

# Glorious Gospel Publication



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# LET US RUN



*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **LET US RUN** with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”*  
*Heb. 12:1-4*

The Word of God uses the symbolism of running, to express spiritual progress. The Scripture is full of instruction that would promote and encourage spiritual progress. We are encouraged to consider, **the path to the throne, the price of the crown, and the pace of the race.**

## THE PATH TO THE THRONE

We are blessed to know of Moses, Joseph, David, and Daniel and many others that God brought to places of prominence for fulfillment of His purposes. We may learn much from God’s Testimony of the course of their lives. See Heb. 11 as somewhat a summery on successful runners. Their paths involved **ASCENDING LEVELS**, but also covered **HUMILIATING EXPERIENCES**. God allowed obstacles, hurdles, opportunities to overcome, as well as the wherewith to get there with. “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and

the young shall utterly fall: But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall *run* and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” Isa. 40:30,31. I am told that the word translated “wait” here, expresses to bind together by twisting, and to look forward with assurance.

Paul urges runners of this church age to “follow me as I follow Christ.” We know how Our dear Lord descended first unto the death of the cross, and yet to later become the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Paul (Saul) had been brought down, and down and down. When Paul was told that bonds and afflictions awaited him, on his way, he spoke of not being moved off course, that he finish his course with joy. Thank God we know he did. Acts 20:24; 2 Tim. 4:5-8. Thank God we are challenged to finish our course also! The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. – Pro. 4:18.

Today’s spiritual racer is to be moved as motivated by love for the lover of our souls. “Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. Draw me, we will *run* after thee: The king hath brought me into his chambers; we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.” SOS. 1:3,4. His magnetic love sets the Spiritual runner in motion and spurs him on the way.

Running from here to glory we will find that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither the bread to the wise...in other words the successor in this race is *run* by being dependant absolutely upon Lord. Ecc. 9:11. The race that we are given to run is not just a dash, that’s over quickly. It is more than a cross country race, or even across the universe, It is across our life span.

“Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight saith the Lord.” Jer. 9:23,24 It is exceedingly wonderful to enter into an ever increasing and intimate knowledge of our Lord. What-all He does, and wherein He delights, may fill our grasp and thrill our beings, with ever increasing fervor! Our path to the throne is being covered by the meek and lowly, as God determines our way. Mt. 11:28-30. Yet we are always urged to come boldly to the throne of grace.

### **THE PRICE OF THE CROWN**

If we are aware that it will cost us everything, do we know that it will be more than worth it all? We will encounter difficulty and suffer the loss of selfish gains, that we have counted loss for Him. Phil. 3:7,8. **SUFFERING WITH HIM WILL PREPARE US TO REIGN WITH HIM.** 2 Tim. 2:10-12. There is pressure and pain that comes to us from being identified with Jesus Christ and His cross; but how could we do or be less, when we consider how He identified with us in our fallen condition, to deliver us from total loss. He wearing a crown of thorns was preparing for us a throne of glory. A crown is being shaped for us, or rather we are being shaped for a crown. All that we may run after in the realm of eternal reward, is to be gained by the power of the Spirit. “Not by power nor by might but by my spirit saith the Lord.” Zec. 4:6. We are to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. Eph. 3:16. Be faithful unto death and receive a crown of life. Rev. 2:10. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised them that love Him.” James 1:12.

## THE PACE OF THE RACE

Let us RUN WITH *PATIENCE* the race that is set before us. There are those that seem to pick up so quickly on the message of grace, and yet fail to run on when disappointments arise. We earnestly pray for such. We sincerely enjoy their early enthusiasm. We are also aware that the time left to run is swiftly passing. Some believers think of our race as one burst or speed, and its over. Our Father determines the needed details of each believer's race. We are urged to make steady progress ever moving forward, never standing still, but going on in God's will! Paul admonishes us, **“So run that ye may obtain.”** See 1 Cor. 9:24-27. We do well to run with spiritual discipline, being temperate in all things, and staying focused on Jesus, **the prize of the high calling.** Believers are promised incorruptible crowns of life, gold, glory, & joy. We are taught to participate according to the rules of the race, or else be disqualified to be a prize winner. 2 Tim. 2:5. Oh what Joy awaits us to have crowns to cast at our beloved Lord's Feet to glorify Him. Rev. 4: 4-11.

**Seeing that great a cloud of witnesses, you are not alone.** Thank God for those that ran their race before us. They are inspiring examples; “A great cloud of witnesses.” Being aware of the success they enjoyed by running their race with patience, let us be encouraged in running ours. Praise God for those that are still running. It takes a while, Thus we must run with patient endurance. It is thrilling to consider those of Hebrews 11:32-40. They faced so many great difficulties, and were so marvelously victorious. Oh, what a cloud, hallelujah what a crowd!!! Real champions! Do you believe that God recorded their's *for our benefit*? Amen. It is good to see that their's was not run in vain. Faith and patience was and will be rewarded. Heb.11:39,40 seems to indicate that those winners await our

coming into our reward before they come into their full enjoyment. Why would they not pull for us, to cheer us on.

Let us run, laying aside every weight and besetting sin. There are things that would hinder and bind us and wear us down, and unbelief that would cause us to carry a weary-some load. Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. We do well to look to the Lord for the wisdom to determine between that which is a weight or a wing, and use wisely.

**LET US RUN, *looking unto Jesus*** the author and finisher of our faith. He is the reason for our running; the object and motivator, the prize, the everlasting joy set before us, as well as the enabler. We can do all things through Him that strengthens us. He endured the cross to win us, and makes us more than conquerors. Considering the race he ran with such all consuming love, must be our ultimate motivation. Let us run with the time we have left, by His Grace, on his pace, until we behold Him face to face, Who has set down at the right hand of the throne of God. He also makes intercession for us.

*Run for the prize, brother, Run for the Prize,  
Heed not the tempter's voice, whatever the guise;  
Speed up your going, brother, Sluggishness despise;  
Leave the worldly church behind, And run for the Prize.*

*Press on the pathway, brother, sound no retreat,  
Keep in the front rank, never know defeat;  
Let no man take your crown nor pass you swiftly by,  
Stepping on the gas, my brother, win tho' you die.*

# THE LAST DAYS



Anita Clark

**“I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day.” Psalms 91:2,4,5.**

Every time we read the news lately, all we see is “Terror! Terror! Terror!” If we did not know the Lord, how would we cope with all the threats? Al Qaida threatens to perform some horrible deeds in the near future against the U.S.A. Experts agree that the purpose of these pronouncements is to instill fear in the public as a broader terror campaign. The powers of darkness are at work to destroy our nation using any means they can. However, since God is in control, He may be allowing these things to judge our nation for its ungodliness. He says concerning His judgment of Israel of old, “I will pour out My indignation upon thee, I will blow against thee in the fire of My wrath, and deliver thee into the hand of brutish men, and skilled to destroy.”(Ezk. 21:31).

The investigation on the 9-11 World Trade Center attacks shows how subtle that the satanic forces were, and how ill prepared we were. Preparations have been made to increase our ability to guard against that kind of attack again, but most authorities say that it could easily happen again, and do not believe it will be possible to stop the terrorist.

In the last ten days three Americans have been killed by Al Qaida, two of which were kidnapped and then, beheaded. Today's report from Saudi Arabia of the beheading of Paul Johnson, U.S. Citizen, nationalist helicopter mechanic, who was taken captive by Al Qaida, radical Islamic extremist a few days ago, was a startling reminder of how brutal and barbaric these terrorist are. The motive behind these kidnappings is anti-Semitism and anti-Christianity. They want to destabilize the work force in Saudi Arabia, and are trying to drive out foreign nationals, whom they call Infidels.

The news reports from Iraq tell of car bombs and other explosions which kill many of the Iraqi people everyday, as well as U.S. troops. These acts are done by evil, satanically empowered men. The evil spirits that prompted Hitler in Nazi Germany to do the vile, despicable deeds and murders during WWII, are the same ones engineering the evil in the world today. Satan hates all of God's creation, especially man, and especially the Jews, and he is continually conniving to destroy us, and all the works and creation of God Almighty.

What are we to do? Despair? Give up? No! We will stand in the strength of the Lord, our God! As believers we claim His protection over us. He may allow more severe disasters to come on the U.S.A. He is trying to awaken us (majority of citizens of the U.S.A.) out of the stupor that Satan has gotten us into. These incidents of terror show us that Christ's coming is very near. The Scripture says, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." II Tim. 3:13. We will experience the increase of all manner of evil, until Christ comes and sets all things right.

**RISK OF RADIOACTIVE "DIRTY BOMB" GROWING -** According to New Scientist, magazine evidence gathered by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency states, "The risk

of somebody, somewhere triggering a radioactive ‘dirty bomb’ is growing.” This assumption is based on the fact that there is a dramatic rise in smuggling of radioactive materials of the kind that could be used in dirty bombs but not in nuclear bombs. Over the past 11 years there has been 559 instances of confirmed cases of trafficking in radiological materials most of which was stolen from factories, hospitals or research labs.

Dirty bombs do not cause a nuclear explosion, but spread radioactive materials over a large area, which could cause widespread panic and contaminate buildings in the affected area making them unusable. Frank Barnaby, a nuclear consultant who used to work at the British atomic weapons plant, says. “A terrorist attack using a dirty bomb is a nightmare waiting to happen. I’m amazed that it hasn’t happened already.” A quote from New Scientist states, “The IAEA says there are still 1000 radioactive sources unaccounted for in Iraq, and 25 sources stolen from the Krakatau steel company in Indonesia in October 2000.

**ISRAELI SUCCESSFUL TEST ON LONG RANGE MISSILE** - This long range missile, test fired by Israeli Aircraft Industries, and propelled by solid fuel is meant to be shot from an artillery barrel. It is a long-range, near all weather guided missile. Israel has been successfully arming itself to combat any aggression from its enemies.

Poor Israel! They are going in their own strength, and not in the strength and help of the Lord. They will very soon go through tribulation time, unparalleled to anything they have ever suffered in the past. Anti-Christ will make a covenant for 7 years with them, and then break that treaty and persecute them with greater intensity than they have ever had before. Why? God will bring them to a place of utter dependence upon Him. “...They shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they

shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for His only son, and shall be in bitterness for His firstborn.” Zech. 12:10. “And all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.” Romans 11:26-27.

### **EGYPT HAS WARNED YASSER ARAFAT TO STEP DOWN FROM AUTHORITY OVER PALESTINIANS -**

This an interesting development. Recently, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon drew up another plan for the withdrawal of Israeli settlers from Gaza, and some of the West Bank settlements. This gesture is a genuine step toward disengagement with the Palestinians which is hoped to lead to peace with them.

Egypt’s intelligence chief has now warned Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat that it is time for him to turn all control of all security forces to Palestinian Prime Minister Qurei and give Qurei complete authority to conduct negotiations with Israel over Sharon’s unilateral disengagement plan. The deadline was set for June 15th. It is reported that Arafat plans to refuse the plan.

Very soon scenes will change. There will be a peace as prophesied in the Bible. It will be a false peace, but the world will not know that because they are not in tune with the prophetic words of the Bible. Peace that they now crave will be short lived, as the Scripture teaches that peace will be taken from the earth with yet another war. (Rev. 6). Time is short and is rolling forward at such a fast pace. The overcomers of the Church Age will be transported into the presence of the Lord before the false peace begins, as it will begin in the first few days of the seven years of tribulation. “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” (Matt.24:44).

**EU GROWING IN POWER AND PRESTIGE** - According to the EU Observer an internet study reports that by surveying EU citizens between 18 and 30, they have found that four-fifths of them consider themselves European citizens and two-thirds think the EU has a “positive future.” The poll published June 7 reveals that young citizens trust the EU more than the World Trade Organization, the United Nations or their own national governments. The EU is growing continually in world esteem and prestige. The EU is planning to create a position of President of the European Commission. Right now there is a six month head position which rotates among the member states. Javier Solano of Spain is again in the news desiring to be a candidate for this new important position. He now holds the position as of the EU’s Foreign Policy Chief. This man may be the coming Anti-christ. He is quite a go-getter, and up and coming political figure. We are impressed with the rapid rise of the EU and it’s political clout and financial in the world. We know that the Scripture foretells the revival of the Roman Empire in the end time, (Dan.2) out of which the “beast” (Rev. 13) will arise. Let us be warned!

**CHURCH DESTRUCTION IN CHINA** - A recent crackdown on unregistered churches that were built before 1950 and the Chinese Christian Manifesto, has brought about dozens of churches being leveled. Many of these were historical landmarks in communities. Many believers, who protested this destruction were hauled away to prison and severely beaten. The official state registered churches, who adhere to the Chinese Christian Manifesto, have been instrumental in identifying nonconforming Christians and their church buildings to be destroyed.

When I read reports like this my heart breaks for our fellow believers who are suffering so much for Christ. And, I also feel ashamed of all of us, who sit in our nice churches and half

heartedly yield to Christ. God will surely be the judge of these attitudes. Ask yourself, "How firmly would I stand if I was called upon to defy authority and stand for Christ, even though I would be persecuted and tortured?" Doesn't it make one to think? Saints of God, we are living in the last days of this age. Satan is lulling many of the saints of God to sleep. Let us rally the troops and press the battle for the end is in sight. The Lord Jesus Christ will appear any minute to take His waiting bride away. As for me, I desire that place with the Lord Jesus Christ as His bride to be with Him forever. Do you?

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**The July and August issues of our three magazines -"Glorious Gospel," "Higher Ground" and "King's Kids" are combined this month. The reason is a heavy work load and also Camp Joy Haven. The next issue will be September, the Lord willing.**



**O what a happy soul am I;  
Although I cannot see,  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be;  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't!  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot, and I won't!  
-Fanny Jane Crosby**

# ROMANS



W. J. Franklin

## Chapter 7:1-7

“Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?”—V. 1. Earlier in this book, Paul stated that we can have a righteousness apart from law—3:21; that the inheritance is not of law—4:14; then he states that sin is not imputed where there is no law—5:13; also, he states that the law came in that the offence might abound—5:20; then he states that we are not under the law—6:14. In this chapter he teaches how we became free from the law, the law here referring to the law of Moses. He teaches that it was by dying to the law. The old husband is not the law, but we were held by the law. The old husband is the old Adam. The new husband is Christ. The law has never died.

“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law of her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband”—V. 2. Paul’s illustration is one of marriage. This union is broken by death. In death, a woman’s union with her husband is brought to nothing, or it is rendered useless, unproductive, as the word “Loosed” means.

“So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adultress, though she be married to another man”—V. 3. Paul carries his illustration further by showing the necessity of death in dissolving the marriage bond. He is showing that we needed to die and did die in order to be free from the law, and the old Adam life, in order to be joined to Christ.

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that ye should bring forth fruit unto God”—V. 4. We were put to death to the law through the body of Christ. Paul is not teaching forgiveness of sin, but our death with Christ. We repeat an earlier statement, this is not a fact for experience, but for faith. The law did not die to us, but we were put to death to the law. By death with Christ, all were freed from legal obligations. That death also released us from the union with the first Adam in order that we might be joined to the second Adam. We were not married to the law, but were in bondage to the first Adam. We died, hence, the law can never open its mouth to us. Having been made free, we are at liberty to be joined to Him who was raised from the dead. Our fruit is no longer to be unto death—V. 5. But unto holiness—6:22, and unto God—V. 4.

The question would naturally arise, that since we died, what effect does death have in regards to the Jewish Christian’s relation to law? Since the authority of the law does not expend beyond this life, the answer is, that all Christians are free, completely free, from its jurisdiction. The law did not lose its authority. However, we are in a sphere where the law does not operate.

Sin isn’t dead, and neither is law. But we died to sin and the law. We are now joined to our new head, Christ, and He lives in a realm where the law of Moses does not function. We could not be joined to both Adams at the same time anymore than a woman could obey and be in subjection to two husbands at the same time.

“For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death”—V. 5. “When we were in the flesh.” The flesh does not refer to the body, as we are definitely in that at the present time. But it refers to the unregenerate old nature, the

state we were in before we were saved. We are now in Christ, and no longer reckoned to be in the old Adam.

“Motions” means, passions, wrong affections, stirrings, etc. The sin which is at home in the flesh moved on the whole being. The law of Moses only aggravated the whole situation, as the sin cried for expression through the members of the body; it was irritated by the apparent restrictions of the law.

There can be no fruit unto God until we are joined to Christ;—what sin produces through our members is unto death and not unto God. Men in the flesh are moved by anger, greed, jealousy, and all the other base desires of which the flesh is capable. As these find their expression through the members, they become the things of every day life. Since a woman could not be in subjection to two husbands at the same time, neither can we yield obedience to both the old and the new Adams at the same time. The first is dead. Now we are joined to Christ, our new head.

“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter”—V. 6. “Delivered from the law!” Oh, that men would believe it! “Delivered” means, to render useless, that is, relationship to law has been completely annulled. The relationship is empty, useless, cancelled, severed, brought to an end. We died to that in which we were held. Our old husband is dead, we are released from the binding law, that we might be joined to another, even our risen Lord.

We are no longer rendering an obedience to a written code, or outward subjection to a written law, that is, the letter. We serve our head and new husband in newness of the spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit.

The “Letter” refers to the bare literalness and sense of the law of Moses. The word means, or can be used, of a letter or a book. Here it refers to the law of Moses as written.

“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet”—V. 7. Since Paul makes so much of our freedom from the law, also the fact that the law stirred into activity the motions of sin, logically the question comes up, “Is the law sin, or is it something evil?” Paul would say, “Abolish the thought” or “May it not be.” Until the law came and defined sin, explained it, and set boundaries in connection with it, men did not know what sin was. Personally, Paul had not understood sin until the commandment came home to him. The words, “The law has said,” are translated by many, “The law kept saying.” Three times, “Thou shalt not covet,” and once, “Thou shalt not desire.” Men could not know the depth of sin in their own hearts until they tried honestly to keep it, and discovered that not walking away from God, but desiring to walk away was the departure, and also the breaking of the law. See Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21. To say to a man, “Thou shalt not desire” is nearly the same as to say, “Thou shalt not be hungry or thirsty.” Man needed to learn his helplessness. We have no control over our desires, and God wants us to know this. Day and night, sleeping and waking, the law kept saying, “Thou shalt not covet,” “Thou shalt not desire.” It must have been maddening to Paul to try so hard and fail so miserably. He finally learned that there had to be another way than the law; he then set out to find the solution, and the rest of this chapter records much of that search.

(Continued in the next issue)



*The Law was broken in the people's hearts  
Before it was broken by Moses' hand.*

# A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

By Arthur Eggers

## 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11

This chapter shows *the suffering of the priests*. He takes a base place, not exalting himself but rather the High Priest. A modest minister will not speak of himself and his labors unless it is of necessity and only then he will do it to magnify the grace of God. This thought is again in verse 16. The reason he takes this place is his love for the saints, wanting them to have a place with Christ as a wife in all chastity, pure to the uttermost.

In verses 4 and 5 there were some who claimed to have something better. They say they are sent of God (apostles) but we read they are of Satan by action and called deceitful workers masquerading themselves to be apostles. How we must always be on guard for “deceitful workers,” many times they are difficult to detect for they don’t say “I am a deceitful worker.” This is why we need to know the Word rightly divided.

(Verses 13-15) It seems foolish for us to try to contend with such ungodly doctrine and many of God’s people fall into such traps. The full proof of God’s ministers is this fact that Christ is in me giving me a willingness to take a humble place even to suffer, to be rejected, or to be despised. How humble it was for Paul to be let down a wall in a basket (Acts 9:24). Who wants to boast in weakness and suffering? How we would like to boast in numbers and look successful in the eyes of others. Would you boast in reproaches, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft and many more through verse 29?

## CHAPTER TWELVE

Continuing with the idea of boasting, the word glory is used five times. Paul said it is not profitable to continue boasting so he would go another way to show his office is of God. That is by “visions and revelations” or things he saw and heard. This shows the closeness a priest should have with Christ. Most of us have not literally had this same experience but we can have a special closeness with our High Priest as we take our place in heaven with Him. I would like to call this chapter *the glory of the priest*. It is as we appropriate Ephesians 2:6, “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” When we do this our experience with Christ deepens and we see more than ever before.

No doubt Paul was talking about himself and it seems to be when he was at Lystra about 14 years before. In Acts 14:19-20, “And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”

God’s ministers do not boast in their position because people should be able to see how close we walk with Christ. Have you ever been to “paradise?” Well we can, that is by faith. Hebrews 4:15-16, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” What an invitation we have, we just believe it and step right into a garden with Him.

Also in Hebrews 10:19-22 we read, “Having therefore, brethren, boldness **to enter into the holiest** by the blood of Jesus.” Have you come into this liberty yet? Verse 20 is how

we get there, “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, And having an high priest over the house of God; **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

As Jesus went to heaven He went Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world (age), but also in that which is to come: (Ephesians 1:21). If we take our place with Him as His priests today can we count it all joy if attacked by Satan?

In verse 14 we read of the love true priests have. They don’t want to be a burden to others but treat them like our own children. In 1 Corinthians 4:15, “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.” As Paul led these saints to the knowledge of Christ he became their spiritual father; oh how he loved them. Paul could truthfully say as he did in Acts 20:33, “I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel.”

Verse 15: Priests are willing to pour out their lives for others and never desire a personal gain. Their only desire is to edify others. We ask “why is this?” It is because our inheritance is God Himself and not of the world.

### **CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

In this chapter we have *the authority of Christ’s priests to judge situations*. If someone is looking for proof then he should see the High Priest and ask Him for our credentials. In verses 4-6, they need to see the resurrected power of Christ in our priestly work for this is where we draw all our strength. Christ took all of our weakness in death and gave us His power in resurrection. This is the life the true priest lives daily. If people cannot see Christ in us they should examine themselves if they are reprobates, or failed the test.

Another proof is their stand for the truth. Verse 9, “For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.” The proper meaning of this word is that they needed to be made fit as a body of believers, they had been dislocated or out of joint by false teachers. The earnest hope of the true priest is saints be joined together in love. As priests we are willing to take a weak place, not wanting to use sharpness but have authority from the Lord if this is necessary in order to produce edification. Believers should be identified with Christ in His priestly ministry today. We too are priests forever after this new everlasting order.

## **Trees of Righteousness**

The righteous are like goodly trees,  
Planted on the brink  
Of a mighty watercourse,  
Where they can deeply drink.

Where they will blossom in their season  
And flourish, branch and root.  
And fear not in the year of drought,  
Nor cease from yielding fruit!

By Rebecca Asbury

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# Jeremiah 29



## Part 24 (vs 19)

Debra Isenbletter

**Vs 19:** The *Lord's Faithfulness* along with the faithfulness of His messengers is seen in the rest of this verse which says “*rising up early and sending them.*” “Rising up early” comes from a root meaning “to incline (the shoulder to a burden); literally “to load up” (on the back of man or beast); “to start early” speaking of “earnestness.” The “rising up early” shows the earnestness and dedication on the part of the Lord and His “servants.”

**The Lord rose up early** when He gave His people years to hear His message before judgment finally came. The Lord began “early” to speak to His people, He began as soon as He called them His. He spoke to them before their captivity, during their captivity and after their captivity. The Lord “carried the burden or weight” of pending judgment while He waited for them to “hear.” His message of judgment was a “burden” because He took no pleasure in judging His people, “*For he doth not afflict willingly.*” (Lam 3:33).

**The prophets rose up early** and they felt the burden of His message and carried this burden until told to put it down. Jeremiah carried this burden and wept, “*My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart.*” (Jer 4:19-20) Isaiah carried this burden and felt its weight, “*Behold the name of the Lord cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy.*” (Is 30:27). The Lord sent both *His Word* and *His Messengers* and both were obedient to His Will. Both were appointed to a specific purpose, both had power, and both

reflected His nature and character. If the prophet is truly sent, then he will be able to bear the burden of the message the Lord has given. Today the Lord's messengers must "rise up early" and proclaim "all the counsel of God."

**Present Disobedience:** "*but ye would not hear saith the Lord.*" The NIV reads: "*and you exiles have not listened either,*" showing the Lord is speaking to those currently reflecting the same attitude. Again, the phrase "*ye would not*" by implication means "*no.*" They said "no" to the Word of God. There are some things the Lord would have us say no to but His Word is not one of them. When His Word asks us to do something then we are to say yes, for we are His servants. There are different ways that show how we hear the Word. We *hear* and *listen*, we *hear* and give *consent* to what the Word says, we say yes or no. We *hear* and *understand*, knowing both the consequences and the rewards of our response and finally we can *hear* and *obey*.

Their departure and disobedience pictures the "last days" falling away and neglect of the truth. Paul saw the beginning of this in his day, for he wrote: "*they will not endure (not hear) sound doctrine...they shall turn away their ears (not hear) from the truth*" (2 Ti 4:3-4). The Word of God puts us in a place of responsibility and places demands upon us.

**The Admonition is to hear His Word:** Jesus said, "*take heed what ye hear*" (Mk 4:24) and "*take heed how ye hear*" (Lk 8:18). James says "*let every man be swift to hear...*" (Ja 1:19). Paul shows the Philippians the reward for hearing, "*that which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me do and the God of peace shall be with you.*" (Phil 4:9)

**The Obligation of hearing His Word:** *“Therefore shall ye lay up (commit, regard, rehearse) these **my words** in your heart and in your soul.”*(Deut 11:18). The obligation to hear the Word includes how we treat the Word of God. One of the greatest obligations we have is to “learn,” to “know and to “guard” the Word. When we truly hear the Word, we commit it to our heart and soul and we regard it above all else.

**The Purpose of hearing His Word:** *“I will make them hear **my words**, that they may learn to fear (reverence) me all the days that they shall live...and that they may teach their children.”* (Deut 4:10) The Word had the power to teach them and change their perception of the Lord, it has that same power in our lives today. The Word will give us a vision of Jesus that is beyond description. The Word revealed the Lord’s holiness, His love, His discipline, and His expectations. They taught their children, who would begin to see the Lord as their parents did and see Him as the Word revealed Him to them.

**The Promise of hearing His Word:** *“If thou wilt receive **my words**, and hide my commandments with thee... then thou shalt understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”* (Prov 2:1-5) The Lord asks that we “receive” and “hide” the Word in our hearts and that we “believe” it and “guard” it. He promises that we will “find” Him, that we will receive a greater revelation of Him, for He reveals Himself through His Word. This was Paul’s desire and prayer for saints, that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph 1: 17) and when he said goodbye to the Ephesian saints he said, *“I commend you to the **word of his grace** which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance...”* (Acts 20:32). What glorious results obedience to hearing His Word will bring to the lives of those who choose to “listen to my words!”

# CONFIRMING

Bob Briner

*“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you into the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

*I Cor. 1:4-9*

Confirm means to make firm, establish, make secure (Syn. substantiate – authenticate). Phil. Translation reads, “He will keep you steadfast in the faith to the end.” Paul says in I Thess. 5:24, “Faithful is He that calleth you who will also do it.” Also II Thess. 3:3, “...the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.”

When we reserve a hotel room or make reservations for a car rental, the clerk gives us a confirmation number. This is our proof or guarantee that we have made the arrangements. This is a surety. This number is usually many digits. God guarantees that He will keep us blameless right up to the time of the Lord’s coming. He doesn’t give you a confirmation number but He does give you His word.

The word “blameless” in v. 8 means, that which cannot be called into account.” i.e. “With nothing laid to ones charge.” (Phil) “When this day comes, you need fear no condemnation.” God gives guarantees as He confirms. (Guarantee is something you hope for when you buy a used car.)

Those who are “waiting for the coming of the Lord” (v. 7) have confirmed their reservations.” We find this same Greek word in II Cor. 1:21, “Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God.” Phillips says it like this, “We owe our position in Christ to this God of positive promise.” We read in v. 20, “For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen.” Phillips says, “every promise of God finds its affirmative in Him.”

Look at just a few of the promises: Acts 2:39: the gift of the Holy Spirit - “For the promise is to you and all your children, and to all that are afar off...” Rom. 5:2: access - “By whom also we have access into this grace wherein we stand.” I Tim. 4:8: “Having the promise of the Life that now is, and of that which is to come.” II Tim. 1:1: “The promise of Life which is in Christ Jesus.” II Pet. 3:13: “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” I Jn. 2:25: “And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life.” Rom. 8:37: “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that love us.” We are promised “victorious living.” That’s just a few. There are many more!!

See Col. 2:6,7, as we walk with Him, we are “rooted and built up in Him.” “Like a tree planted by the rivers of water” (Psa. 1:3). He confirms, establishes, makes sure our salvation spoken by the Lord and confirmed by the apostles. Heb. 2:2,3. In Heb. 13:9, the word establish here means to lean upon, strengthen. In Acts 14:22 (Phillips), They put fresh hearts into the disciples (here it means to support). “Through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” This was not new (compare II Tim. 2:12), “If we suffer with Him, we will reign with Him.” Phil. 1:12, “The things which happened to me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel.”

Acts 15:32, Exhorting the brethren with many words, and confirming them. Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, keep yourselves in the love of God." We read in Acts 18:23, Paul's big chore of strengthening his disciples. Other scriptures on strengthening: Eph. 3:16: "strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." Col. 1:11: "Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power." II Tim. 4:17: "The Lord stood with me and strengthened me."

Confirming: making something steadfast and sure. It was a manner in Israel, to confirm all things, a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor (Ruth 4:7). Some in our time, shake hands. In Mexico, if someone compliments you on one of your possessions, it is proper to give it to him. In Daniel 9 we read of confirmed prophesy (vs. 12 & 27); in Romans 15:8 of confirmed promises; Phil. 1:7 defense of and confirmation of the gospel; Acts 15:32 confirming the word. See I Cor. 1:9, God is faithful in confirming us. The NEB says God is faithful and has "called you to share in the Life of His Son." He is **faithful** in establishing us. Deut. 7:9, "He is God, the faithful God." Being faithful is essential to His being. Without it, He would not be God. It would be contrary to His nature.

Num. 23:19, "Hath He said, and shall not do it?" Ps. 89:8, "Who is a strong Lord like unto thee, or to thy faithfulness round about thee?" Lam. 3:22,23, "It is of the Lords' mercies that we are not consumed. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness." Heb. 10:23, "For He is faithful that promised." I Pet. 4:19, "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful creator." God promises that as we wait for the Lord's return, He will keep us steadfast and blameless. He **can** do it, and He **will!**