

# Glorious Gospel Publication



Editor: Jack Davis  
796 N. St Paul \* Wichita, Kansas 67203  
316-943-4190 or 942-5468  
[www.gloriousgospel.org](http://www.gloriousgospel.org)  
Email: [ggospel5@juno.com](mailto:ggospel5@juno.com)

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# Bridal Oneness

## Real Spiritual Unity



From the  
Editor

*“There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove my undefiled is but one; she is the only one on her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her” – Song of Solomon 6:8,9.*

The “ONE” spoken of here does not refer to an individual believer; but one as of a special group, with a special place. Yet, it is as individuals that we enter into a spiritual communion with the Lord. This is what makes us part of that choice company. The love relationship between the believer and the Lord Jesus differs with each individual. Experimentally, the individual believer comes to know the Lord casually, or in a strong friendship, or in an intimate relationship pictured by a husband and wife.

Solomon pictures Jesus in relation to the individual believer. All of these named – queens, concubines, and virgins – were related to the king in various ways. Their number indicates a vast domain – sixty queens, eighty concubines, and innumerable virgins. The Bride in BUT ONE. She is unique, and someone special – the apple of His eye. As the one who is to be His Bride, she stands out from among all the rest.

The “queens” speak of those who will share in a measure in His rulership – yet in a subordinate way, not as being by His right hand. The “concubines” speak of a measured fellowship; not the closest, deepest, and most intimate relationship. The “virgins” speak of believers who are not joined to any organization, or headship. They also picture less mature saints who are companions to the Bride. “The King’s

daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto Thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the King's palace" - Ps. 45:13-15.

Jesus longs to bring every believer into the highest, purest, and fullest spiritual affection – even the closest, deepest, most intimate love affair. It is only those whose hearts give heed to the Spirit's wooing, and yield completely to the Lord, who fall deeply in love with Him. They are brought into this oneness. She is "undefiled." That means that she is separated completely unto Him. She is the 'choice' one of her mother. Her mother is "GRACE." She is the mother of all of God's children; but only those, who allow the grace of God to do a complete work in them, will enter experimentally into this special place.

There is Bridal "Oneness" in *PROVISION*, in *PRACTICE*, and in *PURPOSE*. Let us consider first the *PROVISION* for Bridal Oneness. In type (Gen. 2:20-24), Adam having named the woman prophesied saying, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Adam was not deceived by Satan, and did cleave to Eve in her fallen condition by choice. In Genesis 3:12, Adam seems to be telling God, "It is Your doing. You brought us together and intended us to be together. The woman You gave to be with me, gave me of the tree, and I did eat."

The Son of God in His condescension - being made sin, and tasting death for every man – has provided a lasting oneness. He was so moved by His love, that He gave Himself, that He might present by His side a glorious Church. "We are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father, and mother, and shall be joined unto His wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is

a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” – Eph. 5:25-32.

The Apostle Paul’s message to the Church is unique. The revelation given to him unfolds the truth concerning Christ and His Bride. Paul spoke of the provision for Bridal oneness in II Cor. 11:1-3 – “Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one Husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” This is our espousal to the Lord. Not all believers accept, or honor, or enjoy this espousal. Many are “corrupted from the simplicity that is in Him and are snatched away from that spiritual unity with Christ. They choose to honor another headship other than Christ’s

In I Corinthians 12:12,13 the baptizing of all believers into one Body by one Spirit, further speaks of God’s provision for Bridal oneness. Bridal believers fully recognize this oneness, and endeavor “to keep the unity of the spirit” by walking in the Spirit. Eph. 4.

“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” I Cor. 1:9,10. This is Bridal Oneness in *PRACTICE*. These believers who acknowledge that they have been called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ speak the same thing – are joined together in the same mind and judgment. There is no division among them. They enjoy the likemindedness granted by God, and glorify Him “with one mind and one mouth” – Rom. 15:5,6. They “stand fast in one spirit,” “striving TOGETHER for the faith of the Gospel,” “having the same conflict” which they saw and heard to be in

Paul – Phil. 1:27,30. We are being joined experimentally to the Lord, and we are bringing forth fruit to the glory of God – Rom. 7:4. Jesus prayed for this – Jn. 17:20-24.

This practical oneness is an outflow of Oneness in *PURPOSE*. Paul declares that “he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit” – I Cor. 6:17. We are to carry out our daily duties in singleness of heart, “as unto Christ,” “doing the will of God from the heart,” Eph. 6:5,6. Barnabas exhorted the believers at Antioch to “cleave unto the Lord” with purpose of heart” – Acts 11:23. The word “cleave” expresses two aspects of Bridal Oneness. When we think of cleaving wood, we separate or make two out of one. This word also expresses a joining together. In our being made one with Christ, there is the uniting as well as the separating process. We are separated from all other ties, to be joined to Christ.

David expressed this singleness or purpose of heart when he said, “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple” – Ps. 27:4.

Jesus spoke of the *OMISSION* of purpose, which is directly opposed to the oneness. He said to the rich young ruler, “One thing thou lackest” – Mk. 10:21. We gladly sell all, count all things loss, in order to attain to that Bridal oneness and to win Him whom we love with all that we are and all that we have.

Jesus spoke of the *OPPORTUNITY* of such oneness in purpose when He said concerning Mary, “One thing is needful” and Mary hath chosen that good part” – Lk. 10:42. We are given the opportunity today to make such a choice.

Paul expressed the *OCCUPATION* of such oneness when he said, “one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the Prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” – Phil. 3:13,14. There was one *OBJECT* that

filled his vision. He was “looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith” – Heb. 12:2. He had a single eye to the glory of God.

If we are going to be number one with Him, He must be number one with us! The Ephesian church was reproved for leaving their first love. The Bride’s attitude and testimony is: “My Beloved is ... the chiefest among ten thousand.” With our eyes upon Jesus, we are able to be winners and to accomplish feats of faith far beyond our own ability.

In Bridal Oneness, there is ONE OVERCOMER as Paul said, “one receiveth the Prize.” This does not refer to one individual winning Christ, but to that group of believers who are one with Christ. He is all and in all – the life, the strength, and the hope of all such racers.



### **Waiting - Watching**

*A faithful bride, in garments spotless, fair,  
Is waiting, watching, for her coming lord.  
She knows that he will quickly meet her there  
Because she has the promise of his word.*

*The Bride of Christ, in garments spotless, fair,  
Is waiting, watching, for her coming Lord.  
She knows that she will meet Him in the air  
Because she has the promise of His Word.*

– E. B. Y.

## Be Faithful Always

Be faithful in the little place  
That Jesus chose for you.  
Fret not because it is so small,  
But in that sphere be true.

It is thy faithfulness that counts  
In that which is the least,  
As Jesus said – and it is those  
Who will in glory feast.

Mourn not because thou art unknown.  
Thy service need not be,  
For thou mayst have a fertile field  
Of loving ministry.

The little dewdrop has a part  
In God's great boundless sea,  
And this is all He asks of you –  
Be faithful where you be.

– Mary M. Bodie

# THE LAST DAYS



Anita Clark

“Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us.” Ps. 2:1-3 The heathen (goyim) refers to Gentile nations. The word “rage” is a Hebrew word which can be translated “insurrection with the thought of conspiring or plotting.” In this phrase we see what is taking place in the world today. The world leaders continue to hold their “summits,” “conferences,” or “council,” while the terrorists around the world hold their secretive meetings to perpetrate mayhem and terror upon the unsuspecting nations and groups.

The phrase “the people imagine a vain thing” speaks of how futile it is for the nations and people to unite together to promote peace in this unpeaceful world. The word, “vain” speaks of “empty, worthless, and futile.” The world leaders come together to vie for power over others, and try to create unions to assure peace. The EU, which has just expanded to 25 member states, is an example of this. The EU and Russia recently held a conference to discuss ways for Russia to become a member of the World Trade Organization. This can only be achieved if Russia signs Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which limits emissions of gas and other materials into the atmosphere, in order to counter global warming. This signing at the next meeting on May 20 will raise Russian President Putin’s esteem, who has been pressuring to be allowed to join the world trade body. They already belong to the G 8.

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and take counsel together against the LORD.” They unite together and set their will against the LORD. They determine the way they will go never considering the LORD’S will at all. They take counsel, which means “to seat themselves close together or sit in a conclave.” In their rebellion against God they seek peace by their own efforts, never consulting or acknowledging Him. Note: their rebellion is against the “LORD (Jehovah) and His anointed (or Christ). They say we will not have this man to rule over us.

“Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us.” The LORD does rule over man, hence man feels the “bands” and “cords” of the LORD. Perhaps this refers to conscience of man. The book of Romans speaks of the conscience of man that governs even the actions of the heathen. (Rom.2:14,15).

Recently, despicable actions of some of our troops in Iraq, was openly reported. I was shocked; I thought, “How could our soldiers do such things?” Then, the Lord reminded me of the corruptness of the Old Man, which is in every human being, and that the Old Nature in me or you is capable of doing any evil or horribly vile thing, just as these vile persons did. We cannot then be surprised at the actions of worldly people. They have cast off all restraints, “having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” (I Tim. 4:2). The rebellion of man against the bands and cords of God is because man does not want any absolutes, restraints, accountability or standards. They rebel against God’s Word which gives us the way to conduct ourselves.

**“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall have them in derision** (supreme contempt.)” The court of heaven has found man guilty of supreme contempt. The Lord is righteous and just in judging the earth. The attempts of man

to overthrow God's authority only cause God to laugh. Picture in your mind a lifeless puppet on a string trying to wrest authority from its creator. How foolish!

**NO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN ISRAEL** - Recently, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat called for his people to terrorize their enemy, Israel. He called for the people to be steadfast in their struggle against Israel. He has long been accused by Israel as sponsoring terrorism, and he now boldly incites Palestinians to "commit acts of terror as often as they can." Hizbullah, operating out of Syria, has been paying Palestinian insurgents from \$25,000 to \$40,000 to commit suicide bombings. They have set a scale to pay for each Israeli killed in a strike. Israel has warned that Hezbollah attacks will be catastrophic to Syria. It will retaliate for those strikes.

Peace for Israel is very illusive. We believe The Scripture teaches that Israel will finally make a treaty with a group of nations, we believe to be the revived Roman Empire. At first it will not seem so wrong, but later they will realize that the AntiChrist is trying to defeat them. No doubt the treaty will guarantee their security. They will be gullible, and sign a covenant with him. Then he will manifest his real Self. Dan. 9:27.

**OIL PRICES GOING UP AGAIN** - We are experiencing these high prices in the USA. It seems that OPEC has us over a barrel. Paul said that "perilous times will come." ( II Tim. 3:1). He said to pray for those in authority in government, "...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." The greatest oil reserves under the desert sand belong to the Arabs. They can really hurt America by cutting production of oil. God is allowing this. Saints of the past have suffered want, and had to ration. We don't know what God will allow before the return of Christ for His bride, but He will give

us strength to overcome any adversity. We must realize that the conditions of this world are heading up to the end time judgments.

Paul says, “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. Now the Spirit speaks expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons.” (II Tim.1:13, I Tim. 4:1). Time is so short. The Grace Age is almost over. The Lord is working in our lives, seeking to perfect us to rule and reign with Him as His spotless glorious bride. Satan is seducing by his evil spirits. Some are going away from the truth. Some time ago the Lord gave me a Scripture to stand on. It is Romans 3:3, “For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?” Let us examine our lives to see if we are holding fast to the truth. Let us press on regardless of adversity and trial. He will be faithful to work in us all His graciousness and love until we are like Christ. Praise the Lord! . .

### Life's Melody

*There is no music in a rest –  
Composers place it there  
That we may pause and catch the note  
That follows, with more care;  
God sends each life sometimes a “rest,”  
And we lament and grieve  
That sickness, disappointing plans  
Give us unsought reprieve.  
God writes the music of our lives,  
Our part to beat the time  
And sing, and rest, pick up the tune –  
Go on with note sublime.*

# ROMANS

W. J. Franklin



Chapter 6:18-23

“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness”—V. 18. This chapter teaches that in God’s thought, the believer is made free (in applied truth) from, the law, the old man and sin. Of course, he has the old nature, and sin is in that, but then, he is to reckon the old man dead. We were slaves of sin. Now we are joyfully enslaved in righteousness.

The word “Free” means, unrestrained to go at pleasure, exempt from obligation or liability. We owe sin nothing. It no longer has a power over us. Its dominion over our intellects, thoughts and emotions as well as our desires has been completely broken.

“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness”—V. 19. The men of Genesis 6:5 gave their intellectual powers as well as all other powers of the mind to evil and to evil only, until they had nothing but the most evil thoughts and actions at all times. Paul is illustrating after an earthly manner what he is saying to the Romans. Even as they had been good and loyal slaves to sin and that all kinds of sin, now let them present their members to righteousness in the same manner. This would develop into a truly sanctified life. The word “holiness” is the same word translated elsewhere as “Sanctification.”

“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness”—V. 20. It really means, “Free in regards to

righteousness.” There was no righteousness in their lives. What a pitiable state! We are reminded of the Lord’s words, “Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.” “Ye cannot serve two masters.” Here the two masters are “Sin” and “Righteousness.” They had served sin and never done one good turn for righteousness. Now they had changed masters and were slaves to righteousness.

“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death”—V. 21. No abiding fruit unto God. Our faces blush as in retrospect we view the life we chose before God saved us. That life would have ended for us in the second death. But thank God, all is changed. There is absolutely no lasting advantage to sin, but rather the opposite.

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life”—V. 22. We were made free from the guilt of sin when we claimed Christ as our Savior. We were made free from the power and practice of sin when we learned the truth that we were crucified with Christ and learned to reckon the old man dead and ourselves alive to God. However, the life was not just a release, or an empty life. A slave has a hard time fitting into life after freedom. We not only left a life full of sin, but came to a life full of righteousness. We left the service of sin, and became servants to God and righteousness. We were discharged from one master, but were re-employed by another.

“Fruit unto holiness.” That is, unto sanctification. There is a development in the character that separates the whole man in all his being to God.

“The end, everlasting life.” Not something that will be given us when we get to heaven or something that is earned by a life of righteousness, but a life in all its fullness. A real entering into life when we have finished our course here. The next verse speaks of eternal life, as we have it now. It there, is stated to be a gift. However, we are still in a state of weakness

in a mortal body. Then we will have our whole being glorified in heaven.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”—V. 23. The sure result of sin is death. It is a wage, and it is just that, as the word means, wages of any kind, a stated recompense, or a soldier’s pay. Man may merit hell, but can never earn heaven. The things of God come to us as a gift, that is eternal life. Since the wages of sin are so terrible, unless we know the ability of the devil to deceive, we could wonder how sin can have any devotees.

On the other hand, eternal life is in no way earned but is a gift, and that a free gift, as the word means, a divinely bestowed favor, a free gift. The word translated “Through” would be better translated “In,” as the Greek word is “En” meaning the same as “In,” though it may be used in different ways. We are one with Christ in life and we are stated different times to be in Him.

The wages of sin in all their fullness will be paid at the end of man’s earthly existence. However, we enjoy eternal life as a gift and as a present possession.



## The Instrument

*As ocean waves that sing upon the sand,  
Or as a bow held in a master’s hand  
That sweeps that taut and waiting strings, –  
So shall my spirit, tuned to heavenly things,  
Give forth, as they, its tenderest melodies  
When God’s own hand sweeps o’er the silent keys.  
My life an instrument through which is poured  
Ecstatically, the music of the Lord!*

–B. A. H.

## As God Sees

Man sees the kingly features,  
The confidence and charm,  
The large, impressive stature,  
The strength of will and arm;  
But God looks through the semblance  
And reads the hidden part,  
And chooses for His servants  
The truly great at heart.

Man hears the spacious promise,  
The boast of statesmanship,  
And worships him whose praises  
Are heard on every lip;  
But God's ears are attentive  
To hear the thought instead,  
And catch the secret meaning  
Of everything that's said.

God's ways with men are baffling,  
And oft to our surprise  
He passes by the famous,  
The mighty and the wise.  
A tollman in the mart,  
And fishers by the seaside –  
The truly great at heart.

–R. T. N.

# A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

By Arthur Eggers

## 2 Corinthians Chapter 8 & 9

These two chapters show how true priests love to help other saints, even those they had never met. The ones in Macedonia were outstanding in their eagerness to help though they could not afford it they abounded liberally. Oh, how they longingly wanted to give. What an example of a true believer. Notice how often “grace, joy, gift and thanks” is used, I counted seven in chapter eight some form of the Greek word CHAIRO is used. The amazing thing is that they gave of themselves first and so should we. Paul wanted the Corinthians to get the same spirit of giving that is in Christ and as we read in verses 9-10, and that it was necessary for them to finish what they began a year ago.

In verse 12 the willing mind is the mind of Christ. Compare Phil. 2:5. It is God that puts this earnest desire in the hearts of saints by His Holy Spirit. In verse 16 we learn that Giving is the proof of loving, compare verse 24. These cannot be separated for they are of God. John 3:16, “For God **so loved that He gave**” and should we not give by the same love?

Chapter nine continues with the thought – giving comes from the heart that is dedicated to Christ, this is a priestly heart. However, even this heart needs to be stirred up; they had a willing heart in which Paul boasted to others. Now it is time to make it practical. The admonition is that if you sow sparingly now, this is how you will reap eternally. This is not a selfish motive but a spiritual longing of the heart. Oh, that every one would search his heart, do we give grudgingly or feel that you

have been compelled to give? If so this is not of the priests because they give cheerfully keeping in mind Christ's gift on the Cross and shout "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

## CHAPTER TEN

In this chapter we see the "OBEDIENCE OF THE PRIESTS." In comparing priests with the High Priest Jesus, we stand before man in His gentleness and meekness, yet bold when need be we are able to cast down the enemy's strongholds that he would set against the mind. If you are not in some spiritual warfare you need to examine yourself. If you are taking your place in the heavens with Christ you will surely meet enemy forces on the way. It is a battle of the mind and the enemy would like to control it. If he can get our mind on earthly things we are not acting as priests for they have no earthly inheritance. Oh, how we need the mind of Christ in all things. Colossians 3:2, "Set your affection (mind) on things above, not on things on the earth."

In verse 5 we are to cast down" all reasoning of the mind with plans and earthly hopes for our future and give it all over to God. These are high fortress to be conquered.

In verse 6 disobedience must be strongly dealt with because spiritual battles are lost when the authority of the High Priest is not heeded. On the other hand there is total victory when obedient to His authority. What value is a soldier that cannot obey orders and wants to do his own thing? Priestly authority has been given for the edification of the body (verses 8-11).

Lastly in verses 10-18 we have priestly wisdom which is the mind of Christ, we have found the treasure chest Colossians 2:3, "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." We have honored wisdom above rubies.

# Jeremiah 29

## Part 23 (vs 19)

Debra Isenbletter



**Verse 19** gives the *Lord's Justification* for their punishment, which is described in the previous verses. The Lord points to the *Past Disobedience* and the *Present Disobedience* of His people. Their past disobedience is seen in the phrase “they have not hearkened” and their present disobedience is seen in the phrase “*but ye would not hear...*” The Lord shows their continued disobedience and disregard of His Word over the years.

**Past Disobedience:** “*Because **they** have not heartened to my words, saith the Lord, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them.*”

Their *disobedience* is seen in their response to the revealed word of God. They did not “hearken” or “hear and obey.” The problem wasn’t that they couldn’t hear, it was that they wouldn’t hear. They showed their response to the word by saying “no” to both the message and the messengers because in the Hebrew the phrase “they have not” means “by implication No or to say No.” Jeremiah is writing to those presently in captivity and pointing their eyes to the past so that they may see what not to do, how not to respond to the Word. In each generation, just as there is the testimony of those who have heard and obeyed the Word, there is a contrasting testimony of those who have refused to hear and obey.

Each of us can look back to those in the “Past” who have rejected known truth. The question is, “Will we?” “What

will we choose to do and believe?" The Apostle Paul shows both the sad condition and the sobering consequences of "not hearkening." Paul asked that the Lord reward Alexander who "*greatly withstood our words*" (2 Ti 4:14-15) showing there will be a price for rejecting the Word. There is also a great lack in the lives of those who turn aside from revealed truth.

Notice whose "words" they have "not hearkened" to, it is "*my words.*" These are the Lord's words though others have spoken them. Sometimes the failure to hear is because there is a failure to recognize the *source* behind the words we hear. In denying or turning away from these "words," they have rejected the One who has really spoken them. Sometimes people will use the excuse of not liking *how* something was said or not liking *who* is speaking, but when it comes to the Word of God there is a responsibility on the part of God's people to recognize, receive and accept "my words." The Thessalonians received what Paul taught as the "word of God" and not "the word of men" (I Thess 2:13), in other words, they "hearkened." Paul told Timothy to "hold fast" to the "sound words" (2 Ti 1:13) that he *heard* from Paul. We are to "stand fast" and "hold the traditions (teachings)" that we have been taught. This is obedience, not to the voice of man or the words of man, but to the voice of God and the Word of God.

Once we recognize the source of those words we must also recognize the power of those words, no matter how the Word is presented or who presents the Word. When the Lord says they have not heartened to "my words" He is describing both the way the Word is presented and the potential power behind those words. "Word" can mean "advice, counsel, commandment or decree," all showing the way in which it is presented. Strongs also lists the following meanings for "word": "*power, promise, provision and purpose*" and this shows the full potential of what happens when we "hearken" to

“my words.” The problem is that sometimes we don’t want to hear “advice” or “counsel” when the Lord’s anointed and appointed present it to us, we forget that they are the Lord’s words, they are “my words.” So much of Paul’s gospel could be listed under one of the above categories (power, promise, provision, purpose), but if we don’t “hear” and “obey” then the full power of the Word as to what it is able to do in our lives is missed. The *power* is there, the *provision* is there, the *promises* are there, and the *purpose* in conforming us to the image of Christ and changing us from glory to glory

Jeremiah also points their eyes to the Lord for not only are these His Words: “my words” it is His Message: “which I sent unto them,” and it is His Messenger: “*by my servants the prophets.*” When the Lord sends His words to His messengers, He is putting something precious and powerful into their care. Once His message is placed in their mouths then they become His messengers. When we see “*my servants the prophets*” we see two titles that the Lord has given His messengers. They are “*servants*” and they are “*prophets,*” in these two titles is seen what they are and what they do. *Servants* has two meanings, both “bond servant” and “ambassador” and His *prophets* are those that speak for another, they were “messengers.” In the title “servant” is seen their submission to the Lord, for they are His bond servants, bound to Him by love and obedience. In the title “prophet” is seen their *commission* by the Lord. They first *submit their will* to Him, then they declare His will to others. Because they are both servants and prophets they serve in different capacities. *First* they serve as a bond- servant, who goes where his master chooses. *Second* they serve as a messenger, speaking his master’s words. *Third* they serve as an ambassador, representing the Master’s interests, and reflecting the Master’s character.

The true servant of God can show by their life the power and provision of the Word, and they can become a living testimony to others of both the hearing of the Word and obedience to the Word. Paul was such a servant, he both preached the Word and guarded the Word, and his life was a living example of the Word in action. What an example for us today. We are to be His “servants” and “bond-slaves,” we are to be His “messengers” and we are to be His “ambassadors.” We are to be like Samuel who responded to the Lord with, “*for thy servant heareth*” (I Sam 3:9-10). The admonition the Lord gave Ezekiel when he said, “*all my words what I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart and hear with thine ears*” (Ezek 3:10) holds true for us. The hearing of the Word must first begin with the messenger himself. In our present study Jeremiah himself is such a wonderful example of obedience and faithfulness. He did what the Lord asked (Jer 27:2) and went where the Lord sent him (Jer 18:2). Obedience doesn’t necessarily require understanding and I’ve found many times that understanding comes after obedience to the Word.



May I in will and deed and word  
Obey Thee as a little child;  
And keep me in Thy love, my Lord,  
For ever holy, undefiled;  
Within me teach, and strive, and pray,  
Lest I should choose my own wild way.

My spirit turns to Thee and clings,  
All else forsaking unto Thee;  
For getting all created things,  
Remembering only “God in me.”  
O living Stream; O gracious rain,  
None wait for Thee, and wait in vain.

–G. T. S.

# VICTORIOUS LIVING AND ITS OPPONENTS

Bob Briner

See what Jesus has to say about life in John 10:10, “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*” The same word is used in II Corinthians 9:1, “*superfluous*” and means to be over abundant. Like the fragments left over in feeding the five thousand. Moffit trans: “That they might have it to the full.”

Many think that life to the fullest can only be obtained by drug supplements, or dare devil schemes or reckless living. Life to the fullest: how can you describe it. Paul talks of a victorious life in Col. 1:9-12. Note that this is his prayer and desire. “*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful, in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.*”

In I Timothy 2:2, Paul exhorts that we may lead a quite and peaceable life in all honesty. Paul enjoys this life as he pursues his burning ambition: counting all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus and suffering them loss that he may win Christ. That he may be found in him, having the righteousness of God by faith. And to truly know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. If by any

means attaining unto the out resurrection of the dead one. Forgetting the things behind and reaching forth to those things before. *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”* Phil. 3:8-14. Paul says, *“I follow after”* – (V. 12). His chosen path is a life long process. Victorious living to the fullest!

### **Examples of victorious and abundant living:**

Enoch – Gen. 5:21-24, there are only four verses about Enoch but what a life he must have had. We would not have known what happened to him except for Heb. 11:5, *“By faith, Enoch was translated that he should not see death.”* Enoch experienced only life. He didn’t know death at all.

Another who experienced victorious living was Joseph. In Gen. 50 we read a testimony that has been repeated in sermons of hundreds of titles. *“Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive...fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them...”* – Vs.18-21.

Job’s life was full and it was all taken away. He said, *“though he slay me, yet will I trust in him”* - Job 13:15. *“So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning”* – Job 42:12.

David said in Psa. 23:4 – *“Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”* When he encountered Shimei a member of Saul’s family who cursed him and cast stones at him, he took this distasteful incident as from the Lord. II Sam. 16:5-12 – *“Let him alone, and let him curse; for the Lord hath bidden him. It may be that the Lord will look on mine affliction, and...requite me good for his cursing this day.”*

Stephen started out serving the Lord in the most menial tasks. He was rapidly given more to do until he ultimately was a very used minister of the Word in his day. Acts 7:59-60.

For evidence of victorious living in the life of the apostle Paul, read II Cor. 12:10. Anyone who takes pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses is living life to the fullest. In Phil 4:11, we read of Paul's contentment, "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." And of his strength in Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." In Phil. 4:19 he writes "...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Who could ask for more?

The hero's of Hebrews 11: Moses in vs. 23-29, he lived life to the fullest. "He was 120 years old when he died, his eye was not dim nor his natural force abated" – Deut. 34:7.

There is opposition to (using Paul's word in Phil. 3:11) attaining this abundant living. Peter tells about this in I Pet. 5:8-10, "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." This enemy has been around since Gen. 3:4, when he told Eve "Ye shall not surely die."

He was present and the chief motivator when David numbered the people. Compare II Sam. 24:1 and I Chron. 21:1, Satan provoked David to number Israel. God uses Satan to do his work and perform his will. Like a puppeteer and a puppet, God pulls the strings. Satan is only a tool for God's use.

The same was true in the life of Job. Job never blamed Satan. He took these difficulties as being from God. Job 2:10 – "...What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." "Evil" means adversity. Satan was not running amuck. God was using him to further His plans.

### **More opposition to "attaining"**

Matt. 4:1-11: Satan tempts Jesus, V. 2 says, "He was afterward hungered." He attacks in our very weakest moments. What are your weakest moments? Absence from your Bible

studies, lack of fellowship with the Lord and His saints, caught up in the things of this life. He knows the right time.

Matt. 16:21-23: The scripture say Jesus said unto Peter or in Peter's direction. He was actually speaking to Satan. Peter must have understood. He didn't protest. Satan works on the flesh. He can't tempt the new man. See Jn. 14:30 – "Thou hast no power over me" (RSV).

Lk. 22:31-34: Actually, Satan would like to sift us all as wheat. But just as in the case of Job, he has to have the Lord's permission. Jesus tells Peter that He has prayed for him that his faith fail not. Peter learns a most valuable lesson through this sifting and that was God's plan from the beginning. HIS PLANS ARE NEVER THWARTED!"

I Thess. 2:18: Paul told those at Thessalonica that he would have come unto them "*but Satan hindered.*" Paul said in II Cor. 12:7 that a messenger of Satan was sent to buffet him lest he "*be exalted above measure.*" Satan is God's tool only.

Matt. 2:16: Satan was at work at the time of Jesus' birth in having all those babies killed. He was familiar with Isa. 7:14, "*A virgin shall conceive and bear a son and call His name Emmanuel.*" He was also at work at the cross, Lk. 23:39 - How did Jesus answer? He did not!

In order to live abundantly and victoriously, we are told to resist the devil, and he will flee from you – James 4:7. And in Eph. 4:27 we read "*Neither give place to the devil.*" In Eph. 6:11 we are told to "*Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil.*" We read of the destiny of Satan in Rev. 20:10, "*And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*"

In the song, "The Evening Chime" – But the little frets and worries that beset the ways of time, will not be remembered when we hear the evening chimes. All the daily vexing detours that consume the pilgrims time, will not be remembered yonder when we hear the evening Chimes.

## WHERE ARE WE LOOKING?

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” Phil. 3:7-8*

It seems funny how one day we can look at all we have and we can feel so rich and incredibly blessed with so much. Then the next day we can look at what we don't have and feel such loss and emptiness. When we feel loss, it is because we are looking at ourselves, our failures and our regrets. But when we feel blessed, it is because we are looking at Him and all that He has done for us and all that He is to us.

*“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:13-14*

By Linda Shepard



**To Him that overcometh  
A crown of life shall be;  
He with the King of Glory  
Shall reign eternally.**