

Glorious Gospel Publication



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LOVING THE LORD

has rich reward



HIS PROMISE

Are we able to joyfully, trustingly, lovingly sing; “It will be worth it all or more than worth it all, when we see Jesus.?” Are we aware of what he has promised?

“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he **hath promised to them that love him?**” James 2:5. “Hearken, beloved brethren.” He has called the members of His loving family to listen, get a holy grasp on this, by giving earnest attention, for spiritual focus.

He has promised to his chosen, poor of this world, rich in faith, an enriching heritage for those that love him, and embrace HIS promises. Especially the promised **riches of God’s grace**. See Heb. 11:13.

HIS PURPOSE

“And we know 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. God knows if our Love toward Him is real. It eventually becomes evident. “...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. and if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him.” 1 Cor. 8:1-3. See also Gal. 6:3, & 1 Tim. 6:4.

HIS PREPARATION

Jesus in love told His disciples on His way to the cross and back to heaven, “...**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.” Jn. 14:2 & 3.

1 Cor. 2:9-12, “But as it is written, 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**. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” 1 Cor. 2:9-12.

In his preparation our eyes are enlightened, our ears are opened, and our hearts are enriched unto spiritual understanding. “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.” Rom. 5:5.

HIS PRESENCE

2 Tim. 4:6-8: Loving our Lord’s appearing promotes a good fight of faith. It thus produces a faithful finish to our course, and the retaining of our God-given faith on the way. Such proves the sincerity **of our Love**, and does not allow any passive attitude about His coming again, but there is urgency abounding. The hope of our Lord’s coming prepares us in readiness to be poured out like a drink offering, with the time of our departure being at hand. Henceforth, there is laid up for

us a crown of righteousness for all of those who longingly yearn, eagerly await, wholeheartedly welcome Him.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.” Rev. 22:17. They are singing in harmony in love for our Lord’s appearing. These have been overcoming the leaving of their first (Preeminent) love.

by J. D.

Banner of Love

“He brought me to the banqueting house, And
His banner over me was love”—Song of Solomon 2:4

He took me into His banqueting house;
There were dainties rare from above;
Waving high o’er that bountiful table
Was His beautiful banner of love.

His banner is flying o’er me
In times of bliss or distress;
Those arms of love enfold me
To comfort and caress.

This banner is ever flying
High in the sky like a dove.
Oh, won’t you share in this banquet
Under His banner of love?

—Beula Clark



More of T hee

Not what I am, O Lord, but what Thou art,
That, that alone can be my soul's true rest;
Thy love, not mine, bids fear and doubt depart,
And stills the tempest of my throbbing heart.

Thy name is Love, I hear it from yon cross;
Thy name is Love, I hear it from yon tomb:
All meaner love is perishable dross,
But this shall light me through times thickest gloom.

Girt with the love of God on every side,
Breathing that love as heaven's own healing air,
I work or wait, still following my Guide,
Braving each foe, escaping every snare.

'Tis what I know of Tee, my Lord, my God,
That fills my soul with peace, my lips with song;
thou are my health, my joy, my staff and rod;
Leaning on Thee, in weariness I am strong.

More of Thyself, O show me hour by hour;
More of Thy glory, O my God and Lord;
More of Thyself, in all Thy grace and power;
More of Thy love and truth, Incarnate Word.

— H. B.



THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance” II Peter 1:12-13.

Many of us have heard the truth preached concerning the soon coming of the Lord for years and years. It is characteristic of the flesh to get sleepy and forgetful of the promises of God, especially if we have to wait for a long time for their fulfillment. The Apostle Peter recognized this and was prompted by the Holy Spirit to “stir up” the minds of the saints. The words “stir up” in the Greek mean, “to wake fully, i.e. arouse, arise, raise up.” Apostle Peter wants to stir us up by way of our memories. He does this by reminding us of God having “given unto us exceeding great and precious promises...” (I Peter 1:4). Peter had a concern that the saints he wrote to might forget these promises after he passed from this life to be with Christ. (Vs. 15). He endeavored to remind them of all the blessed truth so that it would be real and living in their hearts and lives even after he had departed to be with the Lord. He had no idea that over 2,000 years after he wrote these things we would be reading his Holy Spirit inspired message written with such diligence.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians encouraging them concerning the danger of falling asleep in a spiritual sense in I Thessalonians 5:6. “Therefore let us not sleep as do others; that that day should overtake you as a thief.” Someone who is asleep is oblivious to events around him. He is not aware of danger lurking near by. So it is with many believers in our day. They

have heard about the soon coming of Christ and the impending wrath of God, which is about to be released upon the earth, but their ears have grown dull and unresponsive to the Holy Spirit's voice. That is one thing that we can be assured of is that the Holy Spirit does do His job well. He speaks warning, but if there is no response after repeated tries, He sometimes seems to back off for a while. Often He allows circumstances to come into the sleepy believer's life to stir him up. That is the faithfulness of the Lord! How precious that He cares for His children and woos them and deals with them in love, trying to get the response He desires. What He wants is close fellowship. So, He deals with us in love to draw us into wakefulness. Praise God for His gracious working in us!

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, his son in the faith, II Timothy 1:6, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and love, and of a sound mind." Timothy began to follow Paul at a very early age. He was a faithful minister of the Gospel. It had been some years since he followed Paul on missionary journeys where the power of God was manifest in such marvelous ways, in healings, deliverances from demons and miraculous signs of the manifest power of God blessing their ministry. At this time though, Paul was in prison. It looked like his ministry was over.

This chapter of II Timothy indicates that Timothy was fearful, and perhaps ashamed of what had happened to the great Apostle Paul. It looked like defeat for the message of Grace which Paul preached. It looked like the ministry was over. Would not we react in fear also, if we were Timothy? But Paul says, "Timothy don't be fearful, but stir up the gift that is in thee." These words "stir up" mean, "to rekindle." The gift Paul is referring to seems to be the infilling of the Holy Spirit, which Timothy had received as Paul placed his hands upon him and prayed, because

in the next verse (7) Paul speaks that God hasn't given Timothy the "spirit of fear, but of power."

Haven't we all gone through dry spells in our spirit, times when the Holy Spirit was not outwardly moving? These times are times to stand by faith on God's promises. But, there are also times when we may not be yielding to the Holy Spirit as we should. In those times, we should take this admonition to "stir up the gift" that is in us. How? I think it comes through prayer and fellowship with the Lord, and fellowship with the saints. Others do encourage us by their attitudes, prayers, praise to the Lord and the precious Word of God they speak or write to us. We cannot stir up the Spirit by carnal fleshly means. Some try to do this by singing faster, clapping louder and shouting more exuberantly. Don't get me wrong. Clapping is scriptural and shouting can be of the Lord, but there are things that one may do which are just fleshly enthusiasm. This stirs up the religious flesh, but does not really bring about Spiritual worship. It is good to take our liberty in worship as the Holy Spirit directs, but worship should never be just a frizzy of the flesh. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, we will "worship the Father in Spirit and in truth" (John 4:23,24). How precious to yield to the demonstration of the Holy Spirit! I Cor. 12:7 speaks of the "Manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." The word "manifestation," means "exhibition, expressions, or bestowments." This is for the profit of all the believers in that local assembly. Often times as one member of the body really yields to the Holy Spirit, it is like a spark that ignites others to praise the Lord also.

Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4:30, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God..." The word "grieve" in the text means "to sorrow or make sorry." The Holy Spirit wants to have full rein in our lives. If the Holy Spirit wants to use us in some way and we resist His direction, that grieves the Spirit. Divine order is the

order of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 14:40.) Formalism comes from ancient tradition of the apostate church. We have to guard against religious formalism, but most importantly, let the Holy Spirit operate in our services. Of course there are other ways that the Holy Spirit is grieved, i.e. sin, division, unforgiveness and judgmentalness. All these and many other things grieve the Holy Spirit. In I Thessalonians 5:19, Paul exhorts, “Quench not the Spirit.” This word means “to extinguish or put out.” The Holy Spirit is a fire. On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, cloven tongues like fire sat upon each of the recipients. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we don’t experience the fire in this way, but we are set on fire in the presence of the Lord. The admonition to not “quench” the Spirit is the way to guarantee our heart is stirred and on flame in the Lord. The admonition is, “Don’t let anything put out the bright flame of the Spirit’s moving.” “Don’t let the flesh be glorified, which detracts from the glory being totally given to the Lord.” “Don’t let anything suppress the working of the Spirit in the midst of the Assembly.”

I remember the old days when the Spirit’s power was so manifest in signs and wonders, great healings. At times, I have wondered why we don’t see as much manifestation as we did in the past. One answer is that we perhaps don’t yield to the Holy Spirit as much as in the earlier times. Perhaps it is because we need to “stir up” the gift that is within us. Have our hearts grown cold to the working of the Lord. The times we live in are so evil and dark, but we still have the same Holy Spirit. Also, all the saints are going through severe trials of various kinds. They seem greater than before. The Lord is working the finishing touches on our lives to make us ready for the upward call to that place with Him as the Bride of Christ. Let’s be ready! “My heart is aglow with a vehement flame to win the Beloved as mine, All else I forego to be called by His name; United in wedlock divine.” (Song 107 Grace and Glory Song Book).

What Makes You Cry?

by Craig Crook

Jn. 11:35: "Jesus wept." Why would the Eternal Son of God, who knows the beginning from the end of everything weep? What could possibly make the Lion of Judah cry? As I considered this verse and Luke 19:41, I had to stop and ask myself some very personal questions. I would like to ask you these questions also.

What causes you to cry? What things or situations in life makes your heart to sorrow and brings tears to your eyes? Could this be a good indicator of our priorities, of our spiritual condition? Does this not tell us what things are really important to us. Doesn't a child weep when he loses his favorite toy? When the family pet dies doesn't the little girl shed tears of grief? When the son dies, does not the mother weep?

Many have known such grief at the lose of a job or wealth or a loved one that have committed suicide! And we could go on to list many, many more situations and reasons that cause people to cry and shed tears. What about you? What causes you to cry? Let's look at some examples in scripture:

Judges 2:4: When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, Why did they weep? Because they were convicted of their sins! When we hear the word of God and it convicts us of sin in our lives it should cause us to weep!

Notice the reaction of these who came face to face with the One who knows the heart: Mt. 19:16-22, There was one thing lacking in his life and we are told it made him sad, but

did it cause him to weep? We don't know but I wonder if this is the case with many of us. When the Spirit convicts of "lack" in our lives we are sad but do not weep! Lk. 4:23-28, These became furious but did not weep! Mk. 11:15-18, not only did these not weep at their sin, but their hearts grew even harder to the point of murder! Lk. 22:62; Act_2:36-37 - at last the right reaction! Oh that the word of God might have this effect on us! Heb. 4:12-13: If we will allow the word of God to do its work it may cause sorrow for a moment but oh! what wonderful fruit for eternity! 2 Cor. 7:8-11;

Ezra 10:1: While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly. (notice how his reaction had an effect on others!)

When we see or hear of sin in the life of our brother or sister it should cause us to weep!! But is that our reaction? When was the last time you saw this happen? When someone has fallen in sin the saints gather together and cry out to God and weep because God's holy word has been trespassed? Ezra 9:3 Ezra was appalled [NIV]. Strong's: to stun (or intransitively grow numb), that is, devastate or (figuratively) stupefy - make amazed, be astonished. What is your reaction to sin? Oh well? What can I do? Does it make no impact on us? When was the last time you tore your clothes & pulled out your hair? If we don't do that maybe we should at least sit before the Lord appalled, devastated, and weep!!

Mt. 7:1-5: I believe the best way to get that speck out of your eye would be with tears! Didn't God create a whole mechanism to cleanse the eye of dirt. Maybe there's a spiritual application there! Ps. 119:136 - Why did the Psalmist cry? First because sin is an offense against a Holy God. But it also brings death; loss to us, loss to our brother.

1 Cor. 5: - This is how we are to judge; not in pride but with sorrow and meekness! Remember! Gal. 6:1.

Neh 1:4: When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. When we see the condition of the church of God it should cause us to weep! I'm not talking about that "church" that will be God's final work; that will be glorious and without spot. I'm talking about us - today; now, here. When you look at the church in general what do you see? When you look at your assembly what do you see? Is it according to God's plan? God's purposes? Is it fulfilling God's will in this world? Or should you be weeping? (divorce, scandals, sexual immorality, high living, division, etc.)

Lk. 19:41: As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it. V. 42, and said, If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

There is a man in the old testament known as the "weeping prophet". What do you think he wept for? Oh he had plenty to cry about: no food, no friends, lots of enemies, time in prison, no appreciation, and the list goes on!! He did have moments of despair and self pity, but the one thing he wept about more than anything else were the people! (church) Jer. 9:1; 13:17; 14:17; Lam. 1:16. Notice the words that Jeremiah uses: the slain, taken captive, grievous wound, a crushing blow, destitute. These are the words the Crying Prophet uses to describe the children of Israel. Now think of those you know of the children of God and see if these words don't apply to them! If they do shouldn't we be weeping?

Well what good does weeping do anyhow? Remember we said it shows what things we really care for; what is

important to us. There's a saying;"it's no use crying over spilt milk." Why? Because crying won't change the fact that the milk has been spilt and will not 'unspill' it. I believe that in our lives crying can accomplish God's will. It is true that what we or others sow will be reaped, but our God is a merciful God and He deals with us as children and He does restore.

2 Kings 22:19: Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people, that they would become accursed and laid waste, and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD.

Joel 2:12-21: I know this is a prophecy for Israel but is He not our God also? We could say this is a call for pastors and they have a great responsibility, but today are we not all priests before God?

Notice the reaction of David to Saul's death. Oh well, what can you do? He had fallen in sin. He got what was coming to him. NO! 2 Sam. 1:11, Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. 2 Sam. 1:12, They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. David was a man after God's own heart!! Are you??

I believe that the people of God need to weep more & weep for the right reasons!! Lk. 6:20, Looking at his disciples, he said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. V.21, Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Moderation

Part 10

Doug Delhay

Philippians 4:5 - *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

For emphasis, let me begin this writing with a statement made in the last segment of this study regarding Paul's declaration in Philippians 3:11. I wrote that Paul "sought by whatever means necessary to arrive at that place in his life before God where he would be raised up out of the things that were unprofitable or contrary to the will of God, and up into the things that were well-pleasing to Him that so loved him." The power of the resurrection is at work in each of our lives at this very moment (Eph. 1:18-20), not to raise us bodily out of this world (for this will be accomplished with a word as when Jesus commanded Lazarus to "*come forth*"), but to raise us spiritually out of the things which are unprofitable toward the calling of God in our lives that we might be ready to be raised up out of this world and receive an overcomer's reward.

The appropriate day for our bodily resurrection will certainly come. It is upon this hope that the child of God finds precious rest and peace. Likewise, this great hope serves to motivate us to pursue the things of God today because today is the appropriate day for us to be raised up out of the unprofitable things which abound in this realm of death. Today is the day for us to be personally identified with Paul's observations and conclusions in Philippians 3:7-10 that we might join in the heavenly pursuit upon his heart in verse 11. Today is the day to leave behind the unprofitable, life-consuming things which

are gain to us, but loss for Christ. The **fact of Christ in us changes everything about us**, and this is to be manifested in our lives in practical matters. It is the presence of the resurrected Christ that lives in us that cries out for the pursuit of those glorious, eternal things that are given so abundantly by the Father (Galatians 2:20). It is the Spirit of adoption within us that cries out, “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15).

At this point, we must look again at the word “attain” in the first part of verse 11. It basically means to “come to, or arrive at”. Paul sought to come to the place where he would be disengaged from the unprofitable things of this life and fully engaged in the perfect will of God. In saying this, he spoke of a spiritual attainment to be had in this life. One would think that Paul had already reached such a state, and, apparently, some of his contemporaries thought so, too. But, as previously discussed regarding verse 12, Paul debunked the thought that he had reached the state of such spiritual completeness in his life, but that he was pressing forward that he might “*apprehend*” it. Perhaps others thought that Paul had “arrived” (spiritually speaking), but he knew he hadn’t. He was still very much actively running the race set before him.

Philippians 3:12 reads, “*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*” The purpose of God in his life had not yet been fully realized. Though he had accomplished glorious things through the power of God and in his role as a “*chosen vessel*” (Acts 9:15), he knew he was not yet fully come to the place where the Lord sought to bring him. Yes, Jesus had apprehended Paul through redemption because He loved him (as He also loves all mankind), but there was yet a purpose within this purpose that Paul sought to have fulfilled in his life. There was a calling, a high calling, of God in Christ Jesus that Paul valued more

than his own life and will. To be transformed by the power of God so as to completely attain to that calling was his all-consuming desire. He sought to be fully **moderated**.

The word “perfect” in this verse expands our understanding of the spiritual drive in Paul’s heart. This word does not imply flawlessness, but a completion, an accomplishment, a finishing of something begun. The word is translated as “finished” in John 17:4 when Jesus was praying and said that He had “*finished the work*” that the Father had given him to do. It is translated as “who is consecrated” in Hebrews 7:28. It is clear that Paul knew there was yet spiritual work to be completed in his life before the Lord. The deep works of the soul that are necessary in an intimate relationship with God are not always recognizable even to the spiritually minded around us.

The word “apprehend(ed)” in verses 12 & 13 is defined in Strong’s Concordance as “to take eagerly, i.e. seize, possess, etc. (literally or figuratively): apprehend, attain, come upon, comprehend, find, obtain, perceive, (over-) take.” It is found in John 1:5 and Ephesians 3:18 translated as “comprehend”, and in John 12:35 as “come upon”, all of which bring out quite clearly that there is a struggle or overcoming that is involved in the process of gaining control of something. It is used in Mark 9:18 in describing the action of the “*dumb spirit*” that would “*take*” the man’s son and tear him (among other things). It is an intentional quest that is undertaken for the purpose of gaining that which one does not currently have in possession. It is to struggle to gain something for oneself or gain control over that which one does not control.

On the other side of the issue, what Paul states he is seeking to take possession of is the very thing for which he was apprehended of Christ Jesus. Looking at the same definitions and uses of the word, we gain an insight into the nature of the

work of our Redeemer who, “*though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*” (II Corinthians 8:9). The pattern that Paul followed in his departure from that which was of personal benefit to that which was of benefit to God is the heart and soul of the selfless, gracious love of our Saviour. We have been apprehended by Christ Jesus our Lord that (to name a few things) we might be partakers of His glory, that we might know the one true God, that we might be one with Him and the Father, and that we might be made free to have life and that more abundantly. We have been redeemed for a reason. We have been apprehended by God for purposes that we have yet to discover and that only eternity can unfold.

And it is the wonder of this gracious love and purpose that turned Paul’s heart to “*follow after*” or “*persecute*” (as the word is most commonly translated in the New Testament) the calling of God in Christ. “*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*” (2 Corinthians 5:14). We have been begotten again unto a living hope, a new life, an unending destiny of holy pleasure in the presence of God, yet for a short time we are ordained to remain in this world as the reality of who and what we are steadily encroaches upon the territory that we used to think was all our own. We discover from scripture that, as Christians, we are not our own, but we have been bought with a price. To seek to remain our own is to struggle against the fact that we have already been apprehended. To embrace the fact that such great, divine Love has sought us out for eternal purposes, and to pursue the hope of that Love to its full end at any cost is an unworldly scene. It is a precious, glorious apprehending of that which belongs to the Almighty God.

A GOOD REPORT

by Karen Mitchell

I want to thank those of you who have prayed for my 92-year-old Jewish father's salvation and let you know those prayers have been answered! Some of you may not be aware of the situation, but I thought you might find the testimony encouraging.

I have been praying for my dad's salvation for almost 25 years. He was once an agnostic but in recent years became a full-fledged atheist. He finally became sick enough to move from Missouri to Wichita about a year ago and has been living in a nursing home. He suffers from dementia as well as numerous medical problems. I've tried sharing the Gospel with him many times, and several times he came very close to believing but could never quite take the step to surrender. Kelly (my daughter) has had several dreams about him, but one that she had about two years ago perfectly described what was going on. She saw him with a bright light shining down on him, but his hand was up shielding his eyes from the light. The interpretation was pretty obvious. We knew God was working on him but just didn't know if he would ever really be able to believe.

Dementia was a significant problem. One time I read him the poem, "footprints," and some related material that deeply moved him. He thanked me several times for sharing it with him. the next day he didn't remember a thing and wasn't interested in God anymore.

At the end of December, he became very sick with a septic infection but pulled through. A few weeks later, he suddenly

collapsed into a semi-conscious state. The doctor diagnosed it as dehydration and bacterial endocarditis (infection around the heart). Possible stroke may have been another issue. the nursing home began a six-week course of intravenous antibiotic therapy with a very poor prognosis - but the doctor thought it was worth a try.

At this point, I felt I could say no more about the Lord. I felt all I could do was pray and trust God to move in a sovereign way to reveal Himself to my dad. I figured He could do that in a dream if necessary, but I felt the Lord wanted me to take my hands off and let Him do the work.

During this time a couple of men in our church (which had never met my dad, there was so reason for them to care) felt led to visit my dad and pray with him and for him. They really talked to him about his soul and strongly sensed that God was there with them. At one point, my dad reached up and held the hand of one of the men. However, they left his room not knowing if they had penetrated my dad's seemingly confused state.

Within a couple of days, my dad began to become more lucid. Last Friday, he told me there were a lot of things to talk about. He was still having trouble expressing himself, but with some assistance, he told me he "definitely" believes in Jesus Christ and that's what he's counting on to get him into heaven. The next day he remembered our conversation and also told me about the two men who came to see him. He said, "There was a very nice discussion about God." He thought that was probably when he asked the Lord into his life. I said, "Praise the Lord," and he said, "Yes, praise the Lord."

I was still pinching myself to see if this was real when he told me that God seems like such a wonderful person. He said it with such feeling that it seemed like he must really know God.

I asked my dad if he would like me to bring him some music to listen to. I was planning to bring Christian music, but I didn't want to mention that at first. He has always enjoyed classical music, and I figured he might think that's what I meant. He said, no, he really wasn't interested. I said, "What if it's music about God?" He said, "Well, that would be nice." He also told me that he's talking to God just like he talks to me, and God is talking to him, too.

One could tend to doubt such a conversion of a person with dementia, but considering all the things my dad has said, I believe it's a genuine conversion. We'll see what happens. He's starting to have more blood sugar problems again and was much more confused tonight. Maybe his mind cleared enough for a few days just so that I would know what was going on?

One Sunday about a year ago we had a day of fasting and prayer at church. My husband asked the group to pray for my dad. As they began to pray the Spirit of God came down and a group of people began to really cry out for my dad's soul. My husband said he had never in his life felt such an anointing to intercede. God was obviously in this.

Also, a couple of months ago Kelly had another dream. She said my dad was very sick and unconscious. He woke up briefly to say, "I have such a peace. I have such a deep peace." Then he died. this was encouraging but I have to admit, I didn't quite have the faith that this was going to happen.

Once again, thank you to those who have stood with us in prayer. I thought it might be encouraging to some who are looking for answers to long-term prayer. There were soooooo many times we were tempted to give up, but God always come along to encourage us to keep praying and working.



Prayer

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Utter'd or unexpress'd;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sight,
The falling of a tear,
the upward glancing of the eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.

The saints in prayer appear as one
In word, and deed, and mind;
While with the Father and the Son
Sweet fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made by man alone:
the Holy Spirit pleads;
and Jesus, on the eternal Throne,
For mourners intercedes.

O Thou, by whom we come to God!
The Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod:
I lift my voice and pray!

—Selected

The Purpose of God Fulfilled in Christ

Arthur Eggers

Phase 1 - Christ Before His Birth On Earth

Jn. 1:1-4 “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.”

We do not try to prove the existence of God here any more than in Genesis. The Bible is written to those who believe God is a living eternal being. We either believe God’s eternal existence, the Creator and all powerful, or the Bible means nothing, it is just another fictional book. We want to focus on the power of the Word; developed in three parts:

(1) God’s **plan and purpose**: to have a body of holy people like Him that He could have fellowship. Why not the angels? I am sure He could have fellowship with them, but they couldn’t reproduce.

(2) God’s **prospect**, He created Adam and Eve to spread out all His goodness by reproduction, but this was lost because of disobedience.

(3) His **protocol**, God made treaties over and over with fallen man in which man could not keep because of sin in the flesh.

(1) In the beginning was the Word: Before creation God’s Son was known as “**the word**” used three times in our text. In verse 2 “the same” is a pronoun and could be “He” or “this very one.” In verses 3 & 4 the word “him” is used three times, this makes “the word” a being and not just something said.

“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;” Col.1:19. Also “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,” Col. 2:9. “By **the word** of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them *by the breath of his mouth*. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Ps. 33:6-9.

There are several things to note about “**the word of Jehovah.**” All the heavens made, that is every thing from the earth upward. Heaven and earth seem to be the order of creation. The heavens was first, including “all the host of the heaven;” the space between the sun’s planets and God’s throne including the angels. The phrase “Under the sun” is used 29 times in Ecclesiastes.

The phrase “He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses,” this happened after creation, between Gen. 1:1&2. Our part is we simply believe. reverently standing in awe of him. We believe that “He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

It was all done by **the breath of his mouth**, the all powerful Son of God. Jer. 10:12 - “He hath made the earth (1) by **his power**, he hath established the world (2) by **his wisdom**, and hath stretched out the heavens (3) by **his discretion**, (intelligence).” This same one was in the beginning with God.

(2) And the Word was with God; it was a joint effort. The phrase “with God” in “pros” used with the accusative case, presents a plane of equality. This personal fellowship on equal basis was the joint power of creation. The thought is they had the same purpose, their mind was in perfect harmony, they

wanted a body of people like themselves, absolutely holy and impossible to fail. We will see how this was done later.

After creation they made man to fulfill God's purpose. Now we must distinguish the difference between God's eternal purpose and His individual purpose. The first is unchangeable the second is changed to fulfill His eternal purpose. Gen. 1:26 - "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" The pronouns "us" and "our" expresses more than one person with the same likeness. They made man different from all the other creatures, they made a triune man with spirit, soul and body. So the same breath that created before is still working. Gen. 2:7 - "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." That is the spirit of life making him a living creature. I Cor. 15:45 - "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening (life giving) spirit." Elihu said in Job 32:8, "But there is a spirit in man: and **the inspiration of the Almighty** (same as breath in Gen. 2:7) giveth them understanding." Furthermore he said in Job 33:4, "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." Man still has this same spirit that is called a conscience, even in a fallen state; it was passed down by his parents.

(3) And the Word was God: God did not leave His Son out of the work after creation but worked together in dealings with man. Christ is called "**The angel of the Lord**" and is first mentioned four times in Gen. 16:7-13. "And she called **the name of the LORD** that spake unto her, Thou **God seest me:** for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?" This is no doubt Christ before His incarnation, yet in His glorified form as being only deity. She called His name Jehovah or self existing saying, thou **the Almighty** seest me. Not realizing this was God until after He was gone. It was

thought to look upon God they would surely die. So she asks; have I gazed on the one who can see me and know my sinful condition? Yes, you have but only by His mercy and grace.

The next time we see the pre-incarnate Christ is in Gen. 22:11. “And **the angel of the LORD** called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, here am I.” Seeing that Abraham was willing to offer his only son on the altar God spoke to him from heaven. Then in Verses 15-16, “And **the angel of the Lord** called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time. And said, **By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord**, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son.” No one else except God can swear by himself.

Then Moses in Ex. 3:2, “And **the angel of the LORD** appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the mist of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.” Verse 4 - “And when **the LORD** saw that he turned aside to see, **God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.” Verse 6 - “Moreover he said, **I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.” Here The “angel of the Lord” is called Lord and said, “I am the God of thy father...” This same Angel led Moses; in Ex. 32:34 - God said, “**mine Angel** shall go before thee.” Ex. 33:2 - “And I will send an angel before thee.” In Joshua 5:14 - “**The captain of the host of the LORD**” was there for them, God called them His wife and dealt with them as His woman but they could not produce His holiness. (Isa. 54:6; Jer. 3:20) They needed to know their inability to keep God’s law that would produce holiness that would fulfill God’s purpose. Rom. 8:3, “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the

likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” God produces a new law, He called “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,” that would make them free from the law of sin and death. Verse 2, But their eyes were blinded to see their need. God has not given up on them yet.

Phase 2 next issue

Announcement

Memorial Day Fellowship meeting May 28th
Grace Christian Assembly
2309 Blue Ridge Blvd., K. C. MO
Starting at 10:00 A M, noon meal and afternoon meeting.

Quotes

God created the world out of nothing. As long as you are not yet nothing. God cannot make something out of you.

Martin Luther

—o—

The Bible is broad as life, having,
indeed, the same Author.

Schmauk

—o—