

Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the Whole counsel of God

Definite SIGN POSTS Of The End

Paul N. Smith

“And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world (or, of this age)? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My Name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” (Matthew 24:3-8) Jesus had made many appearances to His disciples over a period of 40 days after His resurrection. He met with them again, either by appointment, or because they were going to that hallowed place in His absence. He told them to return to Jerusalem and wait for “the Promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (1:4-5). It is apparent what the disciples' minds were set on. They asked Him, “Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?” Jesus had talked with them about His return when He would revive Israel's hope of their kingdom being established. He had also told them of the advent of the Holy Spirit.

JESUS PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE AS HE ANSWERED THE DISCIPLES' QUESTIONS. “It is not for you to know the times and seasons, which the Father hath put in His own authority. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me” (1:7-8). They immediately left the Mount of Olives and returned to Jerusalem into an upper room to await the coming of the Holy Ghost. They did not know what to expect, as they had no precedent to go by. After the Holy Spirit came upon them and they were filled with His Presence, they immediately became witnesses of “all that Jesus began to do and teach.” They didn't need to take lessons on how to witness; they just told the people what had happened to them. Peter became the first to preach. In his sermon, he spoke of the prophecies gone before of the coming of Messiah. Then he added, “this Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses For David is not ascended into the heavens; but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make Thy foes Thy footstool” (Acts 2:14-40).

JESUS' NEXT APPEARANCE ON MOUNT OLIVET WILL BE WHEN HE

JUDGES THE WORLD. He will make a secret appearance when He takes His Bride home, and later, the rest of the Church. But, this appearance will be extremely visible -- "with power and great glory, " shall He descend. "Behold, the Day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the East, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the East and toward the West, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the North, and half of it toward the South" (Zechariah 14:1-4).

THE NATIONS ARE ALREADY GETTING INTO PLACE, AS ZECHARIAH HAS PROPHESED. The nations do not realize that they are fulfilling Scripture, but think they are planning their own way. God has always been way ahead of mankind, and has moved rulers and set boundaries as if the earth was a chess board. Israel is at the center of all the world's activities. This nation was chosen as a special people above all others, and the land is called God's Land. It is written that the Lord positioned the nations around Israel for His own purpose. "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the Children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 32:8; Acts 17:26). The reason? "For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance . . . (32:9-43). Today, the nation of Israel is not enjoying the favor of the Lord, because they have rejected their Messiah, Jesus. These people have always been independent, and so God has stepped back and is letting Israel fight its own battles. Only when these people humble themselves and call upon the Lord, will they see deliverance from their enemies.

A TWO-STATE SOLUTION IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR PEACE IN JERUSALEM, SO SAY THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have pledged to bring peace between their countries, by means of two states, side by side, the only way. Livni told the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum that a Palestinian state is "not an illusion. It's there, it's achievable. Livni urged the international community to support moderates in the Middle East. She told Abbas that "compromising with extremists will not promote anything," a clear reference to Hamas and other militant groups.

The Hamas leader, Haniyeh, calls for a 10-year truce with Israel in exchange for the West Bank, Gaza and parts of Jerusalem. "We will be ready for a long interim agreement based on a period of cease-fire that can go to 10 or even 15 years. During this period we will build our state on the strong basis of honor and with an honest administration. With the territories we will be ready to discuss the possibility that the three big settlement compounds will remain under the power of Israel and in exchange we will receive territories for the Palestinian independent state."

Thus, the two nations are discussing how to divide Israel's land with their enemy, the Palestinian government. This is the land that belongs to Israel, given to them by the God of Heaven. The Lord has stepped back, and is letting Israel make their own moves, which will bring them much sorrow and suffering. The Israeli army is very upset regarding an order issued recently by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to remove a series of West Bank security checkpoints that regularly stop terrorists from infiltrating Jewish cities. In accordance with promises made to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas during a summit this weekend, Olmert instructed the IDF to remove 49 West Bank roadblocks and checkpoints. Twenty-seven roadblocks are to be removed immediately, and the rest within a week, subject to a final decision by government officials. Olmert also instructed IDF soldiers not to thoroughly examine every vehicle at 16 of the West Bank's largest roadblocks. These examinations usually cause long delays at the checkpoints.

All of this seems to favor the Palestinians, and it seems as if Israel officials are willing to do anything for just a promise of peace. Terrorists will have much more freedom to cause serious damage in Israeli territories. Also, Olmert told the heads of Israel's Major security services he hopes the checkpoints will be dismantled by the Muslim holiday of Id al Adha. We don't know if this order has been carried through, as it is past time. It is difficult to believe that the Israeli government can be so naive, as to trust the Palestinians and other Arab governments. How much easier to trust in the God of their fathers, who never failed them and Who delivered them from their enemies time after time. This shows how blind one can become if he forsakes the ways of the Lord and follows the path of the flesh. This is true in an individual's life also.

THE PALESTINIANS ARE NOT THE ONLY ENEMIES OF ISRAEL. A GREATER ONE IS IRAN, WHO HAS PLEDGED TO DESTROY ISRAEL. This threat has been expanded to include the United States. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said that Israel and the United States will soon be destroyed. He "assured that the United States and the Zionist regime of Israel will soon come to the end of their lives." The president has threatened the State of Israel several times with annihilation in recent months, and has also added Great Britain to the list of countries that will be destroyed. Syria's foreign minister accused the U.S. of attempting to carry out a "massacre of Muslims" and of sowing "discord among Islamic faiths in the region."

WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE TIME WHICH JESUS DESCRIBES IN MATTHEW 24. We have already reached the "beginning of sorrows," and are on the threshold of "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but **for the elect's sake** those days shall be shortened" (24:21-22). The Apostle Paul writes to the overcomers of the end-time, saying, "For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3). The "thief" has already invaded the world; Israel and the nations are "asleep" to the signs of the end. The majority of

believers are also unaware of how close we are to the catching away of the overcomers of the Church. Everyone is doing that which is “right in his own eyes,” disregarding the Lord and His Word. Now, to the good news!

“BUT YE BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, THAT THAT DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness ... For God has not appointed us to (that day of) wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” To the Church of Philadelphia (“brotherly love” church), Jesus gave this wonderful promise: “Because thou hast kept the Word of My patience (or, hast patiently waited for My coming), I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Revelation 3:10). Then, He cautions all overcomers: “Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (3:11). The overcomers already have crowns, or the authority to reign with Christ. Is anything worth losing that privilege? Let the worldly church have their programs, we'd rather have Christ as Bridegroom, and the privilege of reigning with Him. Don't give up! We're almost there!

“Leave the worldly church behind, and run for the Prize.”

He, My Pathway Led

It was in church as a child, when I heard
The story of Jesus through God's Word;
I kept it a secret; 'twas no sinner's prayer,
I knew only that this Jesus cared.

I felt that I love Him, tho' I was yet small;
I held dear to a portrait on our living room wall;
Bleeding hands outstretched, and brow I did kiss
Each night at bedtime, seldom I would miss.

While praying to God one evening in bed,
The strangest of words then entered my head;
How different and funny, and certainly new,
I whispered an answer, “I'll marry You.”

Needless to say, along with this came
Guilt and confusion, and especially, shame.
Not long after this, attending church stopped;
The newly-found love I confessed was forgot

Until one day by the Spirit I was led,
Where my hungering soul at last was fed.
My burden was lifted, no more could I hide;
I knelt to King Jesus and humbly cried.

'Twas here that I learned of a race and a prize;
A Bridegroom, a crown -- what's this? a bride?
My mind raced back to re-live that dear night,
To marry Christ? Of course, it was right!

Those thoughts, not my own; yes, I did hear it –
His voice, “Marry me,” wooed my hungry spirit;
Humbled and broken, I cried, “Lord, I will!”
Then peace like a river came, tender and still.

My prayer unto God at that time went this way,
“Father, from this Truth, let me ne'er stray.
May this hope ever dwell -- ever burn in my heart,
And from this path may I never depart.

How faithful my God has been unto me;
The mystery is now for my family to see.
Together we run for the Prize soon to win.
My Savior, my Bridegroom -- ah yes, even Him.

(Marilyn Higgins)

RUN TO WIN - - -

Wanda Blackwood

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” -- Hebrews 12:1-3

Some years ago, Bob and I were blessed with a wonderful vacation to Hawaii. During that trip, the Lord gave us several object lessons, I'd like to share with you.

When we arrived in Honolulu on the “last lap” of our trip, we stored our heavy luggage, taking only what we needed for overnight. As we left the bus, the driver took off very fast. She had told us that her next stop was not for five blocks, which was on the other side of the park. After the bus left, Bob asked, “Where is our blue bag? Did you leave it on the bus?” Talk about a sinking feeling! Our camera with all the film from the past two weeks, as well as other needed items were in that bag! Honolulu buses are always crowded to capacity, so I knew it would do no good

to try to flag her down the next time around; the bag would definitely be gone. Logic said, "It's gone. Admit it and go on." But for some totally illogical reason, I began to run after the bus. Even as I ran I thought, "What am I doing? This is crazy! People are staring at me. I'll never be able to catch a bus going that fast; it's already a block away, and my sandals are about to fall off!" I also was praying, "Lord, Please help me do this!" I kicked off my sandals and kept going, not caring what others thought.

I hadn't taken time to think this through, or I would have left two heavy bags I was carrying in Bob's care. Instead, I was weighed down with them. One was my purse, the largest one I own, full of camera batteries and other heavy stuff; the other one was full of books, each weighing 8 - 10 pounds each. This was like trying to win a race carrying a 10-lb bag of potatoes under each arm. Hebrews 12:2 came to mind as I ran - "laying aside every weight." I prayed, "Lord, I can't throw my purse aside. It has all our money and airline tickets home. Why am I even trying this impossible thing?" I started to stop, and as I did, the bus stopped. I couldn't believe my eyes.

I seemed to hear a Voice say, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" I took new courage and renewed my efforts, but the bus started up again, but it was going more slowly. Every time I thought I couldn't possibly take another step, and then slowed down, the bus would slow down too. So, I was encouraged to continue.

Unbelievably after more than 3 blocks, I was only about 3 car-lengths behind. By this time my lungs were aching and my arms were so weighed down with the bags, that I knew if I didn't discard the bags, I would never catch the bus. I had a choice to make. I cried, "Lord, don't let me get this close and miss it! Please take care of my other bags for me." I threw them on the grass alongside the sidewalk, on a busy street. Certainly I had the desire to catch that bus, but desire is not faith. I did not have faith that I could do it. I felt more and more foolish for trying. I am convinced now that God put the idea in my head to run; He was the Author of my faith.

If I had stopped to consider the impossibilities I would never have started out. And many times, believers do just that. They think, "I could never be spiritual enough to win Christ as my Bridegroom." So, they never get started on this race. Christ, though, is the Author of our faith for this race. This race is open to all believers, but He knows who will be willing to run, and He implants the faith in their hearts. Often, they are running before they know it. That's when the devil puts the negative thoughts into their minds. But He is also the Finisher of our faith. The Lexicon describes finisher as, "The One who brings us through to the goal, so as to win and receive the Prize."

But it takes concentrated effort, a straining toward the goal. Many times I wanted to quit; I was hurting and aching all over; but every time I started to slow down, the Lord would encourage me with a Scripture, such as "I can do all things through Christ." My cry was, "Lord, don't let me get this close and miss it!" That is our cry in our spiritual race also. But, no matter how great my desire was, I would never have accomplished my goal if I had not tossed those weights aside. And these things weren't all unnecessary. They were important things to us, but I had to lay them aside.

I wonder what things in my life might be weighing me down, keeping me from winning the Prize? It doesn't have to be a sin, but "weights," those things that

hinder us from running the race consistently. We must come to the place that we give all these things to God and entrust them in His care. What are the weights in your life? It could be a job, although necessary to pay bills, but we must put it into God's hands. We may be worrying about being laid off with all the bills we owe. We might be spending too much time with loved ones, or trying to drag them along the race track with us. We cannot let any relationship cause us to slow down on the race course. Others may not be ready to commit their lives to this race, but we must give them to the Lord also. Each person must make a decision for himself. It is very difficult for us to see a loved one not interested in following the Lord.

A. W. Tozer said, "We are often hindered from giving up our treasures to the Lord out of fear for their safety." I've heard someone say, "I'm afraid to give my children to God; He may take one of them away." This is a possibility, but the Lord can take much better care of them than we can. Tozer continued, "Everything is safe which we commit to Him, and nothing is really safe which is not thus committed." So, my purse was safer lying on the ground in plain sight, than it was hanging on my arm.

Now for the "sin part." I don't need to enumerate obvious sins. Some believers say, "I would never lie, steal, commit adultery, etc." Well, when the devil hears that, he knows just how and when to tempt us, and be assured, He will always find something that will tempt us to do wrong. At this time the sin that beset me was discouragement. I almost quit running several times, but the Lord kept urging me on, yet in spite of the Scriptures, I felt discouragement, and if I had yielded to it, I would have missed that bus.

"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." What a challenging statement! I have often been discouraged, and the devil uses this as an effective tool to defeat us. Paul encourages us to "Speak to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord." It is difficult to remain discouraged when doing this. It's a medicine more vital than any prescription any doctor can give us. Often, I have a difficult time settling down to pray in my closet, but then I begin to sing a song or worship chorus, and His love floods my being, and praying becomes easy.

We know that we are assured of reaching heaven, and what a blessed assurance that is! But, we have our eyes on a higher goal - to sit with our beloved Lord and reign with Him. This is not presumptuous of us; He has offered that place to His people. This is the "Joy set before Him," which gave Him the strength to complete His "race," and endure the Cross. How can we treat lightly the place for which He suffered to give to us?

The Bride of Christ will not be half-hearted in her Christian walk. She will be totally committed to the Lord. He will be the center of her every plan and design in life. This commitment narrows the field of racers. We may strive all our lives and perhaps be close to the goal, but unless we throw aside every weight, and run with total concentration, we will lose out. Nothing in life is that important! Don't be one of them who say, "I can never do it," but be one who says, "Lord, help me to reach the goal You have offered to me."

Nothing is more unlikely for a 55-year-old woman, who hasn't run in years, being able to catch a bus that has a block's head start on her. But God caused it to happen!

Praise God! Nothing may be more unlikely in your mind about winning Christ as your Bridegroom, but God can make it happen. It wasn't a lack of faith that would have defeated me, because the Lord supplied the necessary faith. It wasn't my lack of ability or strength that would have defeated me, for there again, the Lord miraculously supplied these too. What would have defeated me were the weights and the sin of discouragement.

We are not told to work up faith. We are not told that we must have great ability, or build up our own strength for this race. We are told to lay aside every weight and the sin which besets us, and run with patience. In other words, Don't Give Up! It will not be easy and it will take all our determination and desire, but the reward will be glorious beyond our comprehension. God is on our side! He wants us to reach that goal, and He will move "mountains" to make us successful. He will "stop traffic," or whatever is necessary to ensure that we win. He, the Finisher of our faith will enable us to finish the course and win! Don't give up!

* * * * *

RUN FOR THE PRIZE

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

Soon comes the dawning, brother, day is at hand,
Jesus is nearing, rouse the conquering band;
Push past the judges, tho' the lions loudly roar,
Strenuous the racing, brother, now almost o'er.

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

Wake up the sleeping, there is no time to lose,
Harvest is rip'ning, glorious the news;
Bright gleams the morning, brother, upward lift the eye,
And behold the breaking light in yon azure sky.

Hear, hear the trumpet, brother, shout, "Saints, arise!"
Lo, now the Bride is waiting for the Prize;
Go forth to meet Him, as His chosen one, His Love,
Mounting up together, golden stairway of love.

-- Mary M. Bodie, Grace & Glory Carols

Lessons From A Stick Boy

David Albrecht

A few years ago I purchased a family membership our local golf course. My two sons and I enjoyed playing golf; we practically wore our own paths down those fairways. We became acquainted with the greens; each having its own challenges. We knew where each rock was, every puddle every tree. The course became as familiar as an old pair shoes; but more importantly, it was a great opportunity to bond with my sons during the summer months.

In the process of collecting a variety of golf-related items, my youngest son came up with a shirt imprinted with the figure of a little stick-boy. He had a golf bag strapped over his shoulder with about three clubs in it. Also on the shirt, just above the stick-boy was imprinted a short caption which read "It's All Good!" There was no other explanation; it simply left one to ponder the true significance of those three words relationship to the game of golf.

It is quite simple, though, if one will take a few minutes to think it through. If you were a little stick-boy, you would be happy just to be playing the game. Golf can be an expensive sport, and more than likely, someone would have to sponsor you. Someone had to pay! You should be very grateful -- it's free to you.

And, if you are able to play golf, you have left behind any other cares and concerns for the day. You might say, "I'm free! I'm free!" You have set aside time out of your normal duties, and are enjoying beautiful scenery, combined with exercise and strategy - all in one game.

And then, think of the attitude toward the game that this little guy and his caption bring. It is simple, yet profound. You play to shoot a perfect score, you will be disappointed (there is no perfect score in golf). But if you play with determination and understanding that you will make good shots and bad shots, it can be fun. It doesn't help to waste time berating yourself. Sometimes you have to say, "It looks like I'm here just for the exercise today." There will be good days, and others that are not so good; but with the right attitude, you can say at the end of your round, or even during the round, "It's all good."

So, what about the game of life? Although life is not really a game, the Apostle Paul does compare the Christian life to a race course. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be disapproved" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

The Christian life is a challenge, much like golf. What can we learn from the parallels? Observe first: whether or not you are a Christian, someone paid. Jesus paid for the sins of the world. "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Someone paid! Believe it and receive it. It is free to you.

As with any golfer starting his round, it's an opportunity to put your cares behind you. As the Scripture said, we can experience peace with God, maybe for the

first time in your life, and be able to leave your cares behind you. Whether we are a Christian or not, we can be delivered from sin, failures, addiction, bondage, cares of this life, or anything else that has robbed us of peace. It all begins by experiencing peace with God, and putting all our past behind us, once and for all! "But God be thanked that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you. Being then made free from sin, you became servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18).

Finally, what about our attitude toward life? Having peace in our heart will help us to have a healthy attitude, that will in turn have a positive effect on others around us. The Bible adds a big bonus in Romans 8:28 - "For we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to them who are the called according to God's promise." Romans 8 is full of good news! It begins with no condemnation and ends with no separation from God's love. The reader can reach no other conclusion but that we will win! It does not mean we will never have any more trouble. There may be heartache; disappointments, mistakes, and more. There will be days that are better than others, but knowing that we win encourages us on the fairways of life.

Not everything that happens to us comes from God; we do have an enemy, the devil. A golfer does not hit every shot perfectly, and we cannot expect everything in life to be absolutely perfect. However, adversities need not determine our moods and attitudes. It does not matter what we encounter in life; we just need to focus on the overall picture and remind ourselves that we are winners .and heaven is our home! believe that once we arrive there, it will not matter at all how we got there. We may wonder why we couldn't have come sooner.

"Lord, like the game of golf, help us to enjoy life the way you intended. Help us to play to win; but also help us take the bad with the good. May we make the most of this journey, and every day of our lives, may we realize, like the little stick-boy, that life and being alive is a privilege, and that it is all good! Amen."

The Sentinel

The morning is the gate of day,
But ere you enter there
See that you set to guard it well
The sentinel of prayer.
So shall God's grace your steps attend,
But nothing else pass through
Save what can give the countersign;
The Father's will for you.

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS:

“When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished!” and He bowed His head, and dismissed His Spirit.” (John 19:30). “Jesus, when He had cried with a loud voice, yielded up His Spirit” (Matthew 27:50).

This cry of Jesus was a shout of victory. It was not a martyr's plaintive cry; not a despairing cry, but one of accomplishment. He had finished the work for which He had come to do. He fulfilled all the prophecies written of Him up to His death on the cross. He was born of a virgin, the woman's Seed (Genesis 3), Abraham's Seed (Genesis 12), and David's Seed (II Samuel 7). All that was written of Him as a child, a man, His ministry, His rejection by His own, and His sorrow and death for all humanity was fulfilled.

The goal was reached for which He became flesh. His mission was finished. He was the fulfillment of all the types and shadows of the Old Testament; the reality of all the offerings of the Tabernacle and Temple. By His death on the Cross, He redeemed humanity, and opened a channel of communication between His Father and the sinner. It is now possible for the vilest sinner to come to God and ask forgiveness. Jesus is the go-between. We need no priest to intercede for us; Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. His work of redeeming us has been completed. He will die no more. He shouted, “It is finished!”

That cry is one word in the Greek. It's from the primary word, “Teleo.” Jesus used this verb in the past perfect tense - “It has been finished,” (tetelestai). This verb also means, “Make an end of,” and “paid in full.” There are four proofs that the work was finished: (1) The veil in the temple was rent from the top to the bottom (Matthew 27:31). (2) Jesus was raised from the dead, as He told His disciples beforehand. (3) He was exalted above all principality and power and seated at God's right hand (Ephesians 1:19-23). (4) Sending the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost as He had promised. “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you” (John 16:7). “And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (Acts 1:4-5).

There would have been no resurrection if there had not been an “It is finished!” And if there had been no resurrection, we would still be in our sins, but Jesus completed all that His Father asked of Him. After that victorious cry, Jesus gladly committed His Spirit into His Father's hands. Jesus' life as a human of 33 years must have seemed an eternity to Him, but now He could gladly shout, “I'm coming Home!” What a reunion of Father and Son that must have been! It will be wonderful for us when we join them!

Home-going of Norman Skari

It is with regret that we announce that Norman Skari passed from this life April 4. Brother Norman has joined His heavenly Father and His Savior, Jesus Christ. Norm started the GraceGod web site, putting all the Grace and Glory Reading Material on the site. Many people are availing themselves of this great opportunity. I know he will be missed at "Gospel Fellowship" in Grandview, Missouri. His wife, Mary, needs our prayers, because she found him at his work site, already gone. If you care to send her a card of encouragement:

Mary Skari
611 Travis
Belton, MO 64012

"God shall wipe away all tears;
There's no death, no pain, nor fears,
And they count not time by years,
For there is no night there."

Christ In Me

Gene Hawkins

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side ... persecuted ... always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." -- II Corinthians 4:7-11

Some people have the idea that the body is unimportant and expendable, and that when this life is over, it will be folded up like an old worn-out tent to be discarded and forgotten. I would like to point out in this article that the redemptive blood of Jesus purchased the body as well as the spirit and soul, and that God has a definite purpose for the body. Paul asserts in our text that God has redeemed the physical body, despite all its weaknesses, frailties, and limitations, to be a vehicle for the "Treasure" it contains.

Paul uses the natural creation to illustrate the new birth. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (4:6). We were in spiritual darkness, dead in trespasses and sins, yet the command of God's Word pierced that darkness with the Light that he describes as the "treasure in earthen vessels." Verse 10 plainly declares that this Treasure is Jesus, Who is to be made manifest in the body . . . "that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (4:11). God redeemed our bodies for a number of reasons, but the primary purpose is that He might put on display the same glorious life that Jesus exhibited when He walked his earth.

God actually uses "trouble on every side" and persecutions to reduce us to the point of absolute dependence on Him, that we might know by experience "that the excellency of power may be of God and not of us." This process is not easy

on the body, because it actually produces “the dying of the Lord Jesus.” This statement is not the same as when Paul tells us to “reckon the old man dead,” but rather it tells of the hardships that would kill this mortal body, if God did not intervene. Paul remarked, “I die daily,” meaning that he was in danger daily of physical death due to the assaults of Satan from which God had to deliver him, or his tenure on earth would have ended immediately (1 Corinthians 15:31). The same scenario is true of our lives also. We know this is Satan's intent, because of God's explicit instruction to him regarding Job. “Behold he is in thine hand, but save his life” (2:6). The devil does mean to destroy all of us, but God uses His attacks as a means to manifest Christ in our mortal bodies.

In addition to these satanic attacks, Paul declares in Romans 8 that certain deeds of the body, manifest from birth, must be done away with in order to manifest Christ. We learn from Romans 7 that the body will yield just as quickly to the old nature as to the new. When the Light is implanted into our mortal vessel, it falls under New Management, but that is not seen immediately. The process begins when we are born again. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. (Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His”) -- Romans 8:9. Very often, people confuse the “Spirit of God” with the “Spirit of Christ,” and that when a person is saved, he is automatically filled with the Holy Ghost. This cannot be true, for then the disciples would not have been “saved” until the Day of Pentecost. Receiving Christ as Savior, and having the Holy Ghost inhabit the mortal body, are two separate experiences. We must be one of His children before God can impart the glorious power of the Holy Ghost.

The “Treasure in earthen vessels,” is the “Spirit of Christ.” In our text, Paul enlarges on the presence of the Holy Ghost in our mortal bodies, which must “dwell in you” by experience. “And if Christ (Christ's own life), be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit (our own spirit made alive by Christ), is life because of righteousness.” We are alive in spirit because of the New Life, but the body is still under the sentence of death, and very much subject to it. But, there is good news for the body: “But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead (the Holy Spirit) dwell (occupy, reside) in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (8:11). The Holy Spirit is not to be treated simply as a guest in the body; He has the place as Occupier with complete control. This is the major reason for the “sign” of speaking in other languages. When the tongue is controlled, the entire body is brought into submission - James 3:2-3.

The control of the Holy Ghost extends much further than “speaking in tongues.” Because the Holy Ghost dwells in our bodies, “We are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (make to die) the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (8:12-13). The deeds of the body are unlimited. Paul lists some of them and calls them “the works (or lusts) of the flesh, which can be active in the mortal body. It is this activity that must be brought under control by the dynamic power of the Holy Ghost. The power of the Spirit can enable us to achieve real victory over these tendencies. Law keeping can cut off that which is unsightly, but it can never produce the results for which God redeemed the body.

God's way is not only to eliminate undesirable works of the flesh, but to replace them with Christ's life. We cannot live in a void, trying repeatedly to refrain from that which is evil. Paul says "overcome evil with good," and that "good" is only of Christ (Romans 12:21). "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (8:14). The power of the Holy Spirit develops this new Life, the Treasure, in our mortal bodies. Spiritual maturity as "sons of God" will be accomplished when we submit to the working of the Holy Spirit.

Becoming sons of God seems to be a general term, but the Apostle Paul defines it explicitly in Ephesians 4. There he reiterates the truth of mortifying the deeds of the body with these words: "that ye put off concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (4:22). The building, or "replacement" process begins with "and be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (4:23). The Holy Spirit has been charged with this ministry: "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you" (John 16:13-14). We are changed from glory to glory, even in the deeds of this mortal body, by the "Spirit of the Lord." (II Corinthians 3:18). Jesus cried, "He shall glorify Me," meaning that the Holy Spirit not only reveals Christ **TO** us, but also **IN** and **THROUGH** us, even in the deeds of this present mortal body; and Paul is very specific as to what is required.

The pattern established here is that the new man must rule, in order to displace the works of the flesh. The following order is paramount, and just the opposite of the teaching of law-keeping. We must first, "Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." After that: "Putting away lying," and replacing that with "speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another" (4:24-25). Instructions concerning anger, which is a very destructive trait of the flesh, is given in 4:27-28: "Be ye angry and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath; neither give place to the devil." When we surrender our bodies to anger, rather than to the Lord, we can, and will, "give place to the devil." Moffett translates this as "Don't give the devil that sort of foot hold." Most of us at one time or another, have witnessed an "out-of-control body" due to anger. It stems from the fact that we do let the "sun" of God's Word go down on our wrath. In other words, we may justify, or completely ignore intense anger, rather than listening to God's instruction regarding it. To do so, is to surrender the body as an instrument of Satan.

The apostle continues with his "replacement exercise" in Verse 28: "Let him that stole steal no more: BUT RATHER, let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Note once again, that cessation from evil is not enough; the real victory comes when we begin to "labor," for we have the ability to give to others. This is the core of the Gospel and the Life of Jesus - love, compassion, and an interest in being a benefit and blessing to those around us.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Verse 29). Too often, the tongue is used only for destruction. David tried to curb it by his

own efforts, and his conclusion was “I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good” (Psalm 39:2). But Paul says that instead of complete silence, our words are to be transformed for edification, that we may minister grace to those who are around us.

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice” (4:30-31). A believer grieves the Holy Spirit by refusing to surrender to Him. One may conclude this to mean only that a person refuses to speak when prompted by the Spirit, but Paul is very specific in his message here, as he once again addresses the problem of anger, which indeed leads to bitterness. Victory comes, not just in refusing to get angry by virtue of sheer will power, but rather, “be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (4:32).

Christians harbor anger when they refuse to forgive, and we must always remember that forgiveness cannot be granted based on the offender asking for it. If we wait until those who offend us ask for our forgiveness, we may have to wait a long time; but for our own protection, such cannot be allowed. An unforgiving heart will result in some very destructive actions of the body, thus we must forgive willingly and completely, even as God does. We must do it “for Christ's sake,” based upon the fact that Jesus has already nailed the offense to His Cross. Such forgiveness is most often outwardly manifest in the kindness rendered through practical deeds of the body. Benefit to the offender must replace retaliation against him. “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head” (Romans 12:2).

There is a reward for the one who has been faithful to the purpose for which he is redeemed. Revelation 19:7-8 proclaims it thus: “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” The fine linen is also translated as “righteous acts” of the saints. This is a very select company because they surrendered their bodies to manifest the practical acts of a righteous Christ. We want to emphasize that those acts are being manifest in the body now, not after we enter into eternity. This Bride Company is rewarded, “granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen,” because such garments reflect who she was, and what she did on earth. It is imperative that we give the Holy Ghost total control of these bodies now, that He might show the glorious Treasure within, and ensuring us that we too may attain this lofty place as the Bride of Christ, and display such glory throughout eternity.

“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (21:9).

* * * * *

CHRIST IN ME

This is my wonderful story, Christ to my heart has come;
Jesus, the King of Glory, Finds in my heart a home.

I am so glad I received Him, Jesus, my hearts' dear King;
I who so often have grieved Him, All to His feet would bring.

How can I ever be lonely, How can I ever fall;
What can I want, if only, Christ is my all in all?

Now in His bosom confiding, This my glad song shall be;
I am in Jesus abiding, Jesus abides in me.

-- A. S. Copley, Grace & Glory Carols

NEEDS AND DEEDS

Jack W. Bannister

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” -- I Corinthians 3:1

In I Corinthians 3:1-8, Paul seeks to get the Christians' eyes off personalities and onto God's Man - Jesus. Paul and Apollos were both spiritual men; both were teachers of God's Truth, but neither was Jesus; nor were they heads of the Church. A key phrase is in Verse 3 - “yet carnal.” The Corinthians did not have to be carnal (motivated by fallen flesh), but the word “yet” tells us that they chose to be that way. The Church today has not listened to Paul's words, so we see everywhere in Christendom, those who are not able to eat spiritual meat - the deep things of God. They drink only milk - the simple truths of the Word; therefore, there are divisions and strife among them, and everyone seeking his own glory.

“Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” (3:13). In Verses 8-17 Paul is not talking about the destiny of the believer, but about rewards for yielding to and working with God. Notice how many times Paul mentions “every man” and “any man.” So, this boils down to the individual perspective. In Verse 10, we see that Paul laid the foundation of truth, and we are to build on that with special attention to **how** we build.

Verse 12 records six building materials: Gold (the Deity and holiness of Christ); Silver (the redemption and salvation found in Christ); Precious stones (the enduring truth found in Christ). These three materials can stand the test of God's Fire, for they are spiritual and eternal, all found in our Savior. Wood, hay and stubble are combustible materials and cannot stand the test of God's Fire. Therefore, those works, religious though they are, will be burned; that is, people will not receive a reward from God just because they are preachers or teachers. God will try all works; not by how much there is, but what **kind** they are. Are they based on Grace or legalism? Is the work done to build a name for oneself, or to advance the Holy Jesus? Is the work done to help people to know the Truth, or to build religious

enterprises?

Wood, hay and stubble represent the commandments and doctrines of men. They will be put to the test at the judgment seat of Christ and will be revealed for what they really are. Verse 14 expresses that thought. Verse 15 proves that we are saved from sin forever, when we believe, even though our works may be burned. Verse 16 is God's comforting word to us, that even though the works may not be right, we are still His property, His temple, where He dwells in the person of the reproduced Christ in us. Verse 17 is where fearful, legal believers seek to show us that we can lose our salvation. In this chapter, Paul is not talking about our destiny; he is talking about our labor, our works, our activities concerning the Gospel. In reading God's Word, we must always refer to what is said in one verse in context with what is said in the preceding and following verses. If we do not do that, confusion is sure to reign.

"If any man defile (or, corrupt by wrong doctrine and practice), him shall God destroy (or, waste, shrivel, wither, or spoil)." The word "destroy" does not refer to annihilation; if that were so, who of us would ever survive? How foolish to think that God measures our works against our being saved! Salvation is a Gift from God, and no legalist can ever change that principle. God's principles never change. Furthermore, Paul says that that the temple (the body) is holy. If anyone is holy, they can never be unholy, no matter the failure or lack of attainment. **We are holy in Christ.** We may not always feel holy; we may not always act holy; but that does not change our position in Christ. Nothing can change that! But the reward for works is another category. Our salvation is forever settled when we accept Christ as our Savior, but our works must pass a test in the last day. It will be determined whether they were in God's will, or our own. There will be nothing left to doubt. Some salvation!

* * * * *

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN ACTION

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." -- (Ephesians 4:1-3)

This chapter expresses God's purpose for the Body of Christ. He created a wonderful mystical Body through the New Birth on the day of Pentecost almost 2000 years ago. There were 120 believers in an upper room, waiting for the Promise of the Father, of which Jesus had told them. When the Holy Spirit descended from heaven "with a rushing, mighty wind," cloven tongues as of fire, and speaking in languages they did not know, He not only filled them, but baptized those waiting ones into one Body. "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one Body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13). These early believers had nothing whatsoever to do in order to be placed into the mystical Body of Christ, also known as the Church.

The unity of the body was made by God. We read further in the Acts, that believers were added to Lord when they accepted Christ. When a sinner is born

again, he automatically becomes a part of that spiritual Body. No doubt, none of them at the time knew what had happened. There was no emotional experience with this act of God. When a sinner receives Christ as Savior, he does not do so in hope of being a part of the Body of Christ. Later, he may learn what also occurred the moment he received forgiveness of sins.

Who determines where each believer is placed in that mystical Body? "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the Body, as it hath pleased Him" (I Corinthians 12:18). This action takes place when we receive Christ into our hearts; God does the placing. Do any of us know exactly where we have been placed? I think not. Too often, we judge according to our natural sight and understanding; but remember, this is a spiritual Body and we must have spiritual discernment to understand what God has done.

God made the unity, and every member is placed according to His unfathomable wisdom and knowledge. When He created Adam and Eve, He was well pleased and pronounced His work as very good. It is the same with His spiritual Body of people. We members don't have the responsibility to make God's people one. We are told to endeavor to "Keep the unity in the bond of peace."

This takes some doing. We cannot bring together a group of believers into one place and automatically have unity. It is a spiritual fellowship because of the spiritual oneness. It is not necessary, then, that we have a physical nearness in order to have spiritual fellowship. We cannot bring a group of religious people together and announce: "Now we will all worship together." This is as ridiculous as if a group of individuals would move into a house and announce that they were a family. There is only one way a family is formed - through a union of two people in marriage and children are born as a result. This is what God has done. He has a family, but it is only through the New Birth that we become a part of the household of faith, or the Body of Christ. John 1:12-13.

How can we keep the unity of the Body of Christ? It can only be done by all members yielding to the Holy Spirit in their lives. When those believers received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they immediately practiced unity without being taught. We read often of the one accord-ness in the first part of Acts. There was no thought of division. This does not mean that everyone who has had the experience of being filled with the Spirit, will practice this unity. We must understand God's purpose and acknowledge that all believers are in the Body of Christ, regardless of the depth of their experience or our personal feelings about them. All believers do not reach the same level of maturity and understanding of the Word. Not all Spirit-filled believers seem to have a hunger to know the Word of God and grow in Grace and a knowledge of the truth. They are more occupied with their new-found gifts.

In Ephesians 4:12-16, the Apostle Paul describes the maturing of the Body of Christ. Each member supplies something to another, just as our human body does. In I Corinthians 12, this is illustrated. Some members of our physical body supply much less than others. Some members control others. Each function is different. One member may need to be waited upon by another. From the hair on our head to the sole of our foot, there is unity when the body is well. One member of the body does the speaking; another the hearing, while another the "doing" and moving. The

applications are many.

The Apostle Peter gives us the underlining principle, and also four applications to a practical experience of spiritual unity: “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing” (I Peter 3:8-9). The word “finally” is significant here, as it introduces us to a summation of peaceful coexistence among believers.

The principle of this unity is, “Be ye all of one mind.” Again, this is thinking about spiritual truths. The Truth of the Word is one. There is oneness in the Deity. We are many members in one Body. The Holy Spirit teaches us oneness, but also leaves each one free to express himself according to his own particular personality. Four men wrote about the same Person during His life on earth, and yet each biography is different in many aspects. There are no contradictions in the Four Gospels, but a difference of expressions. God does that also. The Bible is a collection of writings by different writers over a long period of time; and yet there is a wonderful spiritual oneness in the Book. To be of “one mind,” means that our purpose is to be the same, and yet God chose different personalities to spread the Gospel.

The first of the four applications of this unity is “love as brethren.” Ah, this stumps us right away. How can we love everyone? Too often, we rely upon our emotions, and that is wrong. Divine Love is not based on emotion, as is human love. To love, as God does, is not necessarily to “like.” God does not ask us who we would like to have for our brethren; this is settled for us. We are put with a group of believers and told to love as brethren. Divine Love does not come from emotion, but from our will. We are to love one another, but that does not mean that we always like what our “brother” does. We do not always feel like putting our arms around all our brethren in Christ. We feel more at home with some than with others. This is all emotional.

Divine Love is not feeling, but doing. It is not a sentimental manifestation, but an action. It is not always with soft words, but in unselfish deeds. John tells us, “Let us not love in word ... but in deed and in truth.” We may not “like” a certain one, but Divine Love will cause us to sacrifice for, or serve that very person.

The next application is “Be pitiful.” This is toward the weak and tried. We don't always understand another's weakness at all, and yet are called upon to show mercy. We may be very strong on one certain phase of life, but weak on another. It is real unity in practice when we can see another's faults and failings, and feel love and pity for him. Too often, believers condemn the faults of others and spread it all around, instead of first forgiving such a one and then continue to bear him on our hearts. Read Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13. We do not all have the same weaknesses or trials, but we can show mercy and pity to the one who is burdened. Let us pity instead of criticize; pray instead of accuse.

The third application is, “Be courteous.” Spiritual courtesy is important, and can mean so much to our brother or sister. Our neighbor is anyone with whom we have any contact. Thus, wherever we are, or whatever we do, we have a neighbor. We can show courtesy at home, at work, at church, in our automobile, on the street,

etc. This is surely what Paul meant when he said, "Esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3). We have known of some believers who are very nice and sociable in church meetings, but are horrible acting at home and at work. A believer will open the church door to let another one enter first, and yet on the way home, in the automobile, become a different person. We are members one of another, and should treat others as we would like to be treated.

The fourth application is, "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing." This is our attitude toward our enemies, or toward those who do evil to us. If we depended on our emotions, we would always repay others for the hurt they have done us. If a person rails on us, the natural inclination is to shout back, louder, and try to get in the last word. How many are hurt and wounded beyond reclaim because of this behavior! The Lord has promised to take care of our enemies, and He can do it so much better than we. The Law says, "An eye for an eye," but grace says, "Love your enemies; bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:17-21).

Joseph learned that "all things work together for good," long before Paul penned those words. When his brothers threw him into a pit and sold him into slavery, he did not know what good would come from that action of jealousy. (Genesis 50:20). There is a reward for heeding these admonitions: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." He will heed our cries when we yield to Him and His Word. He will never leave us stranded, nor forsake us.

These are Divinely practical lessons which all of us must learn. We need to recognize God's people as being one in the Body of Christ. Our attitude must spring from this Truth. We will have to leave out all human sentiment. Physical contact is not necessary. Our spirits can have fellowship with others, though many miles separate us. This is mystical, yet spiritual, and is wonderful! Soon we shall know the real truth of all this, when the Body is with the Lord and sees Him face to face! (Reprint)

*"Heaven's heroes never carve their name
On marbled columns built for earthly fame;
They built instead a legacy that springs
Out of a life lived for the King of kings."*

HOW ARE YOUR FEET TODAY?

Like many people, I have trouble with my feet, which become very dry, the skin breaking open. This is very painful and in order to get some relief, I must soak my feet and apply lotion generously. Recently, while soaking my feet at 3 A.M the Holy Spirit began to speak to me about the condition of my feet.

I almost shrugged off these thoughts, thinking my lack of sleep was affecting my thinking. But, it seemed that the Holy Spirit persisted in bringing Ephesians 6:14-15 to me: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of

Peace.” Verse 14 we emphasized - “Stand!” We cannot stand without our feet. We like to talk about our hands, because we can do so much with them. We get up and stand without thinking much about why we can stand. Many times we neglect to take care of our feet properly. Jesus and His disciples depended on their feet to take them from place to place. Now we can drive, ride, fly, or float, to just about anywhere in the world, but once we arrive at our destination, we have to walk.

We certainly have to walk in our spiritual lives. Paul encourages us to “walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His Kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:12). How do we walk worthy? By following the Lord, one step at a time. We are also encouraged to walk honestly toward others - Thessalonians 4:12. We can only do this by the Scriptures and letting the Holy Spirit direct us by walking in us.

My feet always feel better after I soak them. Our spiritual “feet” need to be soaked in the Water of the Word. The Holy Spirit's Lotion refreshes us in our daily walk with the Lord. If we should walk “in the flesh,” or the fleshy realm, our feet will be affected. Romans 8:1, 4 addresses this walk, so it must be important. Our spiritual walk is often defiled, and a good soak in the Word is what we need.

There is much more to look at about feet and walking in the Scriptures. We are to wash one another's feet when it is needed. It is important to take care of our feet. They will *ultimately lead us Home one day, after our life-time of walking* here on earth. Praise God for our feet!

-- Dana Shields

* * * * *

Walking With God

Sometimes I walk in the shadow,
Sometimes in sunlight clear;
But whether in gloom or brightness
The Lord is very near.

Sometimes I walk in the valley,
Sometimes on the mountain's crest;
But whether on low or high land,
The Lord is manifest.

Sometimes I walk in the desert,
Sometimes in waters cold;
But whether by sands or streamlets
The Lord doth me enfold.

Sometimes I walk in green pastures,
Sometimes on barren land;
But whether in peace or danger,
The Lord holds fast my hand

--Anonymous

* * * * *

“It does not matter,” said J. Hudson Taylor, “where He places me or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me. For the easiest positions He must give grace; and in the most difficult His Grace is sufficient. So, if God places me in great perplexity, must He not give me much guidance? In positions of great difficulty, much grace? in circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength? As to work, mine was never so plentiful, so responsible, or so difficult; but the weight and strain are all gone. His resources are mine, for He is mine!”

“GRACE & GLORY” (ISSN 027-6996), published monthly by Grace & Glory Gospel Society, 1104 North Main, P.O. Box 803, Mountain Grove, MO 65711. PERIODICALS postage is paid at Mountain Grove, Missouri.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to “Grace & Glory,” P.O. Box 803, Mountain Grove MO 65711.

Telephone: (417) 926-4292. E-mail: graceandglory@centurytel.net. You may reach Paul Smith at this number and at (417) 259-0017.

Web site: www.gracegod.org. Bible lessons can be downloaded.

GRACE & GLORY is published for the purpose of proclaiming God's Holy Word. We believe that the Scriptures are inspired of God and were given to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. (II Timothy 3:16; and 11 Peter 1:21)

GRACE & GLORY has had continuous publication without a set subscription price since 1910. We are able to continue this ministry by your kind financial support.

-- Editor: Paul N. Smith

OUR CORN CRIB

"Freely ye have received, freely give"

Books

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I & II Samuel
Ezra
Esther
Job
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah (outline & miniature Bible)
Daniel
Joel-Nahum-Habakkuk-Malachi
Zechariah
Matthew
Luke
John
The Acts
Romans
I & II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
I & II Thessalonians
I & II Timothy
Philemon
Hebrews - James – Titus
Second John
Jude
Revelation

Eternal Life
Extra! Extra!
Fact of Tongues
Faith
Fear of the Lord
First Day of the Week
Five Much Mores
Five Consequences
Freedom
Friend, Listen
Glossolalia, Phenomena/Tongues
God -A Tnunity
Gospel Records
Gospels, Acts & Epistles – Relation
Holy Spirit - baptism & anointing
How to Receive the Holy Spirit
It is Finished
Jesus heals Today
Judgment Seat of Christ
Law or Grace, Which?
Life Everlasting
Light on the Law
Living Ones
Made Sin for us
Man Child - Revelation 12
Mercy or Judgment
New Birth
Not Legislation, but Revelation
Oneness of Christ
Pauline Sanctification
Paul's Superlatives
Phoebe, Women's Official Place
Preaching Another Jesus
Predestination, Election, Foreknowledge
Preparation of the Bride
Ranks in the Resurrection
Resume of What we Teach
Salvation for the Body
Scriptural Terms Defined
Some Words on Eternal Security
The Adams Case
The Two Adams
The Sin Offering
The Unforgiven Sin
This is That
Times of the Gentiles
Tithing
Water Baptism
Wheat and Tares
Why Am I Not Healed

Pamphlets

A Problem, Solution & Triumph Arrangement
and End of Ages
Attack against the Truth, answered
A Burning Truth (John 3:16)
A Growing Relationship
Caught up with Paul
Cherubim and Seraphim
Chaste Virgin
Comfort in time of Sorrow
Death, Hell & Lake of Fire
Destiny of the Wicked
Diamonds in the Rough
Dying Daily
Earnest but Wrong

Grace & Glory

P.O. Box 803
Mountain Grove, Missouri 65711

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord:

For great is the glory of the Lord.

Psalms 138:5

LOVE IS:

L – OVS

O – F

V – ICTORIOUS

E – XPERIENCES