

The Bible Standard

“Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;...”

Psalm 43:3

“LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE”

Isaiah 62:10

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE REVEALING

“There is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the house tops” — Matt. 10:26, 27.

The greater portion of Divine Truth has been expressed under cover so that its full import is not always discernible. The Bible abounds in symbols, figures and allegories. Jesus often opened His mouth in parables and dark sayings so that those who heard Him, even His own disciples, often said, “we cannot tell what He saith.” “This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them” (John 10:6). But our text

assures us that in due time all would be made manifest and this thought is given also in Deut. 29:29, “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Several objects have been served by first hiding, and then gradually unfolding the Truth: (1) the successful development of God’s plan; (2) the saving of His children from discouragement because of the length of time involved; and (3) the trial of the faith of believers.

Let us consider some thoughts about right thinking from Phil. 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” It is a common custom among many people to address the words of Philippians, on the subject of right thinking, to sinners, to evil-doers and evil-thinkers; but this is a mistake. The entire Epistle to the Philippians is addressed to “All the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi” (Phil. 1:1); and the exhortation is applicable to all the saints everywhere, but not to *others than saints*—not to the worldly, not even to the Household of Faith, until they have made a full consecration of themselves to the Lord. It would be useless to address others along this

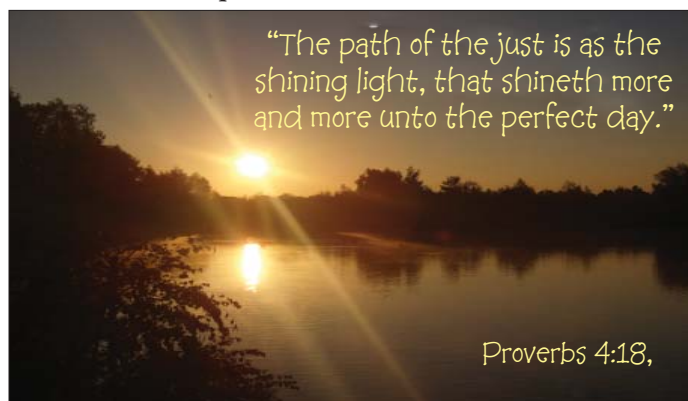


line; the exhortation would be of no effect. The exhortation of this lesson is applicable to the most advanced Christians only—not even to the “babes in Christ,” but only to those who are somewhat matured in the new life. As for the babes, who are not developed Christians, they will have their attention very thoroughly occupied with the cruder elementary lessons respecting the coarser sins against which the new mind, heart and will must labor and fight (PT 1970, p. 83).

We can use the expression, the Household of Faith, from a variety of standpoints. First, Bro. Johnson explained that, “in the Old Testament times all believers in the promises were of the Household of Faith” (Heb. 11:1-39). Next, he described “the Gospel Age Household of Faith,” showing that it consisted of “all Gospel Age believers in Jesus.” He gave Rom. 4:11, 12 as proof of this; and he referred to Bro. Russell’s statement in R5358, par. 2: “In a strict sense, the Household of Faith, of course, includes only those who are consecrated. But the words of the Apostle justify us in believing that those who are considering the matter, counting the cost, would in a broad sense be counted as of the Household of Faith” (we see here that Bro. Russell used the term in two senses: one for the consecrated, and the other for the unconsecrated believers). However Bro. Johnson showed that the Youthful Worthies “retain their Tentative Justification, and are of the Gospel Age Household of Faith who persist into and during the Epiphany;” but he stated of the “tentatively justified who do not now [before Oct. 1954] consecrate,” that they, “during the Epiphany cease altogether to be of the [Gospel Age] Household of Faith, having used the grace of God in vain.”

The revealing of God’s Truth has gradually progressed from Age to Age, and His faithful ones in every Age have had a sufficient revelation of Truth, including such

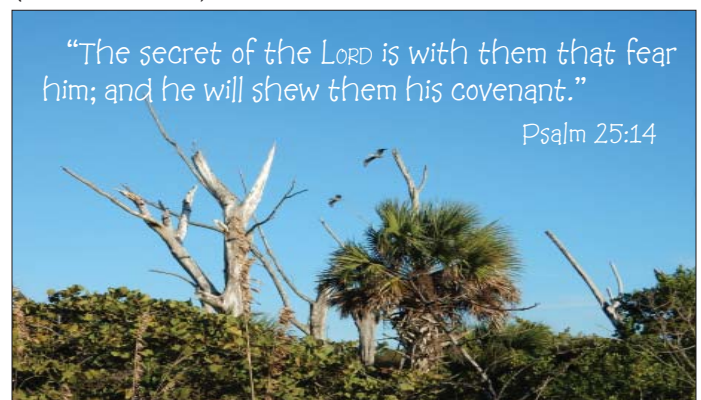
knowledge of future things as would encourage them, to enable them to carry out their part in advancing His plan. It has also been a part of God's plan that Truth once revealed, expounded, or made manifest, should not only serve its immediate purpose, but also that it should be treasured up and recorded for the generations following, not being lost or forgotten. God's servants of every Age have been taught to bear witness to the Truth, both to their own and succeeding generations, each according to their ability and opportunity. And it is through the faithfulness of past witnesses—the Patriarchs, Prophets, Jesus, the Apostles and other members of His seven stars, His special messengers to the seven stages of His Church throughout the Gospel Age (Rev. 1:16, 20), together with all who have been and are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20)—that we have our present knowledge of God's Word. To us comes the same commission that came to them, in the last clause of our text. With the blessed knowledge always comes the responsibility of making it known to others. Let us all preach the Gospel message as from our housetops and seek to be faithful therein!



We read Prov. 4:18, “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” The full or perfect day, the glorious day of the Lord's Kingdom established on earth, the Millennial Day so abundantly prophesied in the Scriptures, has not yet fully come; the Truth continues to unfold and its light shines brighter and brighter to those who “walk in the light.” How wonderfully God has revealed and continues to reveal His secrets to those who reverence Him, giving them just what they particularly need at given times. “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant” (Psa. 25:14). The new features of Truth as given [present Truth] were never popular, and they always tested the loyalty and faithfulness of His servants as they bore witness to it. E.g., Noah needed the Truth on the coming flood that would destroy wicked mankind. He by faith accepted the message and obediently built the ark, but his preaching to others for 120 years (Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5; Gen. 6:3) was not popular, for he *won no converts* aside from his own family.

Some have an incorrect thought about new Truth [present Truth] continuing to come forward; this mistake was and is an expensive one; for, aside from the fact that but few great principles of Truth were known by the Reformers and recovered from the rubbish of error, there are special features of Truth constantly becoming due, and of these Christians have been deprived by ignorance and their creed fences. To illustrate: It was a Truth in Noah's day, and one which required the faith of all who would walk in the light then, that a flood was coming, while Adam and others had known nothing of it. It would not be preaching Truth now to preach a coming flood, but there are other dispensational Truths constantly becoming due, of which, if walking in the light of the lamp, we shall know; so, if we have all the light which was due several hundred years ago, and that only, we are measurably in darkness. God's Word continues to be a great storehouse of food for hungry pilgrims on the shining pathway (Psa. 119:105).

Abraham needed more Truth than that which was given to Noah; he had to walk in the light beyond that in which Noah walked. Moses and the Israelites of his day needed still more Truth and God gave it to them, though it still proved unpopular and brought persecution upon those who faithfully held to it. Then came further unfoldings of Truth through the Prophets, given as needed, to develop God's plan and to try the faith of His faithful ones (Heb. 11:32-40).



The history of God's people during the Gospel Age has been very similar. Jesus “brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10); and this message in its simplicity and as revealed more and more in its details likewise brought persecution (2 Tim. 2:10-13), even unto the present day. The Apostles were persecuted by the Jews; the early Christians by pagan Rome; the later Christians by papal Rome; many were driven into the catacombs and into the mountains and deserts for safety (Heb. 11:37); others were unmercifully and unspeakably tortured and even burned at the stake. As each one received further light from God and faithfully bore witness to it before others, his faith was tested, e.g., Peter, Waldo, Marsiglio,

John Huss, Savonarola, Luther, Zwingli, Servetus, Hubmaier, Cranmer, Wesley, Campbell, William Miller and faithful Christians in general up to and including the present time.



**"The grass withereth, the flower
fadeth: but the word of our God shall
stand for ever."**

Isaiah 40:8 (KJV)

Our Lord told His followers that they would be persecuted, saying: "They shall put you out of the synagogues [their religious assemblies]: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he

doeth God's service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me" (John 16:2, 3). However, all the persecution has not come through being cast out (Isa. 66:5) and through physical violence, for much of it has been through the misuse of the tongue (Psa. 64:3). Our Lord encouraged His faithful followers regarding this matter, saying: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matt. 5:10-12).

We must ask this question: where is this message that brings persecution? Well we understand that God has given the Truth to His Son and from Him to Pastor Russell and handed down through chosen vessels to this very day. Only this one storehouse contains an exhaustless supply of things both new and old—meat in due season for the household. Surely no one who believes the Scripture statement that, "the path of the just shineth more and more unto the perfect day" will claim that the perfect day came in Luther's or Russell's time; and if not, we do well that we take heed to our lamp as unto "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Pet. 1:19).

The Truth found in the explained Word of God must become a personal prize. It is not sufficient that we find ourselves now in the path of light; we must "walk in the light," continue to make progress, else the light, which does not stop, will pass on and leave us in darkness. The

difficulty with many is that they sit down, and do not continue in the path of light. Some are content to sit in darkness rather than walk in the light. Perfection of knowledge *is not* a thing of the past, but of the future and until we recognize this fact we are unprepared to appreciate and expect fresh unfoldings of our Father's plan. True, we still go back to the words of the Prophets and Apostles for all knowledge of the present and the future; not, however, because they always understood God's plans and purposes better than we, but because God used them as His mouthpieces to *communicate to us*, and to all the Church throughout the Christian Age, Truth relative to His plans, as fast as it becomes due. This fact is abundantly proven by the Apostles. Paul tells us that God has made known to the Christian Church the mystery (secret) of His will which He had purposed in Himself, and had never before revealed, though He had it recorded in dark sayings which could not be understood until due.



**"It was revealed to them
that they were serving
not themselves. "**

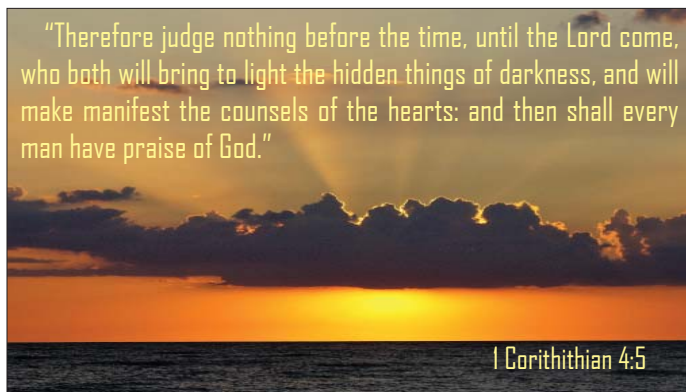
1 Peter 1:12 (NIV)

We understand that neither the Prophets nor the angels understood the meaning of the prophecies uttered. Peter says that when they inquired anxiously to know their meaning, God told them that the Truths *covered*

up in their prophecies were not for themselves, but for us of the Christian Age. And he exhorts the Church to hope for still further grace (favor, blessing) in this direction—yet more knowledge of God's plans—1 Pet. 1:10-13. It is evident that though Jesus promised that the Church should be guided into all Truth, it was to be a gradual unfolding. While the Church, in the days of the Apostles, was free from many of the errors which sprang up under and in Papacy, yet we cannot suppose that the early Church saw as deeply or as clearly into God's plan as it is possible to see today.

It is evident, too, that the different Apostles had different degrees of insight into God's plan, though all their writings were guided and inspired of God, as truly as were the words of the Prophets. We must accept that God opens up His Truth gradually to reveal the exceeding riches of His grace; and consequently much more light is due now than at any previous time in the Church's history. The Youthful Worthies and Consecrated Epiphany Campers have the privilege of understanding

the deep things of God. This is due to the fact that they are consecrated and the consecrated have always been privileged to understand and always will be privileged to understand the Truth as due (E 4, p. 468).

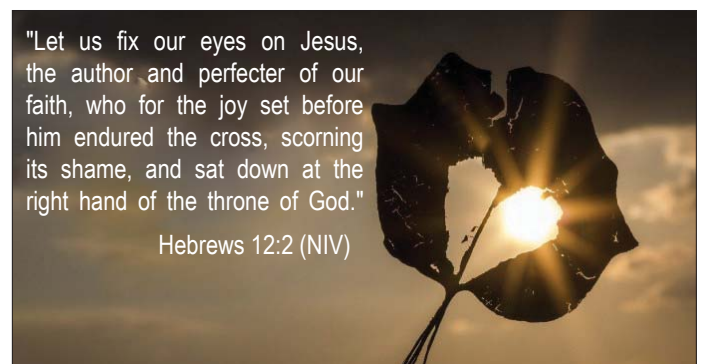


It is a matter of comparatively small concern what men or our fellow believers may say of us now. They will say hard things of us even against their own convictions, though often because they believe them; and these trials the faithful witness must endure; and while he should take heed to let the light of Truth shine through a transparent character (2 Cor. 3:2) and a clear and positive testimony, he may commit his way unto the Lord, for "he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday" (Psa. 37:5, 6, 7). When all is revealed, nothing will remain covered; then the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth, as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9). Every type, prophecy, figure, parable and dark saying will in due time bear a testimony to all. And while it will be with the Truth, it will also be true of those who bear the Truth, and indeed of all men, good and bad; for there is no character now covered that shall not be revealed. Upright and godly characters are often hidden under misunderstanding and misrepresentation, while many base and detestable characters are hidden under fair, deceiving exteriors.

All masks will eventually be taken off, and every man will be estimated both by God and man according to his motives; 1 Cor. 4:5, "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." Those that receive justification and went on to consecration and have been sanctified are given the privilege of understanding much light in due season [present Truth]. This brings to the consecrated child of God great privileges! He can imitate God and Christ as given in Eph. 5:1, "Be ye therefore followers [imitators] of God, as dear children." The Greek word translated "followers" in our text means imitators. Accordingly, we are to be followers of God in the sense of being imitators

of Him, as far as possible, in thoughts, motives, character qualities, words and acts, even as a dear and good child imitates a good parent, seeking as far as possible to copy the parent's general attitude, character and conduct. But some may find the idea of imitating God, a spirit being, unseen to men's natural sight, as rather difficult and unappealing. However, God has chosen to reveal Himself through His written revelation, the Bible. By what the Bible tells about God, especially His character, by what it shows that He approved or disapproved, etc., we can learn much about God that we can imitate.

It is in Jehovah's great and glorious character attributes, especially in His wisdom, justice, love and power (self-control and cheerful endurance), that He is to be admired and imitated by all those who "believe that he is [exists], and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6), especially those who by consecration have become disciples of Christ. David seems to have had such thoughts in mind when he expressed the beautiful words of Psa. 8:1, "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens." The Scriptures also tell us much about the character qualities of Jesus Christ, which are really the same kind of character qualities that God has. He is the character image of the Father (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3). Therefore in imitating Christ's character we are really imitating God's character, for He exemplified to us God's character.

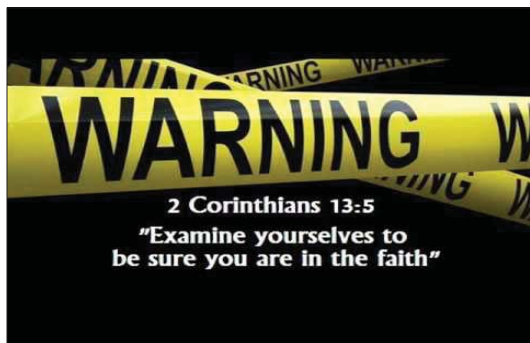


Many Scriptures encourage us to follow Jesus' example, to imitate Him. (This is because He in turn was an imitator of God.) For example, in Heb. 12:2 for inspiration and help in running the Christian race course, we are exhorted to be "looking away to the LEADER and Perfecter of the FAITH, Jesus, who for the JOY set before him, endured the Cross, disregarding the Shame, and has set down at the Right hand of the THRONE of GOD"(Diaglott). Jesus said to His disciples (Matt. 16:24), "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, *and follow me.*" This following of Jesus means to make Him our example and to imitate Him as such!

One of the things that belong to imitating Jesus is to think as He thought on God, Himself, the spirit, the Bible,

creation, the fall, the curse, the ransom, justification, sanctification, deliverance, the kingdom, restitution, and the love to God and man. This will give us His knowledge as ours; and we will find it to be what He found it to be: a light, a guide, an armor, a power, an inspiration, a defense, a fortress and a comfort, supplying most of our need for mind, heart and will. He will send us as due the *proper understanding through His mouthpieces*; and meditating on it with true faith, hope, love and obedience, we will find it the power of God unto salvation.

Then, too, we should imitate Jesus in His obeying and ministering that Word. This is what He did (Matt. 20:28). He witnessed the Word of God at all times, in all opportunities, to every listening ear and to every hungry heart with which He came in contact. He did this when it was convenient or inconvenient to Him, easy or hard, by day and by night, through good report and evil report, to friend and enemy, young and old, rich and poor, great and small. Oh, we too are to bear witness to the Truth, seeking out hearing ears, seeing eyes and hungry hearts.

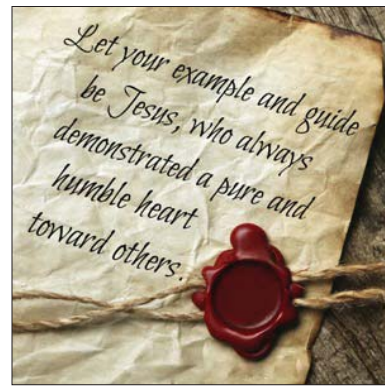


Another great privilege is provided in the words of 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in

the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” We should imitate Jesus in self-examination and watchfulness. As He scrutinized His disposition, motives, thoughts, words, acts, surroundings and the influences operating out of and upon Him, so let us examine our dispositions, motives, thoughts, words, acts, surroundings and the influences operating out of and upon us. In a thorough examination of ourselves we look for the evidence of chiseling, polishing, pruning, disciplines and chastisements that will permit us to be in the faith! To be in the faith is more than belief, confidence or trust. It is having Christ in you!

As Jesus guarded Himself from evil that He could receive a good disposition, motive, thought, word and act, so let us guard ourselves to keep ourselves from evil and to direct ourselves into good in disposition, motive, thought, word and act. If we do this faithfully we will be kept from falling from our steadfastness, as those certainly fall from their steadfastness who fail to scrutinize themselves and to

guard themselves from the attacks of the Devil, world and flesh. We will do such self-examining and watchfulness, if we are alive to our consecration vows and live close to the Lord.



We should imitate our Lord in the prayer life. Perfect though He was, Jesus felt the need of going frequently to, and remaining long at the Throne of Grace. We see this done by Him when contemplating the unbelief of the nominal Jewish people and the

spirit of the Israelites indeed (Matt. 11:25, 26), in His frequently spending all night in prayer, also at Lazarus’ tomb, in the upper room just before His betrayal, in Gethsemane, and on the cross. Doubtless, daily and hourly He sought the Throne of Grace, where He found love, sympathy, wisdom and strength. “Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thes. 5:17-18).

If He who was perfect needed to seek the Father’s grace, much more do we, who are encompassed with infirmity, need it. Yes, we need it to obtain mercy for our sins and weaknesses and to find grace to help for every time of need. To encourage us to use this privilege we have the Father’s ability, invitation and promise. And His answers to our proper petitions offered up in Jesus’ name and merit are a constant incentive for us to seek anew His grace, mercy and truth. And if, like Jesus, we fulfill the conditions of prevailing prayer—letting God’s Word control our petitions and remaining faithful to our consecration (John 15:7)—we will be favored with answers to our prayers. Let us, therefore, go confidently, in the full assurance of faith and with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6), to our gracious Heavenly Father, and we will obtain the answers to our properly made prayers. And in this we will be imitating Jesus.

Such imitation of Jesus in meditation on the good Word, in witnessing to that Word, in living out its principles for our development in the holy Spirit, in self-scrutiny and watchfulness and in prayer, must be faithfully accompanied by appropriate self-denial and world-denial and be expressed amid self-denial and world-denial. It must also be kept up amid our cross-bearing; for while the Millennial world will study, practice and spread the Word, as well as exercise self-examination, watchfulness and prayer only under the easier conditions of the Highway of Holiness, we have to do these things amid

and in spite of the trialsome experiences that constitute the cross-bearing in our narrow way. And if we are faithful therein our presence will be lighted with God's favor, and our future will be as bright as His promises to us.

We are not to be imitators of any fellow human beings, no matter how near and dear to us, except insofar as we can see that they are following God and Christ. The Apostle Paul emphasizes this good guideline. After exhorting the brethren in 1 Cor. 4:16, "I beseech you, be ye followers of me," he enjoins them in 1 Cor. 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

If we do not follow this good guideline, we might be found imitating others in sinful, erroneous, selfish and worldly ways, and are disapproved of God. Imitating others who are not imitating Christ has been a great source of apostasy among professing Christians. Only if we can hear the voice of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, in the teachings set forth by others, are we to follow them; and

only if their conduct is in harmony with the example of Jesus are we to imitate them in it.

Let us, as we imitate our Lord and Master, do our part in letting our light shine forth, in faith and trust in God's plan, that we will not be discouraged as the Time of Trouble continues. The additional time involved for the outworking of God's plan has brought a trial of the faith of some believers. Let us not become discouraged but believe in the great promise of Isa. 55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

LOOK BACK IN FORGIVENESS

FORWARD IN HOPE AND

UP IN GRATITUDE



AN ANCHOR SURE AND STEADFAST

**"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men,
but in the power of God".**

1 Corinthians 2:5

The consecrated Christian should see to it that their faith is firmly founded on and supported by the Bible, the Word of God. The contrary theories and teachings of men will always lead astray. We must "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" and "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil; for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in heavenly places" (Eph. 6:10-12, margin). It is only as we put on "the whole armour of God" that we will be "able to withstand in the evil day [in which we now live], and having *done* all, to stand" (v. 13).

The Apostle Paul tells us that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17); and he further states that "all men have not faith" and that "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (2 Thes. 3: 2; Rom. 14:23). "Without faith it is impossible to please God: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). But "the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of

the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Cor. 4:4). Indeed, generally speaking, darkness (ignorance, especially concerning God and His great Plan of Salvation for the elect and the non-elect) covers the earth (human society), and gross darkness the people (Isa. 60:2).

We "know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5:19). We may well be appalled as we look at the heathen world and note their backward condition of mind and heart. Christendom also continues with its multitudinous errors—eternal torment in a fiery hell, the consciousness of the dead, the immortality of the human soul, etc.—noting also the

efforts of mankind to get free from the ignorance, error and superstition of the Dark Ages. What a power Satan has exercised! How weak man has been in his hands! Rev. 12:9 "And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth . . ." Only in proportion as the Word and Spirit of God have given enlightenment and strength has a measure of freedom from the Adversary's hold been acquired.

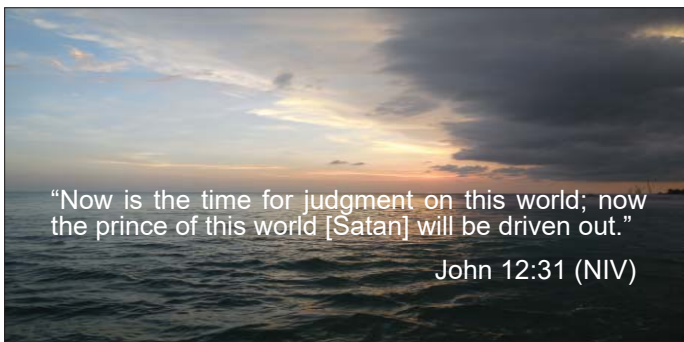
ANCHOR YOUR FAITH



IN THE POWER OF GOD

The Apostle reminds us of the Adversary's cunning, saying, "We are not ignorant of his devices" and of his cunningly devised fables (2 Cor. 2:11). As already stated, he declares Satan to be the god or ruler of this world, by virtue of the deception which he has accomplished in the blinding of the minds of men as respects the light of Truth. He assures us that as Christians we are not merely contending with flesh and blood, that is, with human beings, but that beyond these adversaries of the true Church are the wisdom and cunning of the Adversary himself and his many agents, fallen angels, in the spirit realm. The latter are by far the more potent.

Ever since the Lord began to lift up the veil of ignorance and to grant greater enlightenment, bringing forth the inventions of printing, televisions, computers, smart phones and the ability via social media to communicate worldwide, our Adversary and his fallen angels are now busier than ever corrupting the use of these inventions. As he is the Prince of Darkness and all of his work of deception upon the human family is favored by ignorance, by darkness and benighted conditions, so everything that has tended to lift the pall of the Dark Ages has tended to liberate mankind from the snares of Satan's ignorance, superstition and deception. We may well believe, then, that our Adversary and his fallen angels are extremely active, and increasingly so in civilized lands, and that even among the heathen they are necessarily more active, more vigilant. Their clever deceptions are universal.



In one of His parables (Matt. 24:43) our Lord represents Satan as being the householder at the present time, that the whole world is his household, or dominion, over which he has control. This is a picture similar to that used by Him when He describes Satan as "the prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30). Our Lord, referring to His Second Coming and the gathering of the one true Church and the breaking up of present evil institutions in the end of this Age, says that if the householder (Satan) knew in what hour the thief would come he would be on the alert and take means to prevent the despoiling of his household and goods. Therefore many things connected with the Second Coming of our Lord have been kept

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secret until the due time for their fulfillment. Jehovah has privileged the consecrated child of God to know of the time and season "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law"; "the secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant" (Deut. 29:29; Psa. 25:14).



Our Lord, however, does show that at the time appointed of the Father He would come and first of all bind the strong man, Satan, and then spoil his goods, overthrow his arrangements and institutions that are in so many respects deceptive, so that in the overturning, our Lord, as the new King, the Prince of Light, may bring to all the slaves of sin, superstition and darkness the light and the blessings so long foretold in the Word of God, and hoped for, and prayed for, by all of God's true people—"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).

We understand from the Scriptures that we are living in this particular juncture at the present time, that the Prince of Light has already begun the work of binding the Prince of Darkness. We are not to expect that Satan will meekly submit. Instead, we should understand that, while this name Satan applies to our personal adversary, the Devil, it covers in a general sense all the systems and influences for evil and unrighteousness in the world, however ignorant some of his dupes. Therefore when we read of the binding of Satan, that old serpent, the Devil (Rev. 20:2), we should properly have in mind all the evil influences, all the sinful tendencies, all the injustices and untruths whereby mankind have been enslaved for centuries.

A SIMULTANEOUS BINDING AND LOOSING

Whatever sets free the light of Truth incidentally binds the darkness in similar proportions. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psa. 30:5). The whole world is waking up to some of the evils which have oppressed it. A wave of opposition to all injustice is also spreading, favoring the interests of all the people as in opposition to those of the few disposed to exploit

the many for their own personal advantage. In most countries knowledge has been greatly increased and the masses are awakening and grasping for their human rights and liberties some of which are sought and obtained for which many people are not yet prepared. Yes, the power of darkness is losing its hold; its shackles are breaking from the human minds. We say that this has brought what the Scriptures describe as “a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; . . . for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21).

We also say that the strong man, the Adversary, and his numerous allies entrenched in power and privilege, will hold on until grim death, and that this will mean much suffering to all concerned. How thankful we are that we can see beyond that awful time of

anarchy what the Scriptures so clearly outline, namely, the Golden Age, the Millennial Kingdom, the Reign of Righteousness, peace and love—for the blessing of all the families of the earth (Gen. 12:1-3; 22:16-18; Gal. 3:7-9, 16, 29)!

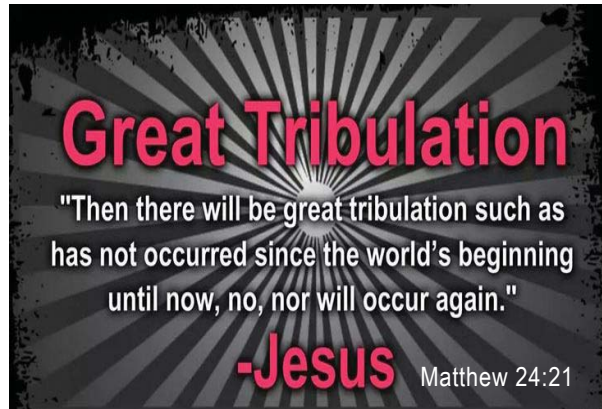
Not only might we expect that the Adversary and his various agents would be exceedingly active in this present time, but the Scriptures particularly admonish us that this will be the case; and that the Lord, who could crush the Adversary otherwise will permit his activity for special purposes; partly for the testing and sifting of God’s people (for the selection of Abraham’s seed) and partly for lessons of discipline to the world in general. As, for instance, the Apostle, speaking of the present time, says “God will send them strong delusion, that they may believe a lie: that they all might be condemned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness [untruth]” (2 Thes. 2:11).

SECURITY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

The fully consecrated child of God is pictured as a ship which has an anchor and the anchor represents the hope that only the consecrated can have: an anchor of the soul! There is a chain holding the anchor and that is the promise and oath. It is our faith that holds the chain to the ship—the fully consecrated child of God. The storms are howling, the winds are blowing, and the waves are rolling over the ship, but that cable has been made unbreakable, and that anchor immovable, “both sure and steadfast,” and for that reason the ship cannot drift. With her prow to the waves, she is kept from going down. She is safe and

sure because she has an anchorage that is steadfast. The anchorage is so strong that no power can cause it to drag or break. “An anchor sure and steadfast.”

Could we want anything stronger than this as a basis of hope? What stronger thing could God give us? Those whose hearts abide in loving, childlike faith could not want anything stronger. God’s oath-bound promise remains the object of our faith, the source of our strength, and therefore the ground of our hope. God will be faithful to us through thick and thin. The anchor will not heave, and the chain that holds will not break, because it is backed by the Almighty. God has too much at stake to fail. He has given His word and His oath. No power in heaven or earth or air will or can break God’s loyalty, and of that we are sure. “Praise our God, all ye His saints, and be thankful at the remembrance of His Holiness.”

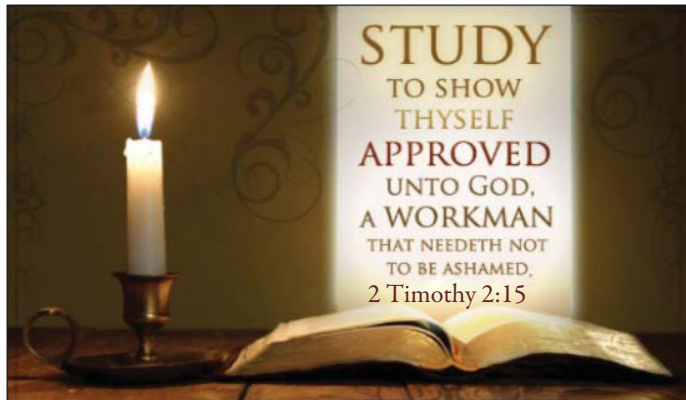


Yes, praise, trust and hope in Him, for He is worthy!

Surely no one is secure from the Adversary’s power, from the influence of the demons, *except* as they are on the Lord’s side, consecrated to Him and under His promised protection. We realize that His protection will be in large measure through the impartation of knowledge, the light of the Truth which will guard from the darkness. Those who know that the dead are dead and will remain dead until the resurrection, and who know that those who represent the dead through spirit-mediums, etc., are the demons—these are specially protected by their knowledge from many of the deceptions which are ensnaring thousands and which ultimately will cause thousands to fall into hurtful errors. As consecrated Christians we must declare: Satan, thou art an offence unto me: for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.

The Scriptural intimation is that in some manner in this present time the Lord will permit the fallen angels to have greater liberty and to find a manner by which they may circumvent and avoid His prohibition to materialization. Oh, we may expect that materializations will occur on the part of many of these demons, and that these will be an active agency, a pernicious influence. But God’s people who trust in Him are safe. “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear [reverence] him, and delivereth them” (Psa. 34:7). It is consoling to know that the Lord guarantees that in the end of the struggle Satan will be fully bound!

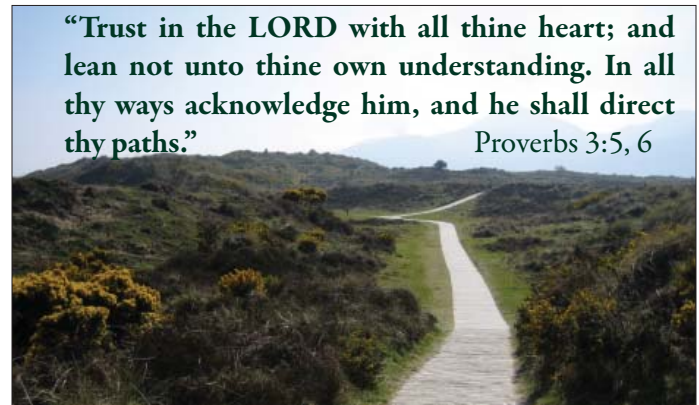
Bro. Russell showed in (SITS 1, p. 69; Z4609, Z4695) that our Lord bound Satan as an individual (Rev. 20:1-3), so that Satan on longer has had control over the fallen angels as formerly, resulting in great conflicts and trouble in his empire. In 1878 our Lord began to “spoil his house” (Matt. 12:29). The binding of the *Satan system* has been gradual and is still progressing (see E-2, p. 125). In every way the Truth—the great chain—will restrain him, so that he is unable to move hand, foot or mouth, in the way of deceiving the nations during the Millennium. His being cast into the bottomless pit represents his being left to his own unaided resources and speculations and being kept from learning further Truth; and his being kept in the darkness of errors of his own making is meant by his remaining in the bottomless pit, which certainly will be painful. To accomplish this several things will be necessary on the Lord’s part: (1) to remove Satan so far away from the earth that he will know nothing of what is going on here during the Millennium, and (2) to keep him there away from mankind during that period. This will prevent his learning the secular and religious Truths given mankind during the Millennium; and separating him from contact with mankind will not give him opportunity to deceive any of them.



Some Christians study the Word of God carefully, “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15), “proving all things and holding fast that which is good” (1 Thes. 5:21); they sanctify the LORD God in their hearts and are ready always to give an answer to all who ask for a reason of the hope that is in them, with meekness and reverence (1 Pet. 3:15). They have a well-grounded faith and a Scripturally-based hope of eternal life that cannot fail but sustains them amid the severest storms. Their anchor is sure and steadfast.

Other Christians have relaxed their hold on the Word of God and His holy Spirit. They cease to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and are content to remain as babes; they are easily led away with the error of the wicked and fall from their own steadfastness (Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 3:17, 18). No wonder

that they are so easily “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:14)! They trust to chance or to luck *rather than* to God. Instead of the unbreakable chain of Truth and the firm foundation of God’s Word they are held amid the storms of life by the flimsy cord of error and superstition.

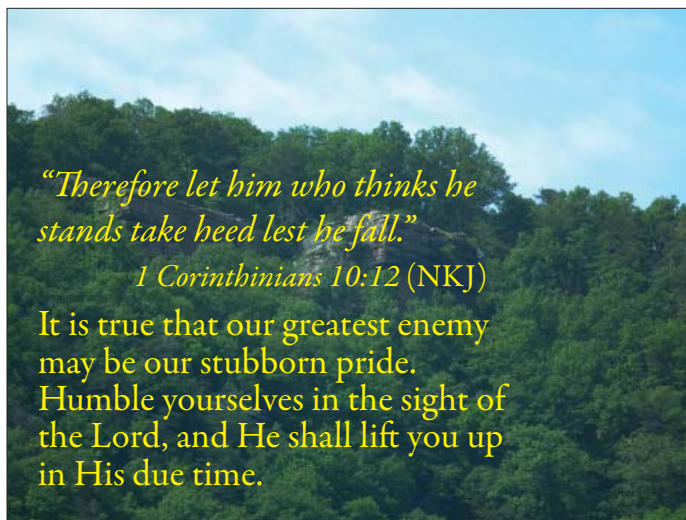


The consecrated Christian draws his strength from God’s Word and His Word as given in the Bible assures us that “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). This is one of the great lessons of faith that the Lord’s people need to learn, even after they have been in the way for some time. The times in which we live are very uncertain, and many Christians who lack strong faith in God and His fatherly care for His own cease to trust in Him; they lean unto their own understanding, forgetting that if they in all their ways acknowledge Him, He will direct their paths (Prov. 3:5, 6). “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass” (Psa. 37:5).

We must ask does God have a plan to accomplish His promises? Yes, God will make all the five pre-restitution consecrated classes—the Little Flock, the Ancient Worthies, the Great Company, the Youthful Worthies and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers—symbolized respectively by Zion, Moriah, Akra, Bezetha and Ophel—the special means of assisting the non-elect up the Highway of Holiness. Psa. 72:3 “The mountains shall bring peace to the people and the little hills, by righteousness.” God will exalt these five pre-restitution classes for this purpose. Where, then, is there any room for doubt? Some Christians, unwary or weak in faith, follow the practices of heathen in opening their minds to evil influences, trusting to lucky charms, fortune telling, visions and horoscopes more than on their Creator and His Word, who in His great mercy loved them so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for them (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-11).

The Apostle Paul prophesied that “in the latter times

some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils [demons]" (1 Tim. 4:1). Many are now fulfilling this prophecy—falling away from the true faith of God’s Word and chasing after various deceptions of the fallen angels, such as just mentioned. Many nominal-church gatherings are holding “scientific research” in the field of psychic phenomena, are engaging in occult practices, and are communicating with demons who palm themselves off as dead people still alive—furthering Satan’s original lie “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die” (Gen. 3:4). We compare these words with what Jesus said, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).



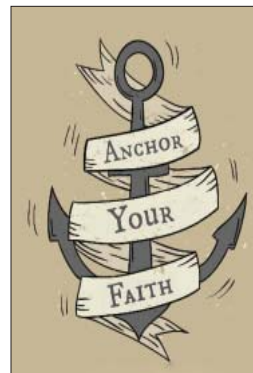
The Christian who is relying on his own wisdom is indeed in a very dangerous position, and quite likely the LORD will find it necessary to give him a chastening for his correction. We need continually to exercise faith in God and His loving and all-wise oversight and direction in all our affairs, for “the steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD” (Psa. 37:23). The Christian should never view any experience as being lucky or unlucky, but should remember that all things connected with him, if he is living close to the LORD, are ordered and directed by Him. He should be able in implicit faith to say, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psa. 23:1); “for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5). Therefore, “in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God,” “casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (Phil. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:7).

So, are we nearing the desired haven of Psa. 107:30 “So He bringeth them unto their desired haven”? Yes, this storm-tossed journey from Pentecost down to the present has been a difficult journey and ultimately will

take them to their respective inheritances and privileges in God’s Kingdom; this certainly is the desired haven of all those who have received the holy Spirit, who have been taught of God and who have learned something at least respecting the things that “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor. 2:9). Consider this thought: We may be content whatever lot we see, since we realize that we are under the guidance and leading of our Lord, and since we know that all things are working together for good to them that love Him, to the called ones according to His purpose.

We may be content in the midst of all the sufferings and trials and difficulties of life—but we are not satisfied. We are content because our Lord assures us that present lessons, experiences and disciplines are necessary to fit and prepare us for the Kingdom. But we shall be satisfied only when we get those eternal realizations of which now we have only the promise, or hope. And what a hope is ours; what a glorious hope! No wonder the Apostle referred to it as that “blessed hope” and connected it with the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at His Second Advent (Titus. 2:13).

Our hope is eternal as we study our Father’s Word and come to understand the deep things of the Divine plan. Do we find this hope to be a blessed one? The one our dear Redeemer had in mind when He said, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself” (John 14:3). The Apostle again refers to this “blessed hope” of ours, saying that it is to our souls an anchor, sure and steadfast, because we believe in Jesus. Faith is the cable by which that glorious promise or hope that the Lord has given us holds us fast and secure, not moved amidst the storms and trials of life. Let us all sing out: safe in the arms of Jesus!



Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
 When the clouds unfold their winds of strife?
 When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
 Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?
 If it’s safely moored, ‘twill the storm withstand,
 For it’s well secured by the Savior’s hand;
 And the cables, passed from His heart to thine,
 Will defy that blast, through strength Divine.



**RALPH M. HERZIG,
GENERAL EDITOR, DIES**

We regret to announce that Bro. Ralph M. Herzig, age 91, of Chester Springs, PA., died April 5, 2016. Bro. Ralph served as the Executive Trustee and General Editor of Bible Standard

Ministries publications since January 2004. He had been receiving excellent skilled nursing care at the Tel-Hai Nursing Home from March of 2014 until his death. His wife of 51 years, Sr. Norma Herzig preceded him in death in 2004. He leaves two daughters, Joy Mullen and her husband Roger of Pittsfield, MA and Andrea (Abby) Pyrzanowski-Charland; his grandchildren, Bethany Turriff and her husband, Robert, Jacob Mullen, Joseph Pyrzanowski and Peter Pyrzanowski; one brother, Robert Herzig of Keystone Heights, FL. He was predeceased by three brothers Gerald, Elmer and Lester. A funeral service was held on April 11, 2016 in the chapel of the Bible House situated at Bible Standard Ministries' headquarters in Chester Springs, PA. This service was conducted by Bro. Leon Snyder and Bro. Dan Herzig.

In 1953 Bro. Ralph Herzig married Sr. Norma Bruhjell from the Minneapolis, MN class. In 1955 Bro. Ralph and Sr. Norma worked at the Bible House for about a year under the ministration of Bro. Raymond Jolly.

Bro. Ralph Herzig was born October 29, 1924, the youngest of five brothers. All were raised in the Truth and were consecrated to the Lord. His parents, Edward and Grace Herzig were raised in the Methodist faith. They were introduced to the Truth through the efforts of Bro. John Thompson and later saw the "Photo Drama of Creation"; from that point on, they chose the way of the Truth and when the separation came with the Society, they aligned themselves with the Epiphany Truth. In the early years the family would receive pilgrim service from the Bible House and were blessed with visits by Bros. Gavin, Cotton, Gregory, Abraham, Kurbitz, Morten, Jolly and others.

Bro. Ralph came to understand that he was fully consecrated in 1942 when Pilgrim Bro. William Eschrich served the Pittsfield, MA ecclesia that year. Bro. Ralph said that he remembered helping Bro. Eschrich load his suitcases into his car and mentally talking to himself, asking "Ralph are you now consecrated?" He then answered himself, "Yes, I am!" Bro. Ralph was baptized by Bro. Gavin at the 1947 Philadelphia convention.

Under the leadership of Bro. Elmer Herzig, four high school friends of Bro. Robert Herzig attended a home

Bible study. This study was in addition to the regular class meetings. On one occasion of a pilgrim visit made by Bro. Jolly, he offered to play football with the young Bible students if they would agree to attend and listen to his Bible talk. Well, he played football with them and they attended his Bible talk! On another occasion, Bro. Francis Melle invited Bro. Ralph to come to the Bible House for a few weeks as a co-worker with him. Bro. Francis was there to assist Bro. Johnson in his illness. A group of brethren were working to ready the recently acquired Tabernacle building (11th St. and Snyder Ave.) for the Labor Day convention. Bro. & Sr. Hedman were then serving at the Bible House as well. Bros. Melle and Herzig slept in the Tabernacle and ate their meals with Bro. Johnson, the Hedmans and the Bible House Family.

We would like to share this story as Bro. Ralph told it: "While at the Bible House (Bethel), Bro. and Sr. Jolly were developing in the Truth and Bro. Jolly was leading meetings and giving Bible discourses. Bro. Russell was getting reports on their progress and it finally came time for Bro. Jolly to be immersed into the pilgrim work as a traveling speaker. It seems that there was a cancellation for a speaker at a public meeting in Toronto, Canada. The scheduled brother had taken ill and Bro. Russell indicated to the head of the pilgrim work that Bro. Jolly should take that service. Bro. Jolly now had his assignment but he didn't want it, at least he didn't want it this way. He argued 'This is spur of the moment and I'm not prepared, I just can't do it.' The brother in charge insisted that Bro. Russell had left instructions for you to take that appointment, there is no one else. 'Well I can't do it, where is Bro. Russell I will tell him.' 'I'm sorry Bro. Jolly, Bro. Russell has left on a pilgrim trip himself.' Bro. Jolly related that he did take the appointment in Toronto and when he stepped onto the platform to speak there were 5,000 people in the audience.

"In relating this story in his talk, Bro. Jolly had been working up to something. It seems that he had learned from one of our older brothers that we had a School of the Prophets in our class and Bro. Bob and myself were two of the participants. He had also been informed that he should not let on if he was to call on us to speak because for sure, yours truly would disappear. You can imagine how we were somewhat mesmerized by Bro. Jolly's experiences as he presented them. He then said, 'I understand that you have a School of the Prophets meeting here in your class and I believe that the brethren would be very pleased to hear from their two young brothers.' Bro. Jolly then said, 'Bro. Ralph, would you come forward and speak for five minutes using The Ransom as your topic and Bro. Bob would you please speak on Restitution?'

"We were both SHOCKED—STUNNED! Before I knew

what was happening I was standing up there trying to collect my thoughts on the ransom. Bro. Jolly said that the class was indeed fortunate to have young brothers that could stand up and speak without reading a prepared text and without any preparation. We were not all that much impressed by our performance. We were so nervous that we had no idea what we had said.”

“What a wonderful teacher and speaker Bro. Jolly was and how great a blessing he has been to all the brethren. We have been blessed by all the evangelists and pilgrims of past years who have sacrificed of their time, effort and monies to lead us in the way of the Truth and its Spirit. Praise is to our great God and to His Son for this wonderful Plan of Salvation and the fact that we rejoice in the prospects of its beautiful fulfillment in the coming Kingdom of restitution. Yes, as we look back on this history, it certainly appears that the Lord was, with great care, preparing Bro. Ralph for his later service.”

“Shortly after Bro. Hedman died, in 2004, Bro. Ralph, with his wife Sr. Norma, moved into the Bible House. The Lord provided Bro. Dan and Sr. Sue Herzig, who helped them move from their apartment in Pittsfield, MA. They, in due time, acquired a home in the process of being built. Sr. Norma said many times ‘I can’t wait to move into our beautiful new home.’ However, while waiting for its completion, Sr. Norma experienced a broken bone in her back that caused terrible pain. She went into the hospital and the doctors were able to fuse the bones together. She was in a rehabilitation center for a short time and then came back to the Bible House where she received rehabilitation. However, it wasn’t very long after that when she suffered another broken bone in her back. The whole process was repeated again.”

“Then there was a third occurrence but this time she didn’t come back from the hospital. Bro. Herb and Sr. Barb Hoague were blessed to be with Bro. Ralph in the hospital when Sr. Norma died. Doctors told us this was because of a severe case of osteoporosis. Her bones would break just from normal walking, sitting, etc. After the death of Sr. Norma, the home was finished and Bro. Herb and Sr. Barb were blessed to be able to help Bro. Ralph move in. It was indeed a beautiful home. It was not easy for him after Sr. Norma died. The Hoague’s helped Bro. Ralph buy some furniture for his new home. They helped him set everything up and when they were setting up his upstairs bedroom; Bro. Ralph said he wanted his bed centered in the room so they by “eyeballing” put it in the center of the room. Bro. Ralph, after looking it over very carefully, said it wasn’t exactly centered so he got out his tape measure and measured it. Sure enough the bed was one inch off on one side. So we had to get it exact.”

In 2009, Bro. Ralph moved out of his home and into the Bible House to live where he served the Lord as Editor and Trustee of the Movement for 10 years.

We share some memories of how Bro. Ralph could be encouraging to younger ones with a desire to learn of God’s word:

“It is with a sad heart that I hear about our dear Bro. Ralph’s death, but it is with pleasure that I ponder the fond memories. I immediately recall the very first time I met Bro. Ralph. It was at the 2006 Florida Convention. I went down to the hotel lobby for breakfast. The one person I recognized, Sr. Betty Katkaveck, was sitting at a table with two others, and she invited me to sit down with them. She introduced me first to Sr. Donna Fullen and we chatted for a few minutes. Then she motioned to the brother sitting next to me and said, “This is Bro. Ralph Herzig.” Oh, I knew that name from the wonderful magazines I was receiving! I knew that name from the correspondence with him at the Bible House. And, yes, I knew that name as one the Lord was using as His representative. I remember being shocked that I was sitting right beside the Leader of the Lord’s People! You see, I was rather new in the Truth, and I thought of the several leaders since Bro. Russell as larger than life, no doubt with some angel worship. Anyway, the topic of consecration came up, and I indicated my desire to be immersed at the convention. The others left the table, and I had the privilege of a one-on-one conversation with Bro. Ralph on various Truth topics. I remember it as almost surreal. You see, I was isolated in the Truth, with no one else around me to discuss these incredible subjects that I had come to love. So I count it as a wonderful providence to have had this experience at my first convention: to discuss these things with none other than our Pastor. Little did I know that I would have many such deep conversations with our dear brother in the coming years. There were so many little acts like this that helped develop me as a servant of God and Christ.”—Bro. Brandon Penney.

“Dear Brethren, dear Bro. Ralph’s family, we’re all very touched by the information of the death, but trustful in God’s plan. We want to express our sincere condolences and assure you about our prayers in those hard times of your loss. He will always live in our hearts as a servant caring of spiritual welfare of his brethren and what he was doing by the written and spoken words through long years of service to the Lord. He will remain in my memory as a smiling brother with kind eyes. I often recall time spent at the table in the Bible House, when he was answering our questions—in a very accurate but modest way. I remember his peculiar sense of humor and moments when he was interested in the renovation works and grabbed the shovel, becoming

one of us. We believe that Bro. Ralph lived through his days victoriously. May the good Lord bless his memory in our hearts until we meet again. I also pass sincere words of sympathy and assurance of prayers for Bro. Ralph's family and all Bible House members (Bro. Leon specifically) from the Lord's people in Poland."—Bro. Henryk with family and Bro. Piotr Woznicki.

Dear Herzig family,

We have received the sad information that our dear Bro. Ralph has finished his life. In his death we lost our dear brother and beloved friend. We are thankful to our Lord for the privilege of service under his Levitical direction. He was a wonderful brother with his life experience, being for me and my family a valuable example of sincere simplicity and directness, having also a good sense of humor. We remember him by his daily walking outside the Bible House where, many times, we have walked and talked with him.

We appreciate very much the Truth which he delivered to all of us and the valuable instruction for living a consecrated devoted life.

We thank God that we were privileged to know him personally as a very able servant of God and a good man. It is a great honor to have such a person in the ranks of your family. We thank God for His assurance that dear Bro. Ralph fell asleep for only just a short moment and we know that we sorrow not as others who have not hope. (Rev. 21:4, 5)

Dear family we assure you of our prayer on your behalf, that the Lord may strengthen your faith during your difficult experiences. May His promises for resurrection be more present to you giving you courage and peace into your hearts.—Bro. Janusz Puzdrowski, Sister Gosia and Samuel.

BRO. RALPH M. HERZIG'S RESUME.

Military Service: Date of Entry into Active Service May 31, 1943, classified as 1A-0 (0= Conscientious Objector). Date of Discharge, Dec. 12, 1945. He served as a Medical and Surgical Technician, Tech. 4, with the 378 Medical Detachment that was attached to the 95th infantry division. He trained here in this country before sailing to the European Theater. There he stayed in England and thirteen days after-D-Day sailed across the Channel. He served with this combat force in France, Germany, Luxemburg, Holland and Belgium. In all his military experiences the Lord's special protection was manifest for he was not wounded. With the German surrender he was sent back to the United States and given a 30-day furlough after which he was to be sent to the Pacific Theater and Japan. This was indeed a trialsome experience, with the thought of going into combat action again. In the intervening days the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and when he returned to camp he

was sent on a 45-day leave. He was next going to be sent to Japan, but the war came to an end and he was discharged from the Army. Bro. Ralph's time of service, as he liked to put, it was 2 years 6 months and 29 days.

Work Experience: When Bro. Ralph was honorably discharged from the military service, he next worked as an apprentice in his father's residential construction company along with his brothers. Then in the ensuing 27 years he worked for many different companies as a carpenter. This gave him experience in most every phase of the residential construction industry. When the construction industry went into a slump in 1976 due in part to fuel shortages, he applied for and received an appointment as a teacher in the Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational Technical High School in North Adams, Mass. Before being hired as a teacher, Bro. Ralph completed 6 college credits of teacher training for provisional approval and 18 more for full certification. He then taught school during the day and took the courses for his degree at night and summers. He taught in this school system for sixteen years retiring on July 1, 1993.

Bro. Leon Snyder's personal memories: Our close association with Bro. Ralph and Sr. Norma began in 1998 after my mother's death. Bro. Hedman had asked that Sr. Virginia and I begin to expand our privilege of travel throughout the U.S. We, in serving the N. E., stayed in Bro. Ralph and Sr. Norma's home, allowing special time together. During these times we would stay an extra day to travel to someplace special with them. I believe the most memorable travel would be the visit to the grave site and home of Bro. William Miller. Bro. Ralph asked that I stand on Ascension Rock for a picture to see if I would be whisked away. Later we both went to the pulpit of Bro. William Miller's church for a short ministry. Good memories! One other memory of a different kind was at their home. After the meetings were concluded Bro. Ralph went about closing the drapes, when much commotion by the bird feeder, caused Bro. Ralph to open that drape to investigate why all the noise, only to have a black bear looking back at him.

The Lord continued to have this fellowship remain close as Bro. Ralph called on me more and more to help him with special needs until in June of 2012 he called saying, "Leon you have to come to the Bible House to live, I cannot do the work alone any longer." Virginia and I recognized this as a call from the Lord through His representative and moved to the Bible House to serve the Lord's chosen vessel at that time. Yes, when someone you loved becomes a memory: the memory becomes a treasure!

—We will greatly miss him for his steadfastness and loyalty to the Truth!—



Gospel of the Kingdom

For more than sixteen centuries Israel had waited and prayed for the coming of Messiah's Kingdom to exalt them, and to bless the world. The announcement that the Kingdom was at hand was a good Message—or Gospel.

But not enough Jews were in condition of heart to be Israelites indeed, worthy to share with Jesus in the glorious service of His great, long-promised Kingdom. "He came unto His own [people], but His own received Him not"—they crucified Him. But to as many as received Him [few] He gave the liberty, or privilege, of becoming sons of God, of passing from the House of Servants, under Moses, to the House of Sons, under the Headship of Jesus. This was effected at Pentecost, by the begetting of the Holy Spirit.—John 1:11-13; Heb. 3:1-6.

Not enough worthy Jews being found, the Kingdom offer was withdrawn from them, and for nineteen centuries God has been completing the foreordained number from saintly Gentiles. Outward signs and the prophecies demonstrate that the Kingdom was not set up then, and did not begin to bless the world. Instead, all the unready of Israel were broken off from Divine favor for a time, while the Call to the Kingdom was sent to the Gentiles, to take out of them a people to complete the foreordained "Body of Christ." (Romans 11:1-7, 11, 12.) Holy, saintly characters from every nation have been gathering for nineteen centuries, the number is now complete and the Kingdom about to be established.

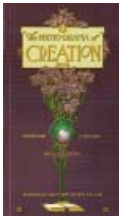
When, therefore, the election of the Spiritual Seed of Abraham shall be accomplished, this Gospel Age will end. Then will begin the Messianic Age, in which Christ and the Church shall reign in spirit power.—Revelation 5:10; 20:6.

Then the blindness of Israel will be removed, and the blessings of the New Dispensation will come to them, and through them to all the families of the Earth, as God promised. That the Church is the Spiritual Seed of Abraham, to bless Natural Israel and the world, is clearly shown in Galatians 3:16, 29

Lesson 58

- 1* What has Israel been waiting and praying for? How long has this been? Par. 1
- 2* Have enough Jews been in a heart condition to be Israelites indeed? Par. 2
- 3* Were they worthy to share with Jesus?
- 4* What do the Scriptures say about their accepting Jesus as their Messiah? John 1: 11-13
- 5* Those few that accepted Him how did they become sons of God? Was Moses considered a son or a servant? Heb. 1: 3-6
- 6* When was the first begetting of the Holy Spirit?
- 7* Why was the Kingdom offer withdrawn from the Jews? Par. 3
- 8* Who was the Kingdom offer extended to and for how long?
- 9* Why was the Kingdom not set up then?
- 10* What happened to those of Israel that were not ready to accept Jesus as the Messiah?
- 11* What will happen now that saintly characters have been gathered from every nation and the Church is complete?
- 12 What ended with the election of the spiritual seed of Abraham? Par. 4
- 13* What will Christ and the Church do in the Messianic Age?
- 14* When will the blindness of Israel be removed? Par. 5
- 15* The blessings of the New Dispensation will come to and through what nation?
- 16 What does Galatians 3: 16, 29 clearly show?

* The questions marked with an asterisk are especially for children.



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TO:

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Daniel Herzig

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17

Thomas Cimbura

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17;
Tulsa, OK, August 13, 14

David Seebald

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17;
Barlin, France Convention July 29, 30 31;
Birmingham, UK Convention August 5, 6, 7

Robert Steenrod

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17;
Indianapolis, IN, August 7

John Wojnar

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17
Boston, MA, August 28

Richard Piquone

Minneapolis, MN, July 2, 3; Chester Springs, PA
Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17; Independence, KS, August
7

Jon Hanning

Muskegon, MI, August 14

Lawrence Williams

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17
Athens/Nelsonville, OH, July 3

Michael Hanning

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17; Iuka,
MS, August 7; North Canton, OH, August 21

Brandon Penney

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES

Kenneth Arends

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17;
Minneapolis, MN, August 6, 7; Grand Rapids, MI, August 28

Michael Dukette

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17;
Chester Springs, PA, August 27, 28

David Hanning

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17

Jesse Julien

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17

David Lounsbury

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17;
Pittsfield, MA, August 6; Springfield, MA, August 7

Roger Mullen

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17
New Haven CT, August 21

Ainsley Maine

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17

Lawrence William II

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17

Krzysztof Witko

Chester Springs, PA Convention July 14, 15, 16, 17
Carlstadt, PA, August 21

BIBLE STANDARD MINISTRIES USA 2016 CONVENTIONS

Chester Springs, PA July 14, 15, 16, 17

***Site:** Wyndham Garden Hotel, 815 Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA
(Corner of Rt. 100 and Gordon Dr.) 19341. Phone: 1-610-363-
1100. Rates and Reservations: \$89.00 plus tax, Breakfast Buffet
furnished 15, 16, 17, Lunch Buffet furnished 15, 16. **Make
reservations directly with the hotel by June 14.** Mention you
are attending the Bible Standard Ministries Convention for the
special rate. For more information contact L. Lounsbury, 610-
827-7665. **Bible House Picnic, July 14,** 1156 St. Matthews
Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425. ***NOTE:** Formerly called Inn
at Chester Springs. (We held our conventions there for many years.)

Cincinnati, OH September 9, 10, 11

Site: Embassy Suites Hotel (same as in 2014), 4554 Lake Forest
Drive; Blue Ash, Ohio 45242. Phone 1-800-362-2779. Rates and
reservations: \$109/night for King non-smoking and \$119/night
for Double non-smoking (plus tax). Rate includes a "free" made-
to-order hot breakfast each day. Lunch is provided by the class on
Friday and Saturday. **Make reservations directly with the hotel
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Bible Standard Ministries Convention for the special rate. For
inquiries contact J. Williams, 513-312-2341

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