated time? I understand that by previous study and experience, and by the use of delicate astronomical instruments and careful calculations they were able to tell at what time and place this eclipse would be visible.

As I meditated, I thought of what Jesus said on one occasion when some of the Pharisees and Sadducees desired that he would show them a sign from heaven. “He said unto them, When it is



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evening ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" Matt. 16:2, 3.

In another place he said, "When ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass." Yes, men can trace the course of many of the stars and planets with a certain degree of accuracy, and send out some accurate weather forecasts: but when it comes to making spiritual observations and discerning of spirits and the signs of the times, one must have in his possession something more than manmade instruments and human wisdom. He must have the Word and Spirit of God. When Joseph told Pharaoh there would be seven years of plenty and seven years of famine he said, "God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do."

Agabus signified by the Spirit that there should be a great drought throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

A brother at one time had been praying very earnestly for a sick child. One day he went over a little hill to pray and while there agonizing in prayer, there appeared to his vision a little white casket, and a voice spoke saying, "There is no need to pray against the will of God."

Paul, by the Spirit of God, discerned the spirit of divination in the woman that followed them, saying, "these men are the servants of the most high God, which show us the way of salvation." Paul being grieved turned and by the power of God cast the evil spirit out of her.

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Sometimes men fail in their predictions and calculations, but the Word of God never fails, and the Spirit of God never fails. The Word of God informs us that in the last days perilous times shall come, and tells us the reason why. It is as plain to be seen by those who are spiritually minded as the eclipse of the moon was on the night of December 18, 1945. "The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils."

There is a vast difference between the revelation of God and presumption; between the Spirit of God and the spirit of accusation. There have been times when good meaning people, thinking they had a divine revelation (when in reality it was only a presumption) have accused some one of being possessed of this or that spirit, or of being guilty of this or that, and have missed the mark. Miscalculations and presumption will never be able to give the right information, but Jesus never fails; the Spirit never fails; the Word of God never fails. "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:12, 13.

God knows the movement, speed, and action of every man. He knows the purpose and intent of every heart. He knows the outcome of every undertaking. The living Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us. Isaiah said His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor. His counsel is always safe. He has never missed a hair's breadth, and he never will. "Remember the former things of old; for I am God and there is none else; I am God and

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there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. I have spoke it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it; I will also do it.” Isaiah 46:9-11. David had had experiences with God from his boyhood days when he used to care for his father’s sheep until he was by God’s hand established king in Israel. One day while thinking upon the providences of God, he cried out, “O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down sitting and my uprising, thou understandest my thoughts afar off; thou compasseth my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.” Psa. 139:1-4.

And not only is this all wise and omnipotent God able to tell the course of individuals but to see and foretell the course and destiny of nations, as portrayed in his covenant with Abraham wherein he said that his seed should sojourn in a strange land, and that they should be brought into bondage, and evil entreated for four hundred years and afterward they should be brought forth with a strong hand, and that he would dispossess the Canaanites and give the land to Abraham’s seed. This came to pass according to the Word of God. Now listen again: “I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold Him, but not nigh; There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab and destroy all the children of Seth.” Numbers 24:17.

“But unto the Son he saith, thy throne O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” Heb. 1:8. “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver

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from between his feet, until Shiloh come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” Gen. 49:10.

These latter prophecies were fulfilled by the coming of Christ. Many more could be mentioned, but these will suffice for this time. One more great event is foretold in the volume of holy writ that I want to mention: That is the judgment day and the final wind up of this time world. Many have endeavored to tell us when this event would take place, but we have found all their predictions to be failures because they were not backed up by either the word, or the Spirit of God, but only by men’s presumptions and miscalculations. Because of these things, some seem to doubt as to whether such an event will come to pass. But be not deceived, “That awful day will surely come, the appointed hour makes haste, When I must stand before my God and pass the solemn test.”

Peter says that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, saying, “Where is the promise of his coming, for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” He further says that “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to usward.” God is giving the people a chance to repent. That will be an awful time when the wrath of God breaks forth upon this sin cursed world, when there will be no interceder, no one to plead for mercy when the great Intercessor shall have left the meditorial throne. Just the thought of such an event ought to cause men and women to tremble.

Peter also tells us that “The day of the Lord shall come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” (Not burned over, but burned up). “But the heavens and the earth which

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are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” 2 Peter 3:6, 7. When Paul was before Felix, and by the inspiration of the Spirit of God reasoned of righteousness temperance, and judgment to come ,Felix trembled. Men and women should tremble today, and not only tremble, but cry mightily unto God while there is One to intercede.

The hearts and minds of the majority are filled with so much unbelief, covetousness, and self will that they are fast formulating the conditions that Jesus spoke of when he said, “as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.” Because men and women do not believe the word of God, that will not hinder it from being fulfilled. In Acts 17:30, 31, we read, “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent, because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” Yes, there shall be a great Judgment Day when the small and great shall stand before God and be judged by the righteous Judge.

“We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” When the angel shall stand with one foot upon the land, and the other upon the sea and declare by him that sits upon the throne that time shall be no longer, then shall the millions of earth realize that God’s word is true, and that what he has said, he is able to bring it to pass. That will be a greater event than any lunar eclipse the sages of this world have ever seen. That will be the event of events, the crashing of ages, the locking of the wheels of time, the second coming of Christ, the judge. Every eye shall see him, and

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they also which pierced him. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Dear reader, are you concerned about that coming event? Have you made preparation to meet the Lord? Are you ready for the great Judgment Day? That awful day will surely come. In this life is the time to make preparation. Today is the day of salvation, now is the accepted time. You will never have any business to attend to that is of more importance than the salvation of your soul. We are told in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Let me say again upon the authority of the Word of God, That awful day will surely come, and Jesus has said. "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh."

## **Victory Through Christ**

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness came by the law then Christ is dead in vain.” Gal. 2: 20, 21. Herein is the secret of a victorious life. When the ego is put to death, or is crucified with Christ, and Christ becomes the living One, the living motive power that actuates one’s life and being, and one is resolved that it shall be no more I, but Christ, and that the prayer of his heart shall be, “Not my will, Lord, but thine be done,” that is victory.

Though human wisdom and reasoning many seem to point out a better way, which for the moment appears to be a smoother and easier course to pursue than the way that God had planned, that one who is crucified with Christ realizes that he is not his own any more, but that he is bought with a price, and that he must glorify God in body and spirit, looks to the hills from whence his help comes, and says, “Lord, thy way is best, take me through thy way; thou hast said, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee.’” And his faith and trust in the guiding hand of an all wise God, and His Spirit that dwells within (for he has said, “Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”) causes him with triumphant voice to declare that he has victory

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over the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is his one great desire not to please himself, but to please Christ, who died for him and redeemed him from the wrath to come by the power of his precious blood. As Peter has said, "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers: but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18, 19. When Paul had ceased from his own wisdom and righteousness, he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." And Christ said, "Without me ye can do nothing." So it is evident that one who has died to self, and made a full surrender to God, and has received His blessed Holy Spirit in his heart and life, can through Him be more than conqueror.

Without Him there is no victory. When he leads, when he points out the way, when his commands are obeyed, there will be no defeat; He has never lost a battle. He is King of kings and Lord of lords, and has won the victory over death, hell, and the grave. "Nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."



## Sin

When we speak of sin, we speak of an awful destructive, God-dishonoring, soul-destroying element. There is nothing more degrading than sin. From the statements that some people make, it is very evident they do not understand what sin really is, nor the relationship of those who commit sin. I have heard some say, “We sin every breath we draw.” Some say it is a sin to eat, or a sin to drink. They seem to think that about everything we do in this life is sinful, and many hold to the idea and teach that it is impossible to live above sin in this life.

Now, in order to come to a clear understanding of this subject, it will be necessary to consult the Word of God, since by it we have the knowledge of sin. Therefore we will let the Bible tell us what sin is. In 1 John 3:4, we find this statement: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law.” And James 4:17 says, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” These Scriptures make it very clear what sin is. When one knowingly transgresses God’s law, and does that which is wrong, he commits sin, and is brought under guilt and condemnation, because he had a knowledge that the thing he was doing was not right in the sight of God; and is therefore a sinner, and is in a lost state and condition, without hope and without God.

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Now the question arises, Who hath sinned? Let the Bible answer: Romans 3:23 gives us this information. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Notice carefully it did not say, "All are sinning," but it says all have sinned. The Scriptures also plainly show that God does not lead people into sin, nor sinful practices. Of what spirit then are those who commit sin? 1 John 3:8 reads, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Matt. 1:21 says "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Note that it says, "from their sins," not, "in their sins," as some try to interpret it. Another question then would confront us, and that is: Can those who cling to sin enter heaven? This is a very important question and is worthy of careful consideration. Jesus said in John 8:21, let us read, "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go ye cannot come." Also the apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, naming over a catalog of sin, says, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." "Sin can never enter there." The sin route does not lead heavenward.

Was there ever one that lived without sin? Turn now to 1 Peter 2:21, 22: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." And he bids us to follow him, saying, I am the way, the truth, and the

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life. No man cometh to the Father but by me.” We see then that without Jesus no man can deliver himself from the power of sin. In Jer. 13:23 we find this question and statement: “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.” No man can save himself, and there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we might be saved but the name of Jesus. “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” 1 Thess. 1: 9, 10. “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” Col. 1:12-14. Amen: “Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature.”

While we are living in a world of sin and wickedness, with temptations of various kinds around us, we can nevertheless live a victorious and sinless life; yet not by our own power or might; but, “Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Pet. 1:3-5. Praise God for his keeping power! “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. Trust in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.” Isa. 26:3, 4. His own arm brought salvation down.

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Rom. 6:4 reads like this, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” The Scriptures teach us that if any man be in Christ he is a new creature, and we are exhorted in Col. 3:1-6, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth; for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry; For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.” Praise God for a present salvation which delivers and keeps right in this present world. There is wonderful working power in the blood of Jesus Christ. “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Heb. 9:14. JESUS CAME TO SAVE FROM SIN.

Now let us read Rom. 6:17, 18: “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” The wages of sin is death.

## For Whom Are You Living?

“For as much then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 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.” 1 Peter 2:1, 2.

For whom are you living? This is a question directed to every individual, whether we have taken time to consider it or not, and we cannot pass it by.

Gird up the loins of your mind and think, think carefully, think deeply. Are you living for the Lord Jesus, or are you living after the lusts of men? Are you seeking their applause and honor? Do you strive to please men or God? The word of inspiration says, “Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.” 1 Cor. 7:23. Again we read: “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” Gal. 1:10. Do you know that Jesus suffered for you? Have you given it a second thought? A more serious consideration, that he has even bought you and that you are not your own?

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your

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own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

The text says, "Forasmuch then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind." Or, in other words, we must be decided in our minds to live for Christ even though it calls for suffering; for "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Peter says, "They will think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you." No doubt, your loved ones and friends may say many hard things about you because you have decided to follow the lowly Lamb of God; but you cannot afford to let these things turn your heart back, because your future destiny depends upon your present actions. You cannot expect to reap a harvest of joy and bliss, and wear a crown of righteousness if you do not take up your cross and follow Jesus. "If we suffer with him, we shall also be glorified with him." The natural man does not delight in suffering, so one must practice self denial when called upon to undergo suffering or persecution for Jesus' sake, and follow the example he taught us in the garden: "Not my will, but thine be done."

This brings us to the thought that we cannot even please ourselves, for we are not our own. Thousands of people are going through this life and acting as though Christ has no place in their hearts at all, although they profess to be his followers. They live a life of self gratification, and seem to be at ease. They live to enjoy this world. Its pleasures, its honors, its praise, and applause appeals to them louder than eternal things. The praise of the world is stronger to them than the will of God. Let me ask again, For whom are you living? "He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin: that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to

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the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” “Have you died to all but Jesus and his will forever more? Is his will your meat and drink? If you have died to your own will, and have ceased to live after the will and lusts of other men, and have taken your cross and are following Jesus, then the light of heaven is shining in your soul. He hath said, “He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” And again, “If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7.

“The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer.”

## Prayers and Supplications

“Again I say unto you that if two of you shall agree on earth, as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matt. 18:19, 20. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.” Jno. 14:13. These words spake Jesus that he might encourage, and strengthen the faith of his servants. We find in the foregoing Scriptures two things in particular that are required of those who pray, to insure them of receiving an answer to their prayers. First, they must be agreed. They must be of one mind, and of one heart. There must not be anything in their lives or in their manner of conduct that will cause them not to have confidence one in the other. Their faith and confidence each in the other must be unshaken, so that when they two pray there will be no doubt in the mind of either as to whether God would hear their petition. The effect of this condition would be of such that their prayers would ascend to the throne of grace and attract the attention of the Father. But if there should be a lack of confidence of one in the other, or a lack of harmony and unity in the agreement, the promise does not contain; and there needs be no expectation of an answer.



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Next, the petition, or prayer must be offered in the name of Jesus. The answer must not be expected on the account of some worthy deed that has been performed by someone, or in the name of some group that are functioning in a seemingly worthy cause, but in the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son, on the merits of the atonement that he has made to reconcile man to God. Man has no access to God only through Jesus Christ, the one mediator between man and his Maker, and all prayers that are not offered in the name of Jesus, or on the account of the merits of his shed blood, are all in vain.

In the matter of agreement, Jesus encourages the thought of the power of united effort in prayer, saying, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

We have a wonderful example in the second, chapter of Daniel of the power and effect of united prayer: "Then Daniel went in and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah his companions, that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God, for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his." Dan. 2:16-20. We find that these four men were agreed in heart and mind. The request was very important, the need was urgent, and the answer to this united prayer would not only bring deliverance to the petitioners, but also honor and glory to the name of God. When God had given them their hearts' desire, Daniel did

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not fail to bless and give honor to the name of the God of heaven. Sometimes we have burdens and requests that we desire to present to the throne of grace. Sometimes the burdens are so heavy, or the matter of such importance that we ask the prayers of others that God will intervene, and we are taught in his word to “pray one for another.” God does honor such prayers. It is a wonderful privilege we have to make our desires known to our fellow companions in the Lord as Daniel did, and receive the answer to our prayers. Jesus has said, “There am I in the midst of them.” He is one of the number. Another wonderful example of God’s answering united prayer is recorded in the 12th chapter of Acts: “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. And the keepers before the door kept the prison. And behold the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison and he smote Peter on the side and raised him up saying, Arise up quickly, and his chains fell off from his hands, and the angel said unto him, Gird thyself and bind on thy sandals, and so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garments about thee and follow me. And he went out and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord; and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the Jews.” Acts 12:5-11.

It is a source of encouragement and inspiration to the children of God when they read, or hear of this wonderful deliverance that

God wrought in Peter's behalf in answer to the united prayers of those who were interested in his case. There are many other instances of united prayer being answered that are not recorded in the Scriptures. God still hears and answers prayer today. He hath said, "The desires of the righteous shall be granted, and he is yet saying, "Pray one for another." There is power in united prayer. There is strength of courage and faith when two or more come together with one heart and one mind and one determination with unshaken confidence, earnestly pleading with God that he would stretch forth his hand in their behalf. Such a prayer will move the Father on his throne in heaven. His ears will be attentive to their cry, and in his majestic power and wisdom he will in his own way send answer down. It has been proven again and again.

May the God of all grace establish your hearts in him, and grant you to be likeminded one toward another, with faith and confidence in his name. May he grant victory to every believing one. Many times he has come to the rescue of those who have humbled themselves to ask the prayers of others in their behalf. Prayers offered in his name, thru faith in him will not be denied. It is recorded: "If two of you shall agree on earth, as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Believe and "it shall be done."

### **A Few Reasons Why Some Prayers Are Not Answered**

Because that many prayers are prayed that seemingly are not answered, many have become discouraged, and faint hearted, and have given up in despair without earnestly seeking to know the reason why. When we come to God for anything there must be a real burning desire in our hearts to receive that for which we ask.

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And without this desire there is no real prayer. The intensity of the desire is what puts power in the prayer, or petition, and when the desire of the heart is strong enough one will not be easily discouraged if his or her first request seems to be unnoticed. Of course, we understand that one's will or desire must of necessity be in harmony with the will of God. When it is clear that the desire is in the will of God, one should be encouraged to press their request until they receive an answer. And to substantiate this thought we refer to the parable that Jesus gave concerning the widow and the unjust judge, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man: yet because this widow trouble me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith upon the earth?" Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus here teaches a lesson of importunity, or of holding on in prayer to God for the things we need. No doubt, you have seen the little plaque which says, "Prayer Changes Things." Jesus said men ought always to pray, and not to faint. There are several instances recorded in the word of God, telling us of men who prayed, and prayed again before receiving an answer to their petition. There is the case of Elijah and the widow's son at Zarepath.

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It does not appear that he received his desire the first, time he prayed; but he did not cease. He continued to pray until God heard and answered by restoring the widow's son to life again. On another occasion when he prayed for rain after a drought of three years and six months duration, we find that his faith did not shrink because he did not receive an answer after the third or fourth prayer; but he prayed on until the answer came. After the seventh prayer, the servant returned, saying, "Behold, I see a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand," and Elijah sent word to Ahab to prepare his chariot and go lest he should be stopped by the rain. And in the meantime the heavens were black with clouds, and there was a great rain.

The apostle Paul prayed for a certain favor three times, and though not having his desires directly granted; he received an answer that brought satisfaction to his soul, God having said to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Then said Paul, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." He was satisfied that God knew best.

One reason why the desires of some are not satisfied after they have sought God in prayer, is because they are not perfectly willing to let God have his way in the case. They want their own desires granted whether they are in harmony with His will or not. They have not learned to say from the heart, "Not mine, but thy will be done." I will admit that this is not always an easy thing to say. Sometimes there must be a real dying out to the self will and the dying may be hard; but die we must, if God is to have his way with us. That is why Paul could say: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20. He was willing

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to count all things but loss that the glory of Christ might shine out through his life.

Another reason why some prayers fail is because they are not prayed in faith. Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, what things so ever ye desire, when ye pray believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. It is useless for one to pray if he does not believe that the Lord will regard his petition. Doubts always hinder prayer and cause the answer not to be forth coming. If one would have power with God, he must have faith in God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." One who prays in a careless, indifferent manner will not accomplish much through his cold, dead, formal prayers; but the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Fervency and faith will move God on his throne. Some will ask, "How may I obtain more faith?" We shall let the Bible answer this question. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Rom. 10:17. Read the Word of God; read the testimony of others who have received answers to their prayers; believe the promises of God. You will find your faith in Him increasing, and your confidence in his willingness to answer prayer growing stronger. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Obedience to the commands of God is a great incentive to faith and confidence in him. Perfect obedience brings perfect faith, and pure faith brings down the answer to prayer.

To hold a grudge or ill feeling in one's heart toward another is a sure way to block prayer. One who holds a grudge or a feeling of

hatred or ill will toward another need not expect God to answer him, because his heart is not right in the sight of God. David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." That is true. And again we read, "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." There is little need for people to pray who are at outs one with another, or will hardly speak one to another. Such ones should humble themselves and become reconciled with each other, and then make their prayers and supplication to the God of heaven; not that He does not already know, but that is His will; that is His plan. He said, "Ask and ye shall receive." And James says, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord."

There are other hindrances to prayer. A lack of harmony between husband and wife will greatly hinder prayer, especially when both are professing to be followers of the meek and lowly Lamb. Peter exhorts the wives to be in subjection to their own husbands even as Sarah was unto Abraham in the days of old. Likewise he exhorts the husbands to give honor to their wives as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life: that your prayers be not hindered. So much is depending upon those who can really pray through, and the enemy of souls is doing everything he can to hinder the prayers of those who pray, or to cause them to neglect prayer altogether.

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges granted to man, and Jesus says that men ought always to pray and not to faint. May God grant you to be an overcomer in his name. Amen.

## Forgetfulness

“When thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord.” Deut 6:11b, 12a.

Seeing some of the disastrous effects of forgetfulness we believe it would be profitable to speak a few words on this subject. The definition for “forget,” according to the dictionary, is: “To be unable to call to mind; to lose from memory; To lose interest in or regard for.” And as synonyms, we have “neglect and carelessness.” From the positive side of the question we readily agree that it is a great blessing to be able to forget some things, especially those things that are a grief of mind, or that would arouse a feeling of ill will or grudge against another. Also, it is good to forget those things that would have a tendency to hinder or impede one’s progress in the Christian life. We believe that St. Paul had this thought in mind when he said, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:13, 14. We can see very clearly that the apostle did not have in mind the thought that one should forget God, or the things pertaining to God or his kingdom; but only those things that would be a hindrance to a progressive spiritual experience in the Christian life. No doubt, many have been



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hindered in their spiritual progress by continually calling to mind some grievance of the past that should have long since been put under the blood and forgotten.

Speaking from the positive side, there are no doubt many points that would be favorable to an attitude of forgetfulness, but on the negative side we find, even in this temporal life, so many disastrous results that it causes us to put forth an effort to keep some things in our memory. Sometimes the things we desire not to forget, we make a note of them, or jot them down in a memorandum so that we may have something to assist our memory. And that is the reason why God commanded the Israelites to write his laws on their gate posts, and over their doors, and in other conspicuous places, that they might not forget them, but that they should remember the Lord to keep his statutes and his judgments.

To bring out the thought we have in mind more vividly, a few illustrations may not be out of order. One day I started to town in my automobile, and after driving a mile or so I began to smell odors that attracted my attention, and upon investigation I found that I had forgotten to put water in the radiator. It so happened at this time that I was near a home where there was plenty of water and of course the matter was soon adjusted. At another time a man was driving along the road and as he was turning off to go another direction an oncoming car crashed into his vehicle, resulting in considerable damage being done to both cars; and both drivers were scratched up a bit. The cause was, it was said, that the driver making the turn had forgotten or neglected to give the proper signal. We could tell of many other accidents, some of which resulted in death or serious injuries or loss of limb, etc. Many homes have been burned on account of forgetfulness or neglect;

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goods and property to the value of thousands and even millions of dollars have been lost and destroyed; many wrecks and crashes and other disasters have been on the account of forgetfulness, but all combined, there is no case of forgetfulness that has been so disastrous as the case of forgetting God and neglecting the things of God. The text says, “beware lest thou forget the Lord.”

Let us consider the case of the butler recorded in the fortieth chapter of Genesis, for whom Joseph interpreted his dream, and desired of him to be remembered to Pharaoh when it was well with him. But we read, “Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.” Many today are just like that toward the God of heaven. When they are in trouble, they want God to help them: if they are sick or ill they want him to be merciful and let them recover from their illness, and sometimes they make vows and promises to him, agreeing to do this and that if he will only grant their desires; and when they do receive the desire of their heart they forget God, forget what he has done for them. They forget how much they need him even while it seems to be going well with them. They are just like the chief butler; they forget all about the goodness of God and the promises they made to him until something else happens. This does not please God and is more destructive than many realize.

We have a very beautiful Scripture in the 103rd Psa. Beginning with the first verse we read, “Bless the Lord O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Who satisfied thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Who is there today who has

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not been blessed by the kind hand of God in more ways than one? And how many in return are praising God and giving thanks to his holy name for the benefits they have received from his bountiful store? O, the sinfulness of forgetfulness! It is a sin and a shame to forget God, to lose him out of the memory. What a sad scene comes before our view so many times in these days of hurry and scurry; no time to worship, no time for meditation on eternal things. Many seem to think that the blessings they enjoy come to them by their own power, skill, and might; forgetting the fact that they cannot make one hair either white or black. The children of Israel were commanded not to forget the Lord God of their fathers in the days of their prosperity. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth; But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be that if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God that ye shall surely perish, as the nations which the Lord destroyed before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God. Gen. 11:14, 17-20.

Dear ones, God is the same as he was in the olden times. Modernism has not changed him in the least, and the same warning that was given to the Israelites is applicable to the people of the

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nations today. Think of it my friends; what an awful predicament people are in when they forget God and will not hearken to his voice, nor be obedient to his word. We find some who do not so much as like the thought of God. They do not want to retain him in their knowledge, they do not want to give him credit for anything worthwhile; but think that all the credit for the blessings and conveniences which they enjoy through modern inventions or otherwise should be given to science, or something on that order. They will not ask, as one of earlier times: "What hath God wrought?" But professing themselves to be wise, they become fools. So says the Word of God. And because they do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God hath given them over to a reprobate mind. Believe it if you will; it is far more disastrous to forget God, than it is to forget to cut off the water in sub-zero weather, or to forget to switch off the current from the electric iron. Do not forget the things of God; keep them in mind. Peter thought it of so much importance to the people of God in his day to keep the things of God in mind that he was constant in stirring up their minds and keeping the Word of God before them; and said he thought it meet, or in order, to do so as long as he was in this tabernacle, or in this physical life. The only way not to forget the things of God, though being reminded of them from time to time, is to put them in practice; for James tells us that "If any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass, for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." He heard, but failed to obey, thereby becoming a neglecter. And Paul asks the question, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" To neglect the Word of God, to forget God, is to neglect salvation, and to neglect salvation is to neglect, or forget God, for salvation is of God; and if we neglect, how shall we

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escape? Dear ones, this implies that there is no escape for careless, neglecting, forgetful souls; but the inevitable result will be that “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Psa. 9:17. It will not pay to let the cares and toils, of this time world crowd God out of our lives, out of our plans, and out of our minds.

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,” and continue to remember him as he lendeth thee breath, for your life is in his hand, and to him we must give an account before the judgment seat of Christ. Peter tells of a class of people who had forgotten that they had been purged from their old sins because they had failed to grow and increase in the knowledge and wisdom of God. They had neglected the means of grace, and had not added to their experience those virtues that would cause them to be fruitful in their spiritual lives. They had forgotten to be temperate, and to be patient under pressure of trial. They had forgotten to exercise godliness and brotherly kindness toward their fellowman. They had forgotten to be careful to entertain strangers. They had forgotten God, inasmuch as they had failed to keep his commandments, and had become careless in their prayer failing to watch and pray. “Of the Rock that had begotten them they were unmindful, and had forgotten the God that formed them.” The gods of this world had blinded their eyes so that they could not see the hand of God working in their behalf. The praises of God had ceased to flow from their lips. They looked no more to the hills of glory from whence their help came. They had forgotten how frail they were and that their lives were as a vapor that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away.

Bildad asked the question, “Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?” then he answered by

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saying, "Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb. So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrites hope shall perish." Some people profess with their lips to know God, but in their hearts they have forgotten him; and their lip service is all in vain. What do you suppose the attitude of God is toward those who have forgotten him? It grieves the great heart of God when he is forgotten by those who have been partakers of his benefits, by those who have been blessed by him. And who of us have not been blessed by him? who have not received a benefit from his bountiful hand? He sends the sunshine and rain, he supplies food and raiment; he feeds the sparrow and clothes the lily, and he numbers the hairs of our head. God is minutely interested in every one of us; notwithstanding all this he has a just right to complain today as he did in the days of Jeremiah the prophet when he asked, "can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number." Jer. 2:32. Many now who call themselves the people of God forget him days without number. They do not forget movies, theatres, clubs, or other places of worldly amusement but where are they on prayer meeting night? Do not pass this question lightly by: Where are the so called people of God on prayer meeting night? Paul told Timothy of a class of people that were lovers of pleasure more than they were lovers of God; and he said also that they had a form of godliness, but denied the power thereof: and he exhorted him saying, "from such turn away." They have forsaken the house of God for places of worldly amusements. No wonder that they are no more acquainted with the things that pertain to spiritual life. Their minds are not stayed upon the Lord, but upon the things of this time world. O, that they had such an interest in the things of God that they could cry out as one of old: "If forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not

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remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth. If I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.” Psa. 137:5, 6. This man decided that it was much better to be paralyzed or dumb, and be deprived of the use of his right arm and the use of his tongue than to be in a state or condition that he had forgotten God. O no, dear ones, it is not everyone that saith “Lord, Lord,” that remembers God, but he that obeyeth his Word. “He that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them.” Yes, the obedient ones, they are the ones that have not forgotten God. They are in a sad plight who forget God. Just look around a little with an unbiased mind and you can see many homes where sadness and discontentment reigns because someone has forgotten the Lord. Many tears are shed and many hearts are broken. It is time to remember thy Creator. One may forget to switch off the current from the electric iron, or forget the bread or pastry that is baking in the oven, but the results are not worthy to be compared with the result of forgetting God. Remember the things that happened when the children of Israel forgot God and turned to worship the golden calf. Remember too how Herod was smitten and eaten of worms when he forgot to give glory to God. Dear friends, don’t forget God. Don’t forget your resting place, and remember that “The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God.”

## What Must I Do to Be Saved?

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30b.

This question was asked by the Philippian jailer on the night that Paul and Silas had been beaten and cast into prison, because they had cast the spirit of divination out of a certain damsel which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them, 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 ones’ bands were loosed. 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. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, What must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Acts 16: 25-31. It truly is a wonderful awakening in the life of any individual when they become aroused to the point that will cause them to ask from their heart. What must I do to be saved? no one would really ask this question sincerely, if it were not for the fact that they realized they were not saved and were in need of



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salvation. In Rom. 10:13 we read: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,” which agrees with Acts 2:21, which says, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” We find then that it is necessary for one to call upon the Lord, or to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved, for it is the Lord that saves people. He is the only one that is able to take away the load of sin and guilt. He is the only one that can speak peace to the soul. He is the one who bore our sins in his own body upon the tree; and to him we must come to be saved. Isaiah, often spoken of as the gospel prophet, because he spoke so vividly of the coming of the Savior, said, “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 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.” Isa. 55:6, 7. There must be a forsaking or a turning away from ones sinful and wicked ways. It is useless for anyone to seek to be saved if he is not willing to be separated from their sinful habits. Jesus Christ came into the world, suffered and died, that he might save his people from their sins—not in their sins, but from their sins. To this end men should call upon him if they desire to be saved. Paul asks the question, “How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” Rom. 10:14. The plan of salvation is a perfect plan, designed by the Lord himself. It is not humanly devised nor set up by a delegation of the wise men of this world, “for after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” To get saved is to

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obtain salvation, and salvation means deliverance from sin. Those who are not delivered from sin are not saved. The Word of God tells us that “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.” Heb. 7:25. So to be saved, one must believe on a Saviour that is able to and willing to save from sin. They must not only believe that he is able, but must by faith believe that he does save them. And this belief in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ will cause them to have a knowledge of salvation by the remission of their sins. And they can say, “I know that I have passed from death unto life:” for God’s Spirit will bear witness with their spirit that they are his children. Some have tried to call upon the Lord and seemingly got nowhere, and the question is still in their mind: “What must I do to be saved?” If one will obey all the Word of God as it is revealed to him, it will put him on believing grounds. “If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him; he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.” Ezek. 33:15, 16.

We remember the little man Zacchaeus as he stood before the Lord and said, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him four fold.” And Jesus said unto him, “This day is salvation come to this house.” Then again at another time the people were influenced by the preaching of the gospel to confess their sins, burn their books of magic and curious arts, and turn to God for salvation. Dear friend, if you want salvation, get busy. Go settle with your neighbor whom you have defrauded, restore the things that you have stolen or taken dishonestly, give up those old grudges you have been holding in your heart, forgive

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those whom you feel have mistreated you. You must forgive from your heart or you can not be saved. God will not save you if you are not willing to submit to his plan. He will not forgive you if you are not willing to forgive others.

There were in a certain community two neighbors who were at outs with each other. They would pass each other without speaking. Hatred had entered into their hearts, and they were, so to speak, at swords point. They were both guilty. Neighbor A had taken a chain from neighbor B, and neighbor B had stolen neighbor A's ax, and there was a real spirit of enmity between them. In process of time a revival meeting was started in the community; and these two neighbors were among those who attended the services. Jesus Christ was preached. He was lifted up as a Saviour who was able to save from sin, one that caused people to love each other, one that would destroy enmity between men and cause them to get along harmoniously together, driving out hatred and ill will. As the meeting progressed these two men in question, having listened attentively to the preaching, were soon under conviction. The weight of their sins began to come down upon them and they longed to be free from their burden. The question was a personal one to them: "What must I do to be saved?" They had listened to the preaching of the gospel and were convinced that they would have to obey its precepts if they were ever to obtain salvation. So one morning neighbor A decided he would take neighbor B's chain home and ask his forgiveness for the way he had mistreated him. It so happened that neighbor B's heart was in just about the same condition as neighbor A's, and he had decided to take neighbor A's ax home and confess his wrongs. They both started about the same time, one not knowing what was in the mind of the other, but both with a determination to get right with his fellowman, and to get right with God. As they walked on their way, they were surprised

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to meet each other on the road. They did not begin to accuse one another as in times past; but with tears, they began to confess their wrongs and misdoings. With humility of heart they forgave each other and called earnestly on God; and God for Christ's sake saved them both, blotting out their sins and writing their names in heaven in the book of life. And they could say, "I know that I have passed from death unto life because I love my neighbor." And I say, my friends, the angels in heaven rejoiced as they witnessed that scene.

A boy who had been stubborn and rebellious against his father's will was permitted to attend some gospel services where Jesus Christ was preached as an all sufficient Saviour, and where sins of all kinds were exposed and renounced. He was made to see himself a wretched sinner without God and without hope. Having become burdened on account of his sins, he decided to go and confess his wrongs to his father and ask his forgiveness. He wanted to be saved. He carried out his decision. His father forgave him and so did the Lord. Some who had stolen articles and taken goods not belonging to them made their confessions and restitutions to those whom they had wronged and defrauded, with the result that they were forgiven. God's Word says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13. And again he says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. So long as an individual will try to cover his sins, just that long will he seek in vain for peace. He cannot prosper. That is God's Word. He must be willing to expose and forsake the wrong and make confession to whom confession is due, straighten out the false reports he has been circulating (breaking peace and destroying confidence) give up all his sins and call mightily on God for mercy, and God will for Christ's sake save him and give him peace in his soul. There are some who seem

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willing to confess their sins but will not forsake them. It seems that they are afraid to just give the thing up and put it away from them and step out on the never failing promises of God. But going only half way will not get one to the desired goal. You must go all the way. "Whoso confesseth and forsaketh shall have mercy." Christ gave his disciples commission and said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned." And we find as they went on their mission in obedience to his holy command, that the Lord worked with them in signs and wonders. "And fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified, and many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. [They did not seek to cover them, or to smuggle through; they confessed and exposed them.] Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together and burned them before all men; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:17-20. When people really believe on the name of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the gospel, they will cast off the works of darkness, they will forsake their evil ways. Jesus asked the question, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?" Merely professing to believe on the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and at the same time failing or refusing to obey his word is little short of hypocrisy. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17).

Dear precious eternity bound souls, be not deceived, you cannot be saved by some man-made plan. So many have tried that way and failed, signing some kind of pledge, or giving their hand to the preacher, or joining some church (so-called). One must

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really be born again, created anew. A mere historical belief in Jesus Christ will not save you. You must have that faith in him that will go down into the very innermost part of your life and soul, that faith that will work within you a change of heart, that faith and belief in the Word of God that will cause you to become a new creature in him. Yes, you must come with faith and confidence that will enable you to accept him as your personal Saviour and Redeemer. When that faith has reached out to God and has gone through, it will cause one to have the witness within himself, and he can say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, I know my sins are gone." Yes, praise God, you can say, "I know I am saved," and you will have an experience that you will not be ashamed of; "For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." You will be a witness of the wonderful saving grace of God, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." You will have been quickened by the power of God through faith in the name of his only begotten Son, because you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Yes, that is it. Faith in God and obedience to his Word will bring the results; for he hath said, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 1:19, 20. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 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." Isa. 55:6, 7. Amen. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

## Procrastination

Unto a youth the gospel came,  
Exhorting him in Jesus' name  
To turn from sin, embrace the truth,  
And serve the Lord in days of youth.

The youth replied, "I know that's right,  
But I won't turn from sin tonight;  
A few more pleasures I will seek,  
And then I'll turn, perhaps next week."

But next week came, and still his heart  
Was not inclined from sin to part.  
"A few more days in sin I'll live,  
And then my heart to God I'll give.

Days passed by, and months rolled on,  
And still he sang the same old song:  
"Not now; but after while I'll pray  
For God to wash my sins away."

The months and years went by so fast.  
From youth to middle age he passed;  
And yet his sins were not forgiven,  
Nor was his name enrolled in heaven.

From middle age to old he went;  
His body 'neath the years was bent;  
"His conscience once so keen to feel,  
No more was stirred at God's appeal."

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Procrastination in its stealth  
Had robbed his soul of heaven's wealth;  
And so at last to sin a slave,  
He died to fill a Christless grave.

O souls, behold God says TODAY,  
Turn now from all your sins away;  
Lest you should reach your doleful fate,  
And cry at last, too late, too late.



## Streamliners

One day I, with some others, was standing at the railroad station in Hennessey, Oklahoma when one of the line's streamline trains, called the "Rocket" went through. I was told it was making about seventy five miles per hour. It was going so fast that any loose papers and such that were lying near the track were snatched up and carried by the current for some distance in a whirl. The streamliner was so constructed as to cause the air to have easy flow along its sides, thereby causing the least force of resistance possible against the on moving train. The mission of this streamliner was so important and the time in which it had to reach its terminal or destination was so limited that it would not stop at points of small habitation, but only at county seats or cities of larger population than the ordinary hamlet or town. If one or more of the inhabitants of the smaller towns wanted to ride on the streamliner to a certain city, they would be obliged to go to one of the county seats to board it or be deprived of the desired accommodation.

Someone made a statement about a streamlined ministry and a streamlined gospel. Just what they meant I do not know, but one thing I do know is that the author of our salvation and the finisher of our faith has so constructed the gospel and the plan of redemption that it does not need to be reshaped or trimmed down

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to accomplish its mission. When a body or thing is streamlined, it is so formed or constructed as to move through the water, wind, or opposing elements with the least degree of resistance possible. Now the gospel of Christ always has met with opposition, and always will. And when preachers, or synods, or any other body, or movement try to shape and form it in such a way that it will not meet with much opposition or resistance, they will have something on hand that will be so weak that it will not be able to deliver men and women from the power of sin and Satan. But we find that that is just what a large number of people want in these last days. They somewhat resemble a class of people spoken of in the 30th chapter of Isaiah. Turning to the same, we read, "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: which say to the seers, see not: and to the prophets, prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things [streamlined sayings] prophesy deceits: get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." Isa. 30: 8-11. Paul exhorted Timothy to "Preach the Word: be instant in season; out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things. Endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." 2 Tim. 4:2-6. Paul wanted Timothy to be faithful in his ministry. He wanted him to hold up the Word of God before his hearers. He also warned him by the spirit of prophecy that there would be a time when sinful,

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pleasure seeking people would not endure the straight forward preaching of the gospel of Christ, but would heap up to themselves a class of preachers and teachers that would speak fables, and tales, and give out a kind of sweet water doctrine that would actually turn their ears away from the truth. Jesus said, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” And there is nothing else that has the power to make men free. What is truth? Pilate asked that question of Jesus; but it seems that he failed to wait for an answer; but we find the answer in the latter part of the seventeenth verse of the seventeenth chapter of St. John, “Thy word is truth.” The truth flashes light on the deeds of men to the extent they can see the evil of their doings, and their short comings. Therefore men love darkness more than light because their deeds are evil. They are so bound to the ways of the world, and so filled with a love of the same they do not want to be disturbed. They don’t want to give it up, and of course anything that will come directly against the course they are pursuing will be met with opposition or indifference. They want to be called Christians and to be looked upon as being godly men and women; but they are “heady, high minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God: having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.” Just a form of godliness with no power to live the life. They have a name to live while dead. But thank God, the old time gospel has quickening power. Therefore Paul said in Rom. 1:16. 17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”

A streamlined preacher with a streamlined message that is so important that he cannot take time to minister to the weak and lowly, to the few and poor, but must hasten on to the higher and

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wealthier class who are able to rent their pews and pay their dues, are not the kind we read about in the Word of God. Jesus Christ, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls and the author and finisher of our faith and salvation had time to stop and listen to the cries and pleas of blind Bartemaeus. He stopped at Jacob's well long enough to impart to the woman of Samaria the living water; He tarried awhile in the despised city of Sychar and preached the word of life unto its inhabitants, with the result that many believed on him. He stopped at the gate of Nain to dry the tears of the poor widow who was following those who were carrying the body of her only son to the burying ground. He called the young man back to life and restored him back to his mother again. The ten lepers by the way, his great heart of love and compassion would not permit him to pass them by unheeded. He ministered to the thousands; to the multitudes, to the few, to the rejected, and outcasts and despised. On his way to the ruler's house he took time to stop and ask, "Who touched me?" Although he preached to the rich and poor, many of the rich went empty away; but the common people heard him gladly. The Pharisees and Sadducees were dumbfounded by his wisdom and answers. Hypocrites were put to confusion, the animosity, envy, and hatred of the chief priests was so aroused that they moved the angry mob to cry out, "Away with him, away with him, let him be crucified." Pilate's wife was so troubled with dreams and visions concerning Jesus of Nazareth she sent word to him, saying, "Have thou nothing to do with this just man." But the chief priests and blind leaders, because their sins and hypocrisy had been exposed, cried out in their eagerness to silence the voice of truth, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." They did succeed in having him put to death; but, thank God, he arose on the third day morning with victory over death, hell, and the grave; and he said to his ministers: "All power is

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given unto me in heaven and in earth.” And again he said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

And we find as they went in obedience to his divine command, they met with many and varied oppositions. And faithful old Stephen standing in the midst of a crowd of truth resisters, said, “Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.” Acts 7:51. The gospel of Christ is not some kind of soft, ear tickling, conscience soothing, entertaining essay; “For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12. The gospel exposes and uncovers sin and evil, brings honest seeking souls to tears and repentance, and puts them in a condition to receive the forgiveness of sins, that their names may be recorded in heaven; and they will walk in newness of life, and in the fear of God. “When God’s judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants thereof will learn righteousness.” Smooth essays and fair speeches may deceive the hearts of the simple, keep people in blindness, going on with their card parties, socials, shows, dances, theaters, hatred, divorces, remarrying while the first companion still lives, going on with a pleasure loving, pleasure seeking crowd; having a form of godliness, but void of the spirit of Christ and without the love of God in their hearts, traveling on to the judgment to hear the Lord say, “Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”

Streamlined trains, streamlined boats, and streamlined cars may be all right, each in its place—and they sometimes carry people to destruction—but a streamlined preacher with a streamlined message, so cut and formed as to avoid opposition and

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resistance of a popular, pleasure loving, pleasure seeking, Holy Spirit resisting throng, is just another case of the blind leading the blind and they will all go in the ditch together.

The old sword of truth is streamlined enough, let it turn to the right and left, let it keep its edge, let sparks of fire fly from the old anvil. He has said, "My Word is like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces." Rebuke sin in every form, and on every hand, and opposition will be forthcoming. There will be some who will believe and accept the truth, and rejoice in the same, but let us not overlook the fact that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions.

Human inventions, formed and planned by finite minds can be improved and made to operate more perfectly or more satisfactorily; but the gospel is of divine origin, formed and designed by an all wise, infinite God, a God who knows the end from the beginning, and man by wisdom cannot improve it and the world by wisdom cannot understand it. It is a light to lighten every creature that cometh into the world when it is preached under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit it will prick to the heart, lead men to repentance, bring about a change in the individual life, cause hypocrites and false pretenders to tremble, and bring the blessings of God down upon all who will believe and obey it. What this world needs is an old fashioned gospel preached and practiced by an old fashioned ministry. It does not need streamline, but judgment to the line. Jesus said to his disciples on one occasion, "Go your ways, behold I send you forth as lambs among wolves." Again he said, "but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high," and "ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." And we find that they did go forth with boldness and power. They did not compromise

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the word of truth to avoid the power of the force of opposition and persecution they met. They had the promise of the Man of authority, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” And when called upon to suffer for executing their mission, they departed from the council rejoicing because they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. They were filled with the Holy Ghost, filled with wisdom, boldness, and power; but they did not trim down the word of truth to please a set of religious professors who were void of the love and grace of God. But they went forth facing opposition and resistance, preaching the Word of God with boldness, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with signs following. In his prayer to the Father, Jesus said, “I have given them thy word.” and in assembling the gospel armor we find that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. And the old two edged sword is already streamlined according to God’s own design. It does not need to be reshaped in any wise, nor changed to suit the fancy of carnal minded man. What the world needs in these last days is the old fashioned gospel preached and practiced by an old fashioned ministry, backed up by the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. It needs a line all right, but not this modern streamline construction; but Judgment to the line.

We read in Isa. 26:9, “With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early; for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the earth will learn righteousness.”

It will take the fearless preaching of the righteous judgments of the word of God to bring devoutness, and upright living in the world. Jesus said, “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matt. 24:12. The reason for this condition is

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because of the fact that they will not endure sound doctrine; but they love to hear essays and soft ear tickling things, and not the real old time heart piercing truth.

One thing I have seen, and that is these streamlined trains carry a light day and night. Jesus said concerning his followers, "Ye are the light of the world, a city that is set on an hill can not be hid." He also said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Let the light shine out in the darkness that men may see the way to the cross. Jesus said of John, "He was a burning and shining light." David said, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." "The entrance of thy word giveth light." The Word of God was given to lighten every creature that cometh into the world John said. "I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell upon the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to him." The gospel always brings light. It is light. It is the true light that shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not: The trouble with this modern streamlined gospel (so called) is that it puts darkness for light and makes void the Word of God, holding up for doctrine the commandments and traditions of men, a kind of fox-fire composition that will not light the possessors thereof through the "valley of the shadow of death." Just think, walking in darkness and calling it light. But with the unadulterated Word hid in the heart and practiced in the life, one need have no fear. He will be able to enter in through the gates into the city.

The modern streamlined trains, autos, planes, and boats have been brought up-to-date, so to speak; but the only way to have an effective, shining, powerful, heavenward moving ministry and



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gospel is to go back to do date, back to the old Bible standard, where sin of every kind is exposed, renounced, and rejected, and men and women are demanded to confess, forsake, and repent of their sins and wrong doings, and call on God for mercy, and find redemption in the blood of the Lamb. Amen.

## The Second Coming of Christ

“Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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.” John 14:1-3.

Down through the ages the prophets of old prophesied of the first advent of Jesus into this world, and it seems for the most part this prophecy was believed by the Jews; but some expected him to come in one way, and some in another. No doubt, some were looking for him to come in pomp and splendor with laurels, and royal distinction, and as he did not come in the manner as they had expected, they turned him down and would not receive him or accept him as the Christ. John tells us that “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” However, his coming was not without note, although it seems to have been in obscurity to the most of the world. Isaiah had prophesied and said, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.” Isa. 7:14, 15. The interpretation of the name Immanuel means “God with us.” The angel said unto Joseph, “Thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins.” One

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of the prophets had prophesied saying, “He shall send them a Saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.” And upon his advent into the world, the angel of the Lord made the declaration unto the shepherds, saying, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10-12.

His was a very humble birth. He was numbered with the common people, he was of poor parentage. The Mosaic law required the mother to bring a lamb for an offering for a son, and if she be not able to bring a lamb, or in other words, if she be too poor, then she shall bring two turtles (doves) or two young pigeons. And we read concerning Mary, the mother of Jesus, that “when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.” Luke 2:22-24. Though he was rich, he became poor for us and of lowly birth, and heaven joined in the proclamation, the angel choir singing the immortal anthem of “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Praise God, he was the author of our salvation, the Redeemer of men. He purchased salvation for us. That was his mission in this world. He said himself, “I am come to seek and to save that which was lost.” As he went about his work with a feeling of compassion for a perishing world, the question was often asked, “Who is this?” or “From whence came he?” and many would not accept him as

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the Son of God, would not claim him as the King of Israel. No, they would not acknowledge him as the Messiah, nor own him as the Christ, but he continued on until he had completed his work. In his memorial prayer, he said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." And on the cross he said, "It is finished." But prior to his crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection, he said to his disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you, 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." Yes, this Jesus has promised to return. He has said, "I will come again." And after his resurrection "He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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." Acts 1:9, 10. The angels said he would, come in like manner as he went. There will be a great contrast between his first coming and the second one. On his first advent many were in doubt as to his identity. They did not believe him to be the promised Messiah. They supposed him to be an imposter, or a false prophet, or something of the kind. But he said, "I am he." The devils acknowledged him to be the Christ. The Roman, centurion standing near the cross as Jesus gave up the ghost, said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God." But when he comes again the second time without sin unto salvation, there will be no doubters. Everyone will know that he is indeed Jesus Christ the Lord. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess to God. "Every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him,

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and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him,” so saith the holy writ.

His first coming was meek and lowly, and in seeming obscurity. His second coming will be accompanied with power and great glory. “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then, shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, and the goats on the left.” Matt. 25:31-33. “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matt. 24:30.

Some have conceived the erroneous idea that there will be some great phenomenon or a period of most peculiar events to serve as a warning to the nations just prior to the second coming of Christ; and some have been deceived into the delusion that they had a premonition of some kind revealing unto them the date on which Christ would return, but all such have failed. It is hard to understand why men will believe such predictions when the Lord himself has told us “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels in heaven, but my Father only.” Matt. 24:36. If men would believe it, they are being warned every day. When we look at the conditions as they now exist, and compare them with the statements of Jesus and the apostles concerning the last days and the last time, and the latter end, we are convinced that the coming of the Lord is drawing near. Jesus has forewarned us, saying, “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day

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that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came; and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24:37-39.

It is not that the act of eating and drinking and of marrying and giving in marriage are in themselves sinful, but it was the attitude the people held toward the warning that had been given them. They simply passed it by as an idle tale. They gave no heed. They were only desirous to fulfill their fleshly lusts. The same conditions are existing in the earth today. The minds of the majority are so engaged in the activities of the material pursuits that they have no time for spiritual things. They are worldly minded; God is not in all their thoughts; and they are heaping up wrath against the day of wrath, receiving the divine message in a scornful manner, and casting it aside as an idle tale. We find a parallel description in the seventeenth chapter of Luke, verses 26 to 30, “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be when the Son of man is revealed.”

We see that the only evidence that the people had received of the coming of the flood and of the destruction of Sodom, was the faithful warning that had been given them through God’s humble servants, and when this had been rejected there was nothing else for them to look to. So it is in this present time. When men and women turn down the warning that God is giving them through his chosen vessels and faithful ministers, they will look in vain for

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some special warning by way of some great and peculiar phenomenon of some kind. Jesus has warned us, saying, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Thank God there are some who have received the warning with meekness and fear, and who are giving heed to the same, looking for and expecting the Lord's return. As we read, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

Dear reader, are you looking for him? Are you expecting his return? Are you watching and waiting? "Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." It will be too late to make preparation when the Lord returns. He says, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12. Christ's first mission in this world was to be a Savior and Redeemer, and this he was to all who through repentance and faith would look unto him. He is now in heaven at the right hand of God, officiating as a faithful high priest, making intercession for those who through repentance and faith will look unto him. But when he comes the second time, he is coming without sin unto salvation. He is not coming to save, but to judge the world. Now is the day of grace. In this present time is the time to be saved; but when he comes again, when he shall leave the meditorial throne, the day of grace will be forever past. It will be too late to pray. He will then be your judge and not your Saviour.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he

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hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” Acts 17:30, 31.

In Paul’s charge to Timothy, he said, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the Word.” 2 Tim. 4:1-2. We see plainly by these Scriptures that on Christ’s return he will be the world’s judge, and that he will judge in righteousness, and will give unto every man according as his work shall be. John said, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” It will then be too late to get right with God. Everyone’s destiny will be sealed. But it will be a joyful day for them whose lamps are trimmed and burning, for them who have repented of their sins, and have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, toiling on in the service of the Master, and daily watching and waiting for his return, knowing that they shall be rewarded for all the hardships and suffering that they are called upon to endure in this life for his sake. In Rom. 8:18-21 we read, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the Sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” Yes, blessed is everyone who hath that living hope within themselves. As it is written, “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled



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for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the vail.” Heb. 6:17-19. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:3. Knowing that when he shall appear we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. Therefore they are “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ: who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2: 13, 14. Truly, to such ones it will be a joyful day, and for further consolation and comfort of them who are waiting and looking for the Lord’s return, Paul writes, “But I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For that we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thes. 4:13-18. Yes, he is coming again, and we join with John the beloved as he says, “Amen, Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

## In the Resurrection Morning

In the resurrection morning  
When the trump of God shall sound,  
And before him all the nations  
Shall at once be gathered round.

There before the King eternal,  
Judge of all the quick and dead,  
Small and great shall stand to listen  
What to them shall then be said.

Not a single human creature  
Shall escape that solemn day,  
Sleeping dust shall wake to answer  
When God calls the crumbling clay.

Since the Son of God has triumphed  
Over death, hell, and the grave;  
The first fruits of the sleeping ones  
Evermore hath power to save.

This is the day of free salvation,  
Now is the time to make your choice;  
If you wait until the judgment,  
God will never heed your voice.

For when Christ shall come in judgment  
It will be too late to pray;  
If your sins are not forgiven.  
You will turn from him away.

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Some will stand with great rejoicing  
As they're singing, "Saved by grace,"  
Some will cry for rocks and mountains  
There to hide them from his face.

In the resurrection morning  
On which side will you be found,  
When before the great Jehovah  
All the nations gather round?









