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November 2008



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## The Dawn

199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073

Phone: (201) 438-6421 and 1-(888) 440-DAWN • Fax: (201) 531-8333

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# The DAWN

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**ITALY:** Aurora, Via S. Leonardo 21, Ottaviano 80044, Napoli

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# Be Thankful

*“We are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”*  
—II Thessalonians 2:13

**THE THREE HUNDRED MIL-**lion people of the United States of America will celebrate the national Thanksgiving Day holiday this year on Thursday, November 27th. It has been set aside by presidential proclamation for most workers, and special services of thanksgiving will be held in many churches across the country to celebrate the occasion. Some will observe the day with the true spirit of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for their many blessings. Others will take the opportunity to gather with family and friends with little thought given to the Lord—the giver of every good and perfect gift to his earthly creation.

## TIME FOR REFLECTION

A little flock of Christian people and those who truly love and desire to serve our Lord, count every day as one of thanksgiving for the abundant blessings they receive from him. They have been specially

called by our Heavenly Father during this present Gospel Age to become members of the bride of Christ Jesus. In his epistle to the brethren at Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul addressed this special relationship, when he wrote, “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (II Thess. 2:14) One of the grandest gifts ever offered to anyone since the creation of the world is the High Calling in Christ Jesus that has been extended during this age. Those who respond to this calling are indeed richly blessed for which they are truly thankful. We believe that it is essential to express our thanks to God every day of the year.

The apostle encourages this class of specially called followers of our Lord Jesus by saying, “Brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”—vss. 15-17

## **ULTIMATE BLESSINGS**

Considering the wonderful blessing that we have received from the Heavenly Father, we turn to Paul’s words which were written to the Hebrew brethren who were also responding to the High Calling in Christ Jesus. “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.” (Heb. 3:1) This has been made possible through our faith in the precious blood and merit

of our Lord Jesus that was offered on behalf of his followers during the present Gospel Age—“Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”—chap. 9:24

The merit of Christ’s sacrifice that was presented to the Heavenly Father will be made available for the entire human family who must be obedient to the laws of Christ’s future kingdom. “Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” (John 10:16) The good shepherd shed his lifeblood as a ransom price on behalf of all his sheep. This includes the little flock of faithful followers who are being called during this age, and then the larger flock of humanity who will respond to his voice under the terms of the New Covenant during the kingdom of Christ. During that blessed time, all hearts will be glad to give thanks and praise to our loving God.

## **THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS**

When speaking of giving praise and thanksgiving to God, the Apostle Paul says that it is the fruit of our lips and a manifestation of Christian character. “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” (Heb. 13:15) Our ‘lips’ are used as a symbol of speech and communication with others. We communicate and make known the glorious Truth by using our lips in this manner. Those who have a hearing ear will respond to the words spoken. When going to our loving

Heavenly Father, we pour out our love and thanksgiving directly to him. This may be spoken with our lips, or inaudibly expressed in our hearts.

We are thankful for whatever measure of spiritual or temporal blessings that we may have because of God's wonderful and loving providence towards us. As footstep followers of our Lord Jesus, we are privileged to have the eyes of our understanding opened to behold the wondrous beauties of the Truth. We trust also in the blessed assurance that God's love will ultimately be manifest to the poor groaning creation in due time. In prophetic words, Hosea spoke of a time when all men would render thanks and praise to God. "Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips." (Hos. 14:2) The psalmist also wrote, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."—Ps. 150:6

## **CONTINUAL THANKSGIVING**

The faithful followers of the Master are encouraged to have a consuming zeal in all that they do in the service of God, and to render their heartfelt praise and thankfulness to him continually. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6) "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:9) "Ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." (II Thess. 3:13)

We should always be on the alert to do those things for our brethren that would be for their highest spiritual welfare. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."—I Thess. 5:18

### **FORGET NOT HIS BENEFITS**

The Psalmist David wrote, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."—Ps. 103:1-5

These wonderful words express the depth of love, praise, and thanksgiving that David had for our loving Heavenly Father. The word 'bless' in the psalmist's expression 'Bless the LORD' includes the thought of kneeling down as an act of adoration [*Strong's Bible Concordance*, Old Testament #1288]. David is thus stressing the appropriateness of kneeling before the Heavenly Father when offering our prayer and thanksgiving. Assuming this humble posture when before the Father is wise counsel and encouragement to all of Jesus' faithful followers to do likewise.

Perhaps David's expression is meant to be prophetic of the true class of Jesus' consecrated followers during this harvest period and closing years of the present Gospel Age. While we thus bless the Lord, let us consider the psalmist's suggestion to 'forget not all his benefits.' And again, we read, "O

come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”—Ps. 95:6,7

## **OUR DEPENDENCE UPON GOD**

We are dependent upon our Heavenly Father for all things that pertain to our consecrated walk in newness of life, both temporal and spiritual. In reference to the Lord’s people, we read, “They should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”—Acts 17:27,28

God extends to us the temporal blessings of life such as sunshine and rain, as well as food, raiment and shelter. We also receive spiritual food that is necessary for our growth and development in the narrow way. He provides the Holy Spirit of power and of a sound mind for the consecrated class of Christians. As New Creatures in Christ Jesus, our sins and trespasses are covered with the robe of Christ’s righteousness. If we sin, “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” who will intercede on our behalf.—I John 2:1

## **THE CHASTENING ROD**

One of the things that we should be very thankful for is that, when it is necessary, our loving Heavenly Father will discipline our misbehavior, and will send chastening experiences for our correction in righteousness. The Apostle Paul explains this very special relationship in his letter to the Hebrew brethren. “Ye have forgotten the exhortation

which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"—Heb. 12:5-7

As New Creatures in Christ Jesus, our hopes, aims, and ambitions no longer appeal to the flesh. This is the outward man that is corrupting day by day. The spiritual growth of the new man is being developed by the providential care and keeping of our loving God. The scriptures explain this work of the Holy Spirit of God on our behalf. "All things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."—II Cor. 4:15-18

## **SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION**

We should be ready always to give thanks to God for providing us with Jesus' sacrifice as a ransom price for our sins. "He [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (I John 2:2) We were born into this world to suffer the same sentence of death as all others. David again wrote, "I waited patiently

for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”—Ps. 40:1-3

The God of all mercy and grace is permitting his consecrated people to endure difficult trials and besetments as they walk in newness of life and sacrifice their human flesh in the service of the Truth. We understand that these experiences are necessary for the New Creature to be a joint-heir with Christ Jesus in the administration of his kingdom. These hardships of the narrow way prove and test their loyalty to the Heavenly Father. They are necessary to consume the dross of the old fleshly nature and to establish in their hearts the character likeness of their Lord. Even while undergoing these trying experiences, they have much to be thankful for. In spite of it all, they live a richer, fuller, and more satisfying life than the most successful and contented people of the world.

### **OUR LIVELY HOPE**

By the Lord’s unlimited grace, we have a true and lasting hope in this present world of confusion and chaos. The Apostle Peter spoke of this as a “lively hope.” “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven

for you [for us, *Marginal Translation*], Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”—I Pet. 1:3-9

Our Heavenly Father has taken us into his own confidence and has revealed his ultimate plan and purpose for the restoration and reconciliation of the poor groaning creation. We are especially thankful to know that he is presently selecting from among the fallen world of mankind a group of faithful followers of his Son, our Lord Jesus, to be the kings and priests in his millennial kingdom which we believe is drawing ever nearer.

## **A FAMINE FOR TRUTH**

During the closing years of this present Gospel Age, the poor, groaning, human creation continue to put their trust in political leaders and statesmen who speak of peace and brighter days on the horizon. Their spiritual leaders likewise have no satisfying answers, nor messages of comfort to give them. The world has been passing through the prophetic ‘troubled waters’ of a corrupt and dying society which has been largely based on

human selfishness and pride. They long for a better time and day while ignorant of the nearness of Christ's promised kingdom of Truth, peace, and security that will be administered under his control.

God's prophet spoke of the famine for Truth that would accompany the end of this age. "The days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst."—Amos 8:11-13

### **A FEAST OF TRUTH**

Divine power is being exercised on behalf of all those who hunger and thirst for Truth and righteousness. We read of our Heavenly Father's loving care on behalf of his consecrated people, "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." (Ps. 103:5) "He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." (Ps. 107:9) During the closing years of this present Gospel Age when we believe that our dear Lord is present, we have been sumptuously fed and watered with the refreshing and soul-satisfying portion of the riches of God's wonderful Word and promises. "The LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."—Isa. 58:11

## **ENLIGHTENED WITH TRUTH**

This knowledge is refreshing to those of us who are now living during this time, and we take new courage and hope as we see this present evil world passing away. It gladdens our hearts even as we see the present distress of nations. Darkness will give way to the glorious kingdom of light that will be ushered in to bring blessings to all the families of the earth at that time. All men will be enlightened by the true light of Christ's kingdom during that blessed time.

The Prophet Joel spoke of God's promise to give the world his Holy Spirit at that time, saying, "It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."—Joel 2:28

## **GLAD TIDINGS COMING**

The human family will have to wait a little longer for the promised Spirit of God. That will not be available until the consecrated class of Jesus' followers has been completed. At that time, man will benefit from the blessings promised under Christ's kingdom, and the earthly creation will voice their praise and thanksgiving unto our loving God for his ultimate plan and purpose to bless his human creation.

At that time, the New Covenant will be operational and the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all flesh, as indicated in the wonderful words of Joel's prophecy. At that future time, the world's people will be lifted up from the miry pit of sin and

death that marks our present world. “An highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.”—Isa. 35:8

## **RENDERING OUR THANKS**

We are thankful that the United States government has wisely set aside a special day each year to render thanksgiving and praise to God. It is a reminder of our humble position as we stand in awe before the great Creator of our world and the entire universe. Our lives should be full of heartfelt thanks every day of the year for the countless blessings that we receive from our loving Heavenly Father.

We thank him for our freedom in living in a society where we are able to take advantage of the many privileges to seek understanding and grace, and to grow in the knowledge of truth, righteousness, and peace.

Thanks be unto our loving Heavenly Father for delivering us out of the realms of darkness, ignorance, and superstition, and to grant us the manifold blessings of enlightenment and peace. May we praise him for calling us to be members of the bride of Christ and granting us the unspeakable joy of joint-heirship with his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the future administration of his righteous kingdom. ■

*“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.—Proverbs 3:6*

# Fitting into the Community

**Key Verse:** “*Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*”  
—*Ephesians 4:7*

**Selected Scripture:**  
*I Corinthians 12:3-27;*  
*Ephesians 4:1-16*

**THE PROPRIETY OF WALK-**ing in harmony with divinely established principles is set forth as an important exhortation in the Scriptures. The manifestation of a Christlike spirit would include elements such as humility, gentleness, patience even under extended provocation, and an ability to bear with one another in a loving manner without faultfinding or resentment. Naturally speaking, there are differences among those who aspire to be a part of the body of Christ. Nevertheless, self-interest among members of the church should yield to the goal of attaining unity of the Spirit while dwelling together in peace.—Eph. 4:1-3

The fact that there is one body demonstrates that sectarian divisions are not in harmony with God’s ways. The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit is manifested by the followers of Christ who strive to think and act as he did during his earthly sojourn. The one hope relates to the prospect of all the saintly ones being joined together with Christ, in living and reigning with him to bless the entire human family during the kingdom of righteousness for a thousand years.—vs. 4

“One Lord” is the Master, Jesus Christ who died and rose again. “One faith” pertains to the doctrine taught by Jesus and elaborated upon by the apostles as recorded in the Scriptures. “One baptism” relates to the burial of the believer’s will into that of Christ Jesus, even unto death.—vs. 5

The supremacy of the Creator refutes the widely held belief in a trinity of equal gods. “To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” (I Cor. 8:6) Although Christ as the Son has been highly exalted because of his faithfulness in giving his life to purchase the human race, even he must be subject to the Heavenly Father, that “God may be all in all.”—I Cor. 15:28; Eph. 4:6

Our Key Verse indicates there is diversity within the body of Christ as each member has a unique function to perform. Additionally, there were special men given to the church as gifts, including apostles and others for the purpose of facilitating its growth and development. Using all these helps in the proper manner will result in the acquisition of spiritual maturity by each New Creature in Christ who will have his character thoroughly lubricated with the spirit of love. As the various members of the church cooperate with one another under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the entire body of Christ will be built up and edified with all needed graces for its appointed ministry during the Millennial Age.—vss. 11-16

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”—Ps. 133:1-3

# Conflict in the Community

**Key Verse:** “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*”  
—*Galatians 3:28*

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Galatians 2:11-3:29*

and when they arrived, Peter ceased to fellowship with the Gentile brethren for fear that news of his conduct would get back to Jerusalem. Additionally, Barnabas and others followed Peter’s example. Peter well knew, in connection with the conversion of Cornelius, that God was not a respecter of persons.

Paul, appropriately, accused Peter of hypocrisy by pointing out that Jewish Christians had a new standing on the basis of faith in the redemptive sacrifice of Christ and that they were dead to the Law. Accordingly, since the Law could not justify anyone, Gentiles should not be placed under it.—vss. 14-21

“Being justified by faith, we have peace with God

## **WHILE MINISTERING TO**

Gentiles in Antioch, Paul found it necessary to reprove Peter, thereby further asserting his own apostolic authority concerning the Gospel of Christ.—Gal. 2:11-13

When Peter first came to Antioch, he freely ate with Christian converts who formerly were Gentiles. Subsequently, a group of Jewish Christians came from Jerusalem for a visit,

through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:1) This cardinal principle concerning the means by which believers may have a relationship with God had to be stressed repeatedly in the Early Church because of the strong influence of Judaizers who believed and taught otherwise.

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.”—Gal. 3:1-4

Since all men were under the curse of sin and death from Adam’s fall in Eden, none could gain life by attempting to keep the Law. However, Abraham and other faithful individuals before the Gospel Age pleased God because they trusted in him. The seed of Abraham, through whom mankind would be blessed, was spiritual in nature and referred to Christ.—vss. 6-16

The purpose of the Mosaic Law was to make the Israelites aware of their inability to live without sin and also to prepare them to receive Christ as their Savior who, being perfect, gave his life as a ransom for all and purchased mankind from its sinful condition.—vss. 19-26

Our Key Verse indicates that all who have accepted Christ as their Redeemer through baptism into his death are counted as part of his body, and distinctions based upon gender, national origin, or other distinguishing human traits would not be obstacles to their complete union with Christ.

“If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (vs. 29) How wonderful it is to realize that faithful, devoted believers will be included as part of Abraham’s seed to bless all mankind. ■

# Communion with God in the Midst of Struggle

*Key Verse: "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."  
—Philippians 4:7*

*Selected Scripture:  
Philippians 3:3-4:9*

touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."—Phil. 3:4-7

In accepting Christ as the basis for salvation, Paul counted nationality, prestige, education, and all other personal attainments as having no value when compared to the excellency and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul renounced any pretensions of self-righteousness under the Law. (vss. 8,9) He viewed his Christian course as being of paramount importance and realized that diligent effort was required to gain the reward of

**USING HIMSELF AS AN EX-**

ample, Paul warns other believers that there is no cause for boasting in human accomplishments. "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as

a heavenly life.—vss. 10-14

Paul then exhorts all mature Christians to devote themselves to following the path of consecration and self-sacrifice while also citing the need to avoid the example of unfaithful teachers who denied the efficacy of Christ's ransom sacrifice and also were engaged in satisfying earthly interests. (vss. 15-19) Believers who have the desire to retain God's favor will heed the encouragement to focus upon spiritual matters. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."—Col. 3:1-4

In view of this wonderful hope, Paul urges the brethren to stand fast in the Lord, while also imploring two sisters—Euodias and Syntyche—to bury any differences that existed between them so that the Lord's work might be further advanced. Paul also called upon a brother in the congregation—"yokefellow"—to intervene and assist these sisters in overcoming their difficulties in order to preserve the unity of the Spirit.—Phil 4:1-3

Our Key Verse indicates that if the attitudes of rejoicing, moderation, and thanksgiving characterize the life of the Christian, he will possess an inner sense of peace that emanates from the power of the Holy Spirit. Its possessors would then experience a sense of tranquility and trust in God even when surrounded by outside disturbances or conflicts. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (vs. 8) Advanced Christians whose characters are well developed will consistently have their minds dwelling on such matters. ■

# Witness of the Community

**Key Verse:** *“The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*  
—II Timothy 2:2

**Selected Scripture:**  
*II Timothy 2:1-3;  
4:1-5*

## **PAUL’S SECOND EPISTLE**

to Timothy written from prison was an exhortation to stand firm in the strength of the Lord, especially since false teachers would attempt to corrupt the truth of the Gospel message. “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”—II Tim. 2:1

Our Key Verse asserts not only Timothy’s need for strengthening, but that he should assist others in their Christian growth

by transmitting to them the instructions he had received from the apostle. By committing the Truth to faithful men, these believers in turn would teach others, ensuring the continued promulgation of sound doctrine within the church.

In his final admonition to Timothy, Paul acknowledges his own service had been under the supervision of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and

doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”—chap. 4:1-4

Although much of the foregoing was directed specifically to Timothy who was an important leader in the Early Church, there are valuable lessons from these verses that each believer today should apply in his own Christian walk.

The good news of God’s coming kingdom to bless all the families of the earth should be proclaimed faithfully by all who appreciate this precious promise. Being ‘instant in season, out of season’ would imply that every reasonable opportunity should be taken to share this glorious message with others, even if it were personally inconvenient for us to do so. At times of despair and sorrow, how much the aching hearts of others could benefit from some comforting words relating to better times in the future under God’s direction.

Additionally, when erroneous teachings are proclaimed in our midst such as all unbelievers being tormented forever in the flames of a fiery hell, we should promptly point to scriptures that demonstrate the loving nature of our Heavenly Father who desires “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”—I Tim. 2:4

It will require faithfulness and fortitude for Christians to stand up for the Truth, but the reward promised for those who do this has been penned for our encouragement by the Apostle Paul. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”—II Tim. 4:7,8 ■

# Persecution within the Community

**Key Verse:** *“I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”*  
—II Corinthians 12:10

**Selected Scripture:**  
II Corinthians 11:16-12:10

## **THE TRANSFORMATION OF**

Saul of Tarsus into the Apostle Paul demonstrates how God’s providence can overrule in the affairs of men who may be misguided in their actions, but sincere in their hearts.

As a persecutor of the Lord’s disciples before his conversion, (Acts 9:1,2) Saul wrought havoc upon the early followers of Christ and sought to stamp out the new religion of Christianity, which he deemed to be contradictory to his Jewish heritage. His encounter with the risen

Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus was a profound event in his life and caused him to change his course and become a most zealous follower of the Lord.—vss. 3-15

As the Apostle Paul, he labored hard in Corinth in assisting believers to grow in the knowledge of the Lord. Nevertheless, opposition to his efforts arose and false brethren made various charges about his teachings. Some denied his apostleship and he defended himself by citing his credentials, saying, “Are they

ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.” (II Cor. 11:23-28) This suffering was predicted by Christ. “I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”—Acts 9:16

Another confirmation of Paul’s apostleship is given by his attestation of the number of visions he had received.—II Cor. 12:1,7

In recounting his encounter with the Lord when referring to the messenger of Satan to buffet him, Paul may well have been referring to his impaired eyesight that affected him throughout his ministry after he caught a glimpse of the glorified Lord. Although he prayed to have this affliction removed, his petition was not granted.—vss. 8,9

Our Key Verse reflects Paul’s acquiescence to the Heavenly Father’s will and his dependence upon Christ for grace to sustain him in all of his difficulties. As foot-step followers of the Master we, too, should expect persecution and opposition to our service in his cause, but we can also be comforted by our Lord’s counsel uttered the final night of his earthly sojourn—“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”—John 16:33 ■

# Salvation: The Gift of God

*“By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”  
—Ephesians 2:8*

**SALVATION MEANS TO BE** saved from death, but the question is sometimes asked concerning what death really is, and how can anyone be saved from it. Some may ask

whether salvation is a promise now to all believers in our Lord Jesus, or does it describe a condition of future happiness? The scriptures concerning these questions may help to give us a better understanding of what it means to be saved, and of how the grace of God will ultimately bring this great promise of his grace to all mankind.

## **GOD’S LAW TRANSGRESSED**

At the present time, the human family continues to die and is in desperate need of being saved. Death was introduced to the human family by our first parents, Adam and Eve, when they transgressed the Divine law and suffered the consequences of disobedience as we read in the scriptural account. “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and

evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Gen. 2:17) The Apostle Paul further explains, “As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”—Rom. 5:12

It is important to keep this fact clearly in mind and to not distort the meaning of the Scriptures. There is the erroneous claim that there is no death, but only a separation from God. Many Christian people believe that those who are separated from him by sin will be eternally tortured in a fiery hell. The whole subject of salvation sometimes becomes one of confusion and error.

God created man to live on the earth as a perfect human being. Every necessary provision was made by the Creator to insure that his human creation might enjoy a continuance of life on the earth. It was only necessary that they obey his law. The warning was given that disobedience would result in death, which is the loss of life. There is no mystery concerning this, and nothing that requires any interpretation. The result of disobedience has been manifest throughout all the ages since, for man has continued to die and the reign of sin and death continues to exist.

### **GOD’S GRACE MANIFEST**

Adam was justly condemned to death. There was no further requirement on God’s part that anything be done to set aside the penalty or to hinder the operation of the Divine principle which had decreed that the wages of sin is death. “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through

Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23) God’s grace and love made provision whereby the sinful race would not have to remain dead eternally. This provision was Christ, who came to redeem the fallen race and to die for them. Jesus explained the purpose of his mission to earth saying, “The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”—Luke 19:10

Salvation is provided by the wondrous grace of God. In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul wrote, “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.” (II Thess. 2:16) “Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (I Pet. 3:18) “In whom we have redemption through his [Christ’s] blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”—Eph. 1:7

## **INHERITED DEATH PENALTY**

Adam had sinned willfully, and the penalty of death was inflicted directly upon him. His children were born in sin, and while they came under condemnation along with Adam, they were not directly involved in the guilt as he was. The Apostle Paul explains, “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” (Rom. 5:14) Why did Paul say that this was true from Adam to Moses? This was because through Moses God gave his Law Covenant to Israel, and told them that by keeping that Law they could live.

This gave them an opportunity to be released from the original condemnation. In this respect, they were placed in the same position as Adam. But like Adam they too failed. The Law, which was ordained to give life, brought death instead, thus demonstrating that no member of the fallen and sinful race could by his own righteousness prove worthy of salvation. There was no other way for salvation to come to mankind except as a provision of Divine grace.

That mankind might not perish forever, God's abounding grace provided a Redeemer, even his beloved Son. The coming to earth of Jesus to die, the just for the unjust, was an evidence that the Creator had not turned his back upon his human creation, that he still loved them and would provide a way whereby he could be just in demanding the death penalty for sin, and yet justify those who would accept the provisions of his grace through Christ Jesus.

### **FAITH IN CHRIST**

God bestows some of his blessings upon mankind despite their beliefs or attitude, and whether or not they are worthy or unworthy. He causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall upon the just and the unjust alike. However, this is not true with respect to salvation. God's grace has provided an opportunity for salvation, but only those who accept it on his terms will benefit by this manifestation of his grace. As the apostle wrote, "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."—Eph. 2:8,9

This thought harmonizes with the great truth expressed by John, when he said, "God so loved the

world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16,17) No one can enjoy the blessings of God unless he has faith in him and in his promises. Those who have full confidence in him are glad to accept his will as their rule of life. Those who do not have such confidence may imagine that their own ways are better than his, and thus drift away from him and into the paths of sin.

Because of the blinding influences of Satan, the vast majority of mankind have no faith in God. Even when told of his grace through Christ they cannot believe it, and have no confidence or faith in him. There is thus no basis upon which the Heavenly Father can deal with them, and his grace which provided salvation is of no avail to them. Faith in God and in his ways implies humility, and an understanding of one’s own fallen condition. One who exalts himself is not truly upright, except in his own eyes. The Prophet Isaiah speaks of this condition and says, “We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”—Isa. 64:6

## **THE POWER OF FAITH**

The Prophet Habakkuk wrote, “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” (Hab. 2:4) The Apostle Paul quoted from this prophecy and included his perspective by emphasizing, “Therein is the righteousness

of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written [Hab. 2:4], The just shall live by faith.”—Rom. 1:17

Paul also quoted from Habakkuk’s prophecy two other times. When he wrote to the church at Galatia, he said, “That no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” (Gal. 3:11) In the apostle’s letter to the Hebrew brethren, he warned, “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” (Heb. 10:38) Our Heavenly Father has no pleasure in those who draw back by losing their faith in him and in the glorious provision of his grace. They thus fail to continue their obedience to him and his will.

### **THE LAW OF FAITH**

In his letter to the brethren at Rome, Paul again emphasizes the vital necessity of faith in the acceptance of God’s grace. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” (Rom. 3:23-26) The apostle asks, “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”—vs. 27

### **THE WORKS OF FAITH**

The faith which saves us through the grace of God must be a living and active faith. Faith in Jesus which makes the merit of his blood acceptable for

our salvation is one that must be demonstrated by a full surrender of our lives to the Father and to the doing of his will. It would be meaningless to profess faith in Christ while failing to conform our lives to the pattern he has set for us. James puts this matter in perspective and says, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” (James 2:17,18) James then adds, “Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”—vs. 20

### **JUSTIFIED BY FAITH**

Salvation means to be rescued from death, but believers in Christ appear to die in the same manner that all the rest of mankind do. The question may then be asked, In what manner are they being saved? During Christ’s future kingdom, believers are promised life if they have faith in Christ and will obey the laws of the kingdom. This is the provision of God’s grace for the sin-sick and dying human family.

During the present Gospel Age, a special feature of the Heavenly Father’s ultimate plan of reconciliation is being accomplished. During this time, he is selecting a class of people who will participate with our Lord Jesus in his future kingdom. There is offered to these followers of our Lord Jesus the glorious prospect of sharing a heavenly home with Christ, and reigning with him in his kingdom for the blessing of all the families of the earth. This special offer has conditions attached to it, and those who are being called must first suffer and die with Jesus.

Paul spoke of these faithful followers of Jesus and said, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Rom. 8:14-17) In his second letter to Timothy, the apostle also wrote, "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us."—II Tim. 2:11,12

These Christians are invited to follow faithfully in Jesus' footsteps. "If we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom. 6:5) Paul confirms, "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."—vs. 8

## **LIVING SACRIFICES**

Those who are dead in Christ and have responded to the High Calling heed the Apostle Paul's admonition to present their bodies in consecration to the Heavenly Father. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."—Rom. 12:1

The question arises as to how members of the fallen and dying race can offer themselves in acceptable sacrifice to God. We know that Jesus gave his perfect life in sacrifice, but how can we be 'planted together in the likeness of' (Continued on page 35)

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*(Continued from page 31)* his death?" Consecrated followers of Jesus are covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness, and receive the provision of justification by faith. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."—Rom. 5:1,2

At the present time, the world remains alienated from God because of sin and its penalty, but the believer has been brought to the Heavenly Father by the blood of Christ. He is at peace with God, and is no longer under condemnation. By faith he has received the salvation provided by the blood of Christ, and he is justified in the sight of the Heavenly Father. There is only one purpose for this standing of faith that is granted to believers during this present Gospel Age. That reason is that they might, in turn, offer themselves as an acceptable sacrifice to God. By faith they have been made alive by the blood of Christ, but they return that justified life back to God in sacrifice.

Paul makes this clear, when he says, "In that he [Christ] died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:10,11) From the world's standpoint, the consecrated Christian appears to die just like everyone else. But God views the new and justified life as dying with our Lord Jesus. These New Creatures in Christ Jesus are laying down their lives in sacrifice. The apostle said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which

I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20) “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”—chap. 5:24

## **THE GREAT SALVATION**

The reward that is being offered to those who walk in the narrow way of sacrifice with our Lord Jesus, and are faithful unto death, is much greater than merely being restored to perfect life here on this earth. We are promised a heavenly or spiritual inheritance. “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?”—Heb. 2:3

The ‘great salvation’ is promised to those who walk in newness of life—“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.” (Rom. 2:7) The Apostle Peter says, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”—II Pet. 1:3,4

This great salvation is to participate in the “first resurrection” to live and reign with Christ. (Rev. 20:4,6) The faithful will be made like Jesus and “see him as he is.” (I John 3:1-3) They will sit with him “in his throne” (Rev. 3:21), and they will have “power over the nations.” (Rev. 2:26) It was by his grace that provision was made for the great salvation to

become the possession of those of us who respond to the calling to suffer and die with Christ that we might share in the glory of his future kingdom of justice and peace.

### **THE GIFT OF GOD**

When we consider the unspeakable promises of God in connection with our High Calling in Christ Jesus, we know that we could never attain to such heights of glory by our own righteousness or worthiness, as we read, “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.” (II Cor. 3:5) It is only through our blessed Savior that we are able to offer our lives in sacrifice to the Heavenly Father that he has made acceptable to him by his wonderful provisions of grace. In return, we have the blessed privilege to become partakers of the Divine nature.

God’s grace is manifest to us through the gift of his beloved Son, while we in turn lay hold upon this wonderful gift, which is acceptable to him through our faith. God gave us his Son, and those who believe on him will receive life. We can then offer our acceptable sacrifice to the Heavenly Father by his abundant grace on our behalf.

### **UNMERITED GRACE**

Jesus is God’s great gift which manifests his unmerited grace or favor, which through our faith results in salvation. Everything we possess is ours by the grace of God, and this includes our faith. “That we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” (II Thess. 3:2) Some have been called who have sufficient faith to lay hold upon the wonderful promises of God,

and accept the terms of the great salvation. Thus they run diligently for “the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”—Phil. 3:14

If we have such a faith, let us rejoice and endeavor to have it increased through prayer and active use. The disciples prayed that their faith might be increased, and we should do the same. As we become better acquainted with the plan and purpose of God, its glorious beauty cannot help but increase our faith. Blessed are we if our faith has been able to recognize and accept the marvelous gift of God, even Jesus who is our personal Savior. May we drink of the water of life which he has provided for all who come to the Heavenly Father through him. If we have partaken of this life-giving water, it will be in us as “a well of water springing up” into everlasting and abundant life.—John 4:14

### **SALVATION FOR MANKIND**

It is a blessed thought to realize that the water of life which now springs up in our hearts like ‘a well,’ will continue to flow out to the world even more abundantly under the righteous terms and administration of Christ’s future kingdom of blessing to the whole sin-sick and dying human family. The faithful members of his church will share in dispensing those blessings of truth, life, and peace to all who are willing to obey the laws of that righteous kingdom.

The Prophet Isaiah points forward in time to that blessed kingdom which we believe is drawing ever near. “With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.”—Isa. 12:3-6 ■

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# Lessons from Job

*“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”*

—*Job 1:1*

**THE BOOK OF JOB IS** unique in many ways and, because of this, some Bible critics have suggested that perhaps it should not be classed with the other writings that we consider to be the inspired Word of God. We are convinced, however, that

the weight of evidence surely identifies it as part of God’s Word. Notice the Apostle James’ reference to Job. He not only vouches for the credibility of this book, but suggests also an approach to our study of it in order that we might draw the intended lessons from it. These verses read, “Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”—James 5:10,11

In the above verses, we see Job classified with the prophets of old who have spoken in the name of the Lord. James further suggests that Job’s experiences were to be “an example of suffering affliction, and of patience”—an example for the church during this

Gospel Age. Additionally, he invites us to notice the tender mercies of God inasmuch as after being faithful in afflictions, he was richly rewarded by God. He received double for all that he had lost.

## **THE ACCOUNT OF JOB**

Let us turn to the Book of Job and notice its very classic beginning. “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.” (Job 1:1-3) These verses present all we know about Job as far as his background is concerned.

The patriarch Job lived in the desert city or area of Uz, which is believed to have been somewhere between Moab and ancient Chaldea. While Job was going through the experiences recorded in this book, the Israelites were dwelling in the land of Goshen in Egypt, which gives us an idea of the time setting. There is a clue which helps to pinpoint this as the time that Job lived, having to do with one of Job’s comforters, Eliphaz, and the genealogy of Esau given in Genesis 36. We will not go further into this specifically, as it does not bear on the lessons in the Book of Job.

Job became the center of a controversy between Satan and the Lord God. Satan suggested that Job revered God only because he had ‘hedged’ him about and made him to prosper in the land. He

suggested that if God would take away all that Job had he would curse him to his face. So the Lord allowed Satan to bring all these calamities upon Job—his children were all killed, his flocks and herds and all his servants were destroyed so that he had nothing. He even brought a scourge of boils upon him—from the crown of his head to the bottom of his feet. The only thing he could not do was take Job's life.—Job 1:6-12; 2:1-8

Even Job's wife turned against him for a time, Satan suggesting, through her, that he "curse God, and die." Job had nothing left but his life and his faith in God, and what a test of faith this was. The account says, however, that "In all this did not Job sin with his lips." (chap. 2:9,10) Although he did not sin or complain, he was very perplexed and could not understand the situation. It occurred to him that ashes might be good for curing the boils so he made his way out of town to the city dump and found an ash heap where he sat down and covered himself with ashes.—vs. 8

### **JOB'S 'COMFORTERS'**

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar—three friends of Job who heard about his miserable condition—came to comfort him and found him sitting on the heap of ashes with all these boils and smeared with ashes from head to foot. They could hardly believe their eyes. In fact, they were so shocked they couldn't utter a word. They just sat there looking at each other for a solid week. The account reads, "When they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their

heads toward heaven. So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.”—vss. 12,13

Finally, Job began to pour out his heart to his three friends. These three were supposedly God-fearing men, and came with the express purpose of comforting their friend Job. While all three of these so-called comforters became very eloquent in speech and rose to high platitudes of thought in their dialog with Job, they turned out to be his accusers more than his comforters. In fact, they suggested that all of Job’s problems were punishments from God because of his sin. They accused him of being a sinner, a hypocrite, and a liar. The account of Job’s conversations with these three ‘comforters’ is recorded in chapters four to thirty one.

During Job’s conversation with his three friends, another young man, named Elihu, came on the scene. He had been listening to the discussion and could not contain himself any longer. He delivered a rather well-worded lecture, rebuking Job’s friends for their attitude and speaking many profound and truthful things concerning God. However, Elihu also failed to provide the answer that Job was seeking—as to why God was permitting him to suffer all these calamities.—chaps. 32-37

## **GOD SPEAKS TO JOB**

When all human help seemed to fail, God spoke to Job and began to open up his understanding concerning himself and his attitude. We see in this that, while Job never lost faith in God, he did, nevertheless, have some important lessons to learn to

offset his tendency toward self-righteousness and pride. He needed to be humbled.

Job had never had any adversity in his life. He needed this experience in order to learn the value of obedience under adverse conditions. When the Lord saw that he had learned the lessons, he brought an end to his misery. Job had overcome, and because of it the Lord blessed him with substance far greater than he had had before—doubling his wealth, giving him a new family and extending his years of life. This, in brief, is the story of Job.

### **SIMILARITIES—JOB AND JESUS**

We believe there are some lessons in Job's experience that can be a help to us in our Christian walk. First, however, we note some parallels between the experiences of Job and that of our Lord Jesus.

Job—was the richest man in all the east. Jesus, or the *Logos*—the riches of the universe were his. He was second only to God in glory.

Job—submitted to the Divine will in giving up all that he had, including his own health. He spoke of himself as being 'as good as dead.' Jesus—laid aside his heavenly glory and sacrificed his perfect human life on the cross. "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."—II Cor. 8:9

Job—was persecuted by his three comforters, all speaking eloquently concerning God but accusing Job of being a sinner, hypocrite, and liar. Jesus—was persecuted by the three religious sects of his day, the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. They claimed to worship God, but they called our Lord a sinner, hypocrite, and liar.

Job—learned the value of faith and obedience to God under adverse conditions. Jesus—“learned . . . obedience by the things which he suffered.”—Heb. 5:8

Job—the LORD returned the prosperity of Job, giving him far more than he had before. Jesus—raised to glory, honor, immortality, the Divine nature—a far greater glory than he had with the Father as the *Logos*.

### **LESSONS FOR THE CHURCH**

If the above correspondency exists between Job and our Lord, then certainly there are some valuable lessons for those who are following in the Master's footsteps. We, like Job, are in a sense a subject of controversy between Satan and our Heavenly Father. We, too, have some profound lessons to be learned, principally humility, in order to be drawn into a closer and deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father. Some of these difficult experiences that come upon us may be instigated by our adversary, the Devil, in his effort to destroy our faith, but they are permitted and carefully overruled of God, that humility and all the beautiful fruits of righteousness may be worked out in our life, if we are rightly exercised by them.

In the case of Job, the primary battle was between pride and humility. Satan had calculated that Job would lose his faith in God entirely if he took away all the things that appealed to his natural pride and vanity. God, on the other hand, believed that these same experiences, overruled by him, could break down the pride and self-righteousness of Job and help him develop the beautiful godlike quality of humility.

Let us call to mind the story in chapter 22 of Luke, beginning with verse 24. Strife had developed among the disciples of our Lord as to who would be the greatest among them. This suggestion which had come to them was of satanic origin. Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not."—Luke 22:31,32

We see how Satan tried to use the spirit of pride as a wedge to destroy the faith of the disciples even before they had become Spirit-begotten sons of God at Pentecost. The Lord in his wisdom provided this stern reply to the intent that the weaknesses of Peter's own flesh would be a means of humbling him so that he might become very useful in the ministry of Truth after Pentecost. The result, we know, was that Peter was a faithful servant and apostle of the Lord, even unto death.

The Apostle Paul is another example of how Satan's efforts to destroy were carefully overruled of God in such a way that Paul might prosper spiritually. Have we ever thought of Satan having anything to do with Paul's blindness? The apostle said, "Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in

persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."—II Cor. 12:7-10

Paul learned to rejoice in these difficult experiences. This, too, was what Job learned in his life. This is what the followers of the Master must learn also. If the Lord's people have reproaches, persecutions, and distresses for Christ's sake—we should rejoice in them. It is a means of bringing us low, humbling us under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt us in due time. The spirit of pride, vain-glory, and self-righteousness cannot be taken into the kingdom. We must get rid of it here—while we are on this side of the veil.

### **UNDERSTANDING OUR EXPERIENCES**

Job sought wisdom and understanding, as had others in olden times, most notably Solomon and Hezekiah. We read, "Where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?" (Job 28:12) Job could not understand why God was permitting these terrible things, according to the flesh, to come upon him, so he came to the conclusion that God had forsaken him, and rather than try to communicate with God about the matter Job first went to his worldly friends for advice and comfort, instead of seeking God.

Sometimes we make mistakes along this same line. Perhaps we have had a severe trial come upon us and then sought out advice from every means available, practically moving heaven and earth, before seriously taking the matter to the Lord and seeking his guidance and overruling. Oh, how pleasing it is to our Heavenly Father if we, rather, turn to him immediately in times of distress, for "God is our

refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”—Ps. 46:1

Job was gradually learning a new dimension of faith—the value of obedience through the things that he suffered. As he carried on the dialog with his friends sitting on a heap of ashes, he was becoming aware of the fact that he was not going to receive any useful advice or help from them. Then his mind began to turn more toward the Lord, and he uttered these words, “Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.” (Job 13:3) This seemed to be a turning point in Job’s attitude as he began to more fully humble himself under the mighty hand of God.

Job’s faith now was becoming stronger, and he was able to utter, as recorded in verse 15 of the same chapter, those immortal words that have rung down through the ages and have been such an encouragement and blessing to us—“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.” Have we reached that point in Christian development where we can utter these same words, and where we never murmur or repine at what the Lord’s providence may permit? Or, rather, do we find ourselves complaining at times? If so, then perhaps there are still further lessons we might learn from Job’s experiences.

## **LEARNING THE LESSONS**

Job was now beginning to learn some of the lessons God had purposed for him. He had prayed for wisdom, and he was beginning to get understanding. As he started learning these things, he expressed his confidence in God, when he said, “He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried

me, I shall come forth as gold.” (Job 23:10) Is not this also true with the Lord’s people of today? He knows the way that we take, and wisely allows us to go through the fiery trials that are so necessary if we are to ‘come forth as gold.’ The Apostle Peter, having learned this valuable lesson through experience himself, said, “Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”—I Pet. 4:12

Job now had come to understand what his character weaknesses were, and he knew what God was trying to do for him. He then talked freely of his former condition of pride, vanity, and self-righteousness. “My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand. Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel. After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.” (Job 29:20-22) We were no better than Job in this respect. The Lord is carefully pointing out to each one of us, through our experiences, that we too must first recognize, and do something about this ‘pride of life,’ vanity, and self-righteousness that are so much a part of our fallen human nature.

## **HUMBLING OURSELVES BEFORE GOD**

We recall again, as stated earlier, after Job had completed his dialog with his three friends, there was the young man Elihu who spoke out eloquently in words of counsel to Job. He did not fully understand Job’s problem, but he did speak some profound truths concerning God. His description of the Almighty is certainly worth noting. “Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he

will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.” (Job 37:23,24) What a precious gem humility is when we begin to see these lessons in our lives! Perhaps if we could see ourselves as God sees us we would work much more diligently in this job of rooting pride out of our character.

Finally, God himself spoke to Job and seemed to finish the work of humbling him and breaking his pride and self-righteousness. Beginning with chapter 38, God sought to further humble Job by pointing out to him that the wisdom and knowledge which he had as one of the intellectual giants of his day was nothing compared with the wisdom of God. He asked Job to answer a number of questions concerning the Creation of the heavens and the earth, the preparation of the earth, and the laws that control it. Job, of course, had no answers to these questions.

Job, for the first time, began to see himself in the proper light. His estimation of his own wisdom and knowledge had been greatly reduced. We have his response to God in this regard, “Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.” (Job 40:3-5) Later, Job continues to pour out his heart to the Lord, saying, “I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of

thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”—Job 42:2-6

Sometimes we hear the Lord with our ears but do not see him with our eyes. We will see the Lord with our eyes only when we are able to apply the lessons we learn in our daily experiences. This is where we see the hand of God in our lives, and he will give us experiences that are calculated to help develop in our individual lives the humility of character needed to be faithful. It was through the eye of faith that Job finally saw God’s hand carefully overruling in the great ordeal he had gone through, and it will be with the eye of faith that we are able to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and see him working out through experiences the precious gems of a Christlike character in our lives.

### **SATAN—THE FATHER OF PRIDE**

Let us also notice chapter 41, where God talks about the “leviathan” and goes into great detail concerning its appearance and other characteristics. A leviathan is a serpent, or dragon, and probably the mythical dragons we sometimes hear about are based, in part, upon the description that we have in the book of Job. This chapter provides a symbolic description of Satan and his attributes. Indeed, Satan is called “the dragon, that old serpent.” (Rev. 20:2) The last verse of Job 41 reads, “He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.” This is a fitting description of the “god of this world.” (II Cor. 4:4) Satan has infected the whole world with the spirit of pride, vainglory, and self-righteousness.

The battle line was pride versus humility in the controversy between Satan and God in respect to Job. This is precisely what the issue is also in our lives as followers of Christ. If the Lord is to have the victory in our lives, then we must purge out all willfulness, self-righteousness, and pride and fully humble ourselves before him. May our strength be found in the power of his Spirit working in our lives, and may his Word of Truth be our counsel.

### **A GLORIOUS OUTCOME**

The story of Job had a very happy ending. His comforters apologized and sacrificed to him. Job prayed for them and God forgave them. What a lesson is in that for us! We, too, must love our enemies and pray for them. We should pray for the world that God's wonderful kingdom of blessings may soon come and restore all things.

In the end, Job received much more than he had lost—double of all his substance. Our simple minds are not capable of comprehending the wonderful things that God has in store for those that love him. “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.”—I Cor. 2:9

Much has been said about the goal of our High Calling. May that goal inspire us to more fully humble ourselves in every aspect of our lives, under the mighty providential hand of God, that we may, if faithful, be highly exalted and have the privilege of a part in the wonderful work of blessing and uplifting all the families of the earth. Oh, what a joy our Heavenly Father has set before us. Let us not “neglect so great salvation!”—Heb. 2:3 ■

# Sons of God

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

—*I John 3:1*

## THE ‘SONS OF GOD’ THAT

John is addressing in this scripture are those who have been richly blessed by our Heavenly Father, and have received abundantly of his loving care and provisions of grace. They now have a new standing in Christ Jesus and are justified because of their faith in his precious blood that was shed on their behalf. As members of the fallen human family, they could never have attained this position on their own.

During this present Gospel Age, the Heavenly Father has been calling from the world of mankind a very special class of consecrated Christians who will share in joint-heirship with Christ during his future kingdom of righteousness that will be established over the earth, and which we believe is near at hand. John spoke further of this wonderful calling and relationship as sons, when he said, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath

this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” (vss. 2,3) To this, the revelator has added, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”—Rev. 2:10

### **A LIVING SACRIFICE**

Having been set free from the Divine sentence of death that was imposed upon mankind because of our first parents disobedience in the Garden of Eden, we may then in turn present ourselves to the Father as a living sacrifice. The Apostle Paul addressed this point in his letter to the brethren at Rome, when he said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Rom. 12:1) In presenting our consecrated lives as a sacrifice to God, we must be alert and keep ourselves continuously in the narrow way of self-denial that leads to life on the Divine spiritual plane.

### **A BLESSED RELATIONSHIP**

The sons of God are associated with Christ in a very special way, first by participating in his suffering during our present lifetime, and then, if faithful, by sharing his glory in his future kingdom as members of his bride. If we suffer with him now, we shall also reign with him later. (II Tim. 2:12) In his first epistle, John intimately connects the sons of God with the Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ. In reference to this wonderful relationship with our dear Lord, he begins his first letter by saying, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled,

of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (I John 1:1-3) Jesus is the ‘Word of life’ that had been with the Father as his only begotten Son, and was manifest to us. We may have fellowship with him, the Heavenly Father, and with one another.

### **NO MORE DARKNESS**

John spoke further concerning this wonderful relationship. He said, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”—vss. 5-7

During the time of our Lord Jesus’ earthly ministry, some were questioning him when he proclaimed to them the importance of being in the light of Truth. The apostle recorded the occasion, and we read, “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12) It is essential that we be enlightened regarding the message of Truth. We must walk in the light with those who also walk in the light and share this blessed fellowship one with another.

## LEARNING OBEDIENCE

In Samuel's answer to Saul regarding the king's intention to offer sacrifices to God, he presented to us an important and fundamental lesson in connection with those who would be pleasing to the Heavenly Father. "Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."—I Sam. 15:22

In connection with Christ's earthly priesthood many centuries later, the Apostle Paul said, "Every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins." (Heb. 5:1) In his letter to the Hebrew brethren, he also spoke of Jesus and his great love for his Father and his desire to carry out his life of sacrifice in complete obedience to God's will. Although he lived a perfect life, as we all know, nevertheless he was allowed to be tested by the great Adversary to prove his faithfulness. The apostle explained, "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." (Heb. 4:15) Concerning Jesus' relationship to the Father, Paul pointed out, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."—Heb. 5:8

Luke records Jesus' own words when he explained, "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. And he said to them all, If any man will come after

me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”—Luke 9:22,23

### **A NEW COMMANDMENT**

We also read, “Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.” (I John 2:8) “This is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”—I John 3:23,24

The apostle states that because of the true light of Truth that we now share, we also are given a ‘new commandment’ of love. The power of love cannot be over estimated. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”—John 3:16,17

### **WALKING IN LOVE**

We may show our loving devotion to God by acts of kindness and generosity toward one another in various ways, and when we do so we will often find that love begets love. It has been said that others of like precious faith who are consecrated followers of our Lord Jesus may be identified by their expressions of love. This has resulted from their coming to know and appreciate the Heavenly Father and from walking with our Lord Jesus in the light. God is love, and the sons of God will also walk accordingly.

The Apostle Paul spoke concerning the followers of Jesus who expressly love the Heavenly Father and desire to know and serve him. He pointed back to a scripture that had been written earlier and said, "As it is written [Isa. 64:4], 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." (I Cor. 2:9) Paul laid down his life in sacrifice to the Father as an expression of his great love, and words could not adequately describe the blessings that would be realized for his devoted actions.

### **LIGHT AFFLICTIONS**

Paul explained to the brethren at Corinth, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."—II Cor. 4:17,18

What a privileged and responsible position we find ourselves in as those who have been called out of darkness into the glorious light of Truth. We are blessed with a knowledge and understanding that not only enables us to explain the present, but to some extent even unfold the future and the ultimate plan and purpose of the Heavenly Father. For this we offer our thanks and loving devotion.

### **MANY SONS**

Concerning the faithful Son of God we read, "Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands." (Heb. 2:7) The realization of this wonderful calling in Christ

Jesus is put into perspective when Paul explained, “It became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”—vs. 10

Our wonderful relationship to this heavenly family is further emphasized by the apostle when he said, “Both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren. Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.”—vss. 11-13

### **THE HOUSE OF SONS**

We are encouraged by Paul’s words which were written to the brethren at Rome, in which he said, “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom. 8:28,29) “Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”—Heb. 3:6 ■

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# ENCOURAGING LETTERS

## BOOKLETS REQUESTED

DawnBible: I desire these two booklets, *The Grace of Jehovah* and *Divine Healing*, and a Dawn Magazine. I liked so much the September issue. Dear brothers help me to know more about God. Thanks. Lord bless you—BRAZIL

## ANSWER TO PRAYER

DawnBible: I have been reading your booklets and writings and have found them to be very enlightening. They have answered a lot of questions for me and seem to be the answer to my prayer for some understanding.

Thanks to the writers and publishers of this information for helping a sin sick soul to find some relief.—DC

## FARMER'S ALMANAC

DawnBible: I learned of your website today while reading an ad in the *Farmer's Almanac* for 2008.

My second cousin, who was a missionary along with her family in Africa for 30 years would be very

interested in your site and I am going to send her this today. Thank you for placing your ad in the *Farmer's Almanac* so many of us can see it. God bless—CA

## MANNA

DawnBible: Reading in the morning the *Daily Heavenly Manna*, it's very good! God bless every class of Bible students.—ITALY

## GOODWILL STORE

DawnBible: I have been blessed by '[*Daily*] *Heavenly Manna*,' which I found in a Goodwill store. Thank you!—UT

## SPREADING THE WORD

DawnBible: It was a wonderful experience to see your site and to read some of your biblical articles.

Your effort of spreading the Word of God is appreciable. May God bless everyone in your team.—INDIA

## READING FOR YEARS

DawnBible: I have been reading *The Dawn* for years and I have learned a great deal, by the grace of God. I'd

like to say thank you for this publication that has blessed many, I am sure.—CT

### **ORDERED BOOKLET**

DawnBible: I came upon your website and ordered your book [*Father, Son and Holy Spirit*]. I have always distinguished Jehovah, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as being different.—CA

### **PORTUGUESE LITERATURE**

Dear Dawn: I would like to tell the Dawn brethren that I am very happy and radiant upon having learned that we now have a wide variety of booklets and brochures in Portuguese, in addition to *The Dawn* magazine. I've read a few of them and they are excellent.

My congratulations to all of the Dawn brethren who are involved in the work of publishing and distributing the marvelous truths of the Bible, thereby fulfilling the commission to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.—BRAZIL

### **FOOD FOR THE SPIRIT**

DawnBible: I enjoyed and was blessed by many of the

articles that I have read on your site tonight. It is very biblically sound and food for the spirit and soul.

I have been fed and uplifted by the sermons and look forward to continuing to visit your site.—HI

### **DEEPLY ENTHUSED**

DawnBible: The Lord is a blessing to me through such people as yourselves. I am deeply enthused to note this website. The Dawn sounds like a wonderful experience. This I say, Peace.—MS

### **DIVINE PLAN**

DawnBible: Thank you for the wonderful information on the *Divine Plan of the Ages*. I think the Bible Scriptures are now being understood. Thanks for the website.—FL

### **BIBLE STUDIES**

DawnBible: Dawn Bible Studies [in *The Dawn* magazine] has been a blessing in my life for many years.

It has enabled me to continue my Sunday School Studies even when I could not attend my church. Thank you.—MD

## SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

*The speakers listed below are invited by individual classes, or their services have been arranged by their home classes:*

### **R. Goodman**

St. Petersburg, FL November 9

### **E. Kalinski**

Portland, OR November 23

### **T. Krupa**

San Diego, CA

November 27-30

### **J. Parkinson**

New Haven, CT November 2

### **R. Wilson**

San Diego, CA

November 27-30

## OBITUARIES

*The following brethren have recently finished their Christian course. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to their family and friends in the loss of these dear ones.*

**Brother Amirthasamy, Trichy, India—September 19. Age, 73**

**Brother Michael Lalik, New York, NY—September 21. Age, 96**

## WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

**NOVEMBER 6**—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."—Romans 12:1 (Z. '00-170 Hymn 42)

**NOVEMBER 13**—"Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of."—Matthew 6:8 (Z. '04-90 Hymn 284)

**NOVEMBER 20**—"If ye do these things, ye shall never fall."—II Peter 1:10 (Z. '97-148 Hymn 130)

**NOVEMBER 27**—"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance."—Ephesians 6:18 (Z. '01-80 Hymn 241)

## CONVENTIONS

*These conventions are listed by request of classes who sponsor them. So your convention can be placed in these columns in time, make your request in writing three months before the date of the convention to Dawn Magazine, 199 Railroad Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073.*

**NEW HAVEN CONVENTION, November 2**—Westwoods Italian-American Club, 85 Chase Lane, West Haven, CT. Contact A. Suraci, 171 Johnson Road, Hamden CT 06518. Phone: (203) 248-3793

**JERSEY CITY CONVENTION, November 23**—Loyalty Lodge, 1912 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ. Contact the class secretary. Phone: (718) 961-4437

**SAN DIEGO CONVENTION, November 27,28,29, 30**—Alliant University, 10455 Pomerado Road, San Diego, CA 92131. For hotel reservations (7 miles north), contact La Quinta Inn (858) 484-8800, specify “Bible Students.” For on-campus college dorm, contact B. Bach (619) 445-4879. Other information, contact R. Rice, 13084 Treecrest Street, Poway, CA 92064. Phone: (858) 486-0381

**CHICAGO CONVENTION, December 27,28**—Elk Grove High School, 500 W. Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. Contact J. Farrell. Phone: (630) 469-9511

**PHOENIX NEW YEAR’S CONVENTION, January 3,4**—La Quinta Inn, 2510 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85203. For hotel reservations, contact L. Williams. Phone: (602) 993-0800, ext. 5582. Other information, contact J. Zardja. Phone: (602) 363-2612

**SACRAMENTO CONVENTION, February 13,14,15**—The Clarion Hotel, 2600 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821. Contact K. Ajise. Phone: (916) 421-0755

**FLORIDA CONVENTION, March 7,8,9**—Clarion Hotel-Altamonte Springs, 230 West State Road 436, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. Phone: (407) 862-4455. Specify “Florida Bible Students” for special rate until February 20. Other information, contact J. Wesol. Phone: (407) 699-1829

*In Thy Name*

*Where two or three, with sweet accord,  
Meet in thy name, O blessed Lord!  
Meet to recount thine acts of grace,  
O, how thy presence fills the place!*

*There thou hast promised, Lord, to be,  
To bless the little company;  
And while we offer prayer and praise,  
O! may we learn more of thy ways!*

*O! fill our hearts with heavenly love,  
And may we at its impulse move,  
That all around may clearly see  
That we have been, dear Lord, with thee.*

—*Hymns of Dawn*



## **MOVING?**

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*To us the Scriptures clearly teach:*

**THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE TEMPLE” OF THE LIVING GOD** —peculiarly “his workmanship;” that its construction has been in progress throughout the Gospel Age—ever since Christ became the world’s Redeemer and the chief “corner stone” of this temple, through which, when finished, God’s blessings shall come “to all people,” and they find access to him.—I Cor. 3:16,17; Eph. 2:20-22; Gen. 28:14; Gal. 3:29

**THAT MEANTIME THE CHISELING, SHAPING, AND POLISHING** of the consecrated believers in Christ’s atonement for sin progresses, and when the last of these “living stones,” “elect and precious,” shall have been made ready, the great Master Workman will bring all together in the first resurrection; and the temple shall be filled with his glory, and be the meeting place between God and men throughout the Millennium.—Rev. 15:5-8

**THAT THE BASIS OF HOPE FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD** lies in the fact that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God “tasted death for every man,” “a ransom for all,” and will be “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,” “in due time.”—Heb. 2:9; John 1:9; I Tim. 2:5,6

**THAT THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH** is that she may be like her Lord, “see him as he is,” be a “partaker of the divine nature,” and share his glory as his joint-heir.—I John 3:2; John 17:24; Rom. 8:17; II Pet. 1:4

**THAT THE PRESENT MISSION OF THE CHURCH** is the perfecting of the saints for the future work of service; to develop in herself every grace; to be God’s witness to the world; and to prepare to be the kings and priests in the next age.—Eph. 4:12; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:6, 20:6

**THAT THE HOPE FOR THE WORLD** lies in the blessings of knowledge and opportunity to be brought to all by Christ’s millennial kingdom—the restitution of all that was lost in Adam, to all the willing and obedient, at the hands of their Redeemer and his glorified church—when all the willfully wicked will be destroyed.—Acts 3:19-23; Isa. 35