



“This know also,
that in the last days
perilous times shall come.
But evil men and seducers
shall wax worse and
worse, deceiving, and

being deceived. II Tim. 3: 1&13

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the day of Christ V. 1) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; II Thess. 2:3

“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.” II Tim. 4:3,4

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matt. 24:12

All these verses aptly describe the climate of this present time but they are absolutely contradictory to the loud political and religious voices bombarding us today. Recent political policies have mortgaged America into debt for trillions of dollars over unlimited years and put her on the brink of economic disaster. Other decrees threaten our security and entire way of life and freedom. This has prompted many politicians and talk show hosts to assert that the ship can be righted if coming elections change political parties. Many religious leaders likewise announce their intention of converting the world to Christ. One announces its purpose by its very name: “World Revival Church.” “The International House of Prayer” apparently shares that same vision, and countless others quote “the great commission” of Matt. 27:19, 20, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you,” as justification for their missions.

According to the verses quoted above and a host of other prophetic scriptures, neither this nation nor the world is

going to improve, before Jesus comes to set up His earthly Kingdom. The great commission cited above follows these words: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." V. 18 The Day of Jesus Power has not yet arrived. He has not, as yet, been crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. Though He won this victory at the cross when He cried out "it is finished," He has not been seated on the throne in heaven and assumed the reins of government. If He had, we would in no wise see the chaos that prevails in our world today. The prophecy here in Matthew is a reference to the time when Jesus will have assumed full control of the world, having put down all rule and authority of the nations during the tribulation period. Satan will be bound for a thousand years, and Israel as a nation will fulfill this great commission. The responsibility for the Church is found in Mark 16: 15-18 "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every **creature**. This word is in contrast to "nation" recorded by Matthew and indicates that the Church is to be a missionary to individuals, even "into all the world." Verses 16-18, directing men to baptize, cast out devils, speak in tongues, have power over Satan, and lay hands on the sick that they might recover, are all consistent with those things which began in the Church on the Day of Pentecost. Matthew, as a kingdom apostle, announces Christ and His Kingdom. Mark was associated with Paul, the chief apostle to the Church, thus the difference in these two accounts. History also proves that even Paul and those early apostles did not convert even one single city, let alone a nation, to Christ. We wonder how in the world those of our day, in view of the prophesied days of deterioration proclaimed by Jesus, and so many others, can now declare that they are going to bring about world restoration.

Many have claimed the promise of II Chron. 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Scripture does not contradict itself, and when put into the context in which it is written, it surely does not. The above verse will yet be

fulfilled to its greatest extent when Israel as a nation falls on their faces and accepts their Messiah. The time for Gentile nations to claim such a promise during this Church Age has long since passed, and we do have a scriptural precedent that depicts a direct graphic parallel of our day.

Manasseh was one of the most wicked kings who ever reigned in Jerusalem, and God decreed that Judah would be taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar "...for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon." II Kings 24:3,4 God would in no wise alter His decision, despite much reformation enacted by a subsequent regime. II Kings 23:25 records this high commendation of Josiah: "And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him." II Kings 22 describes Josiah's reaction as he rent his clothes in mourning when the long lost book of the law was found and read to him. The entire text is filled with the drastic changes he made which include removing the vessels of Baal from the temple, and ending the tenure of idolatrous priests ordained by previous kings. He broke down the houses of the Sodomites, put away the workers with familiar spirits, wizards, images, and idols, and in short performed "...the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD." II Kings 23:24

Can anyone today conscientiously announce that this country or the world has come anywhere close to the reformations implemented by Josiah? He was a political leader who made drastic religious changes, but to absolutely no avail except for himself, as God promised that the coming destruction would not come while he was yet alive.

America has most assuredly been drastically reformed in the past few months, but those changes have in no wise produced righteousness. Political regimes in this country and around the world completely ignore the prevailing idolatry directly addressed by Josiah, and instead, promote it. Some Americans were outraged recently when leaders of Islam

presented a proposal to build a multimillion dollar Mosque very close to “ground zero” where the twin towers were destroyed on 9/11. Even the largely symbolic, or token, day of national prayer was embroiled in controversy as U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb in Wisconsin “ruled that observance of the May 6 event, proclaimed by every president since Harry Truman, was unconstitutional.” This same article from the Charlotte Observer, reporting on the meeting between President Obama and Billy Graham in Montreat, N.C. announced that “...days ago, the Pentagon disinvited Mr. Graham's son, Franklin -- an honorary co-chair of this year's event -- to speak there because of his past comments disparaging Islam.” (After 9-11, Mr. Graham said Islamic teachings had made that faith "a very evil and wicked religion.")

During this same meeting Franklin Graham thanked the President for appealing the ruling of Judge Crabb and Mr. Obama promised the younger Graham that he would look into the matter of The Pentagon disinviting him. Thus far, the only reports we have heard is that Bro. Franklin has been excluded from other speaking engagements in addition to the Pentagon.

It has also been widely reported that Joel Olsteen along with Rick Warren, both prominent Christian leaders, absolutely refused to boldly declare that Jesus is the only way to heaven, even when specifically asked that question. Both asserted that He was the only way for them, but indicated that perhaps this Great God of Love will acknowledge other religions outside of His Own Son. Currently it seems that this country, along with the rest of the world, are doing everything in their power to especially justify and appease Islam even at the expense of True Christianity.

President Obama also evoked the ire of many Americans and sent some politicians to the floor of the senate, protesting his statement that “America is no longer a Christian nation.” Many true gospel ministers have made that same assertion over the past few years but for a different reason. The President trumpeted it as a triumphant accomplishment whereby this country was willing to lead the world in religious tolerance even to the point of sacrificing the Christian principles on

which she was founded to embrace all religions of the world and bring about complete harmony. Those who would preach the true message of redemption are intensely grieved that America has indeed forsaken God's righteous principles religiously, morally, socially, politically, and in every other walk of life, choosing the standards of men rather than those outlined by God's Word.

Josiah was extremely active in trying to cleanse the land, as he tore down the "houses of the Sodomites," or those devoted to unnatural lust as a religious rite. Contrariwise, some leaders, both political and religious, are doing everything in their power, to promote this ungodly practice, all in the name of "true love." Many Christians were appalled when the aforementioned Rick Warren apologized to the gay community because he had urged his large Saddleback congregation to vote against them on California's proposition 8. The highest echelons of political power are also doing everything possible to promote these acts which God has decreed abominable. All these tactics, in no wise, indicate godly reform, and though this was not the path chosen by Josiah, despite the fact that "he did that which was right in the sight of The Lord," and followed the pattern of II Chron. 7, still judgment came in 606 B.C. when Judah was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar.

"...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required," said Jesus and that surely applies to America, for she has been given so much of the gospel and has been greatly blessed from being founded on the principles of God's Word. However, that very advantage will, as in the case of Israel, be required of her and despite many cries to the contrary, judgment is coming.

Ezekiel also announces the fact that the efforts of godly men will not save a nation. "The word of the LORD came again to me, saying, Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it: Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD." This chapter shows that God would

bring a total of four judgments upon Jerusalem and each of them carry the same message: there would be no deliverance even if icons like Noah, Daniel, and Job were present. It is not difficult to see that the same four difficulties of famine, noisome beasts, the sword, and pestilence are enveloping our world today, and they will escalate, looming like a giant dragon, which will culminate in the battle of Armageddon, devouring everything in its path. Jesus said "...except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.." Matt. 24:22.

If men have put their confidence in the political and religious system of this world, the reports of these sign posts will most assuredly bring discouragement, and perhaps even panic and depression. However, just as Josiah, Daniel, Noah, and Job, were promised deliverance, so also we may claim the promise found in II Peter 2:9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." Despite the overall message taught in Christendom today, there will be only a small company, "a rib portion" of The Church taken out of this world before the horrendous judgments of the tribulation begin to fall. The determining factor is "do I have that first, or preeminent, love for Jesus and His coming?" If we do, then the events unfolding before us will produce absolute ecstasy rather than fear and dread.

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#### SECURITY

*Storms come and sorrows come,  
And who are we to murmur?  
God's hand holds each bit of strife --  
Whose hand is surer, firmer?*

*Storms come and sadness comes,  
The winds of heartache quicken;  
The clouds of doubt are all about,  
Fears, lightning, makes them thicken!*

*Storms come and terrors come,  
Our frail beliefs are shaken;  
But--in God's Hand we only dream--  
And, in His arms, we waken!*

-- Margaret E. Sangster  
"LEFT THY FIRST LOVE"

*Paul N. Smith*

***"And I have declared unto them Thy Name, And will declare it: That the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them."***

***"As the Father hath loved me, So have I loved you."***

***"...having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end."(John 17:26; John 15:19; John 13:1)***

***"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, Because thou hast left thy first love. Remember, therefore from whence thou art fallen, And repent, and do the first works: Or else I will come unto thee quickly, And remove thy candlestick out of his place, Except thou repent."***

***(Revelation 2:4-5)***

This short letter, written to the shepherd of the Church at Ephesus, holds some wonderful truths for us, if we have open hearts to receive its message. It is not only a message for that local assembly, but the force of these words can be felt nineteen centuries after they were written. There is a dispensational truth here when joined with the other six letters, relating to the Church in its journey from the beginning of the revelation given to the Apostle Paul until the present day. There is also a personal application which we would like to bring forth in this article.

These seven letters show the failure and declensions of the Church on the one hand, and the overcomings and the victories on the other. Individually, we can find our experiences somewhere in these epistles. The Ephesian letter tells us of the beginning of our experience into the mysteries of the heavenlies. It was to this group that Paul wrote of the heavenlies in Christ -- our eternal blessings, our actual seating there, our comprehension of its mysteries, the unity and growth resulting from living there, the culmination of that union of Christ and His chosen one, and finally the warfare of those who take their place in the heavenlies.

There were many admirable traits which these saints possessed, such as, “works, labor, patience, canst not bear them which are evil, hast borne, hast patience, hast not fainted.” These would seem to be the ultimate in Christian attainment, but with “NEVERTHELESS,” the Lord points to one failure, and this declension far outweighed their attainments. The pre-eminent love for Christ will regulate all our works. Paul states the importance of divine love in I Corinthians 13. Sacrifice, without divine love as a basis is worthless, as is preaching or obtaining knowledge.

The love, to which the Lord points here, is a foremost love for Christ; a love that supersedes any other emotion, and which guides every motive. We cannot put too much emphasis on the necessity of experiencing this super abounding love for Christ. All the failures, which the Church has experienced, have come as a result of abandoning her “first love.”

It is true also, in the life of an individual. When we are newly born again we love Christ with our whole being. But, being babes in the spiritual realm, we do not understand the importance of holding to that love and experiencing the extent and depth of divine love. Soon, other activities crowd into the place of spiritual fellowship with our espoused Bridegroom. Works, suffering, fruitfulness, and other admirable traits take our attention. Nothing is as needful and important as intimate fellowship with our Lord.

The Shulamite of Solomon’s Song illustrates this truth in one phase of her growth (Ch 5:2-6). She heard her beloved knocking for entrance, and listened to his voice of pleading. Instead of rushing to open the door at once, she tried to make herself more presentable to him. She had anointed herself with sweet smelling spices; but, alas, when she opened the door he was gone. He wanted to see her and be with her because of her own innate loveliness. She wanted to impress Him with something superficial. The lesson is plain. We cannot come to Christ covered with our own works, or sufferings and patience. He knows how much we sacrifice and suffer already, and this phase of our Christian lives should not enter into our worship. Christ loves us, and we should reciprocate with love. He doesn’t love us because we suffer a lot, or have sacrificed, or

labored. He loves us because we belong to Him. We love Him because of what He is. The Shulamite learned this, because afterward she said, "I am my beloved's and his desire is toward me." (7:10)

The importance of this warning to the church at Ephesus is seen in the fact that Jesus said, "Repent.....else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place." In the first verse, Jesus is seen as walking in the midst of the seven candlesticks or Churches. To remove the candlestick would mean that Jesus would no longer walk in their midst, judging and correcting by the Word of God. If saints do not hold Christ as the pre-eminent One and love Him first and foremost, He cannot dwell with them in the sense that He is seen here. If they cannot be corrected on this basic point, and refuse to give Him first place, how then can He continue to correct and train them to reign with Him?

The saints who reign with Christ will know Him intimately and personally: all their works and suffering will be secondary. And, if this first declension goes by without correction, and a return to that fellowship, further declension will be seen. To fall from the heavenlies is a great fall, and it means that one who fails to see that he has left his first love, will then take up his abode in the world where he will be prey to all the wiles of the devil. He will continue to degenerate; and the road back is long and arduous, if there is a road back to that place of intimate communion.

There have been saints who have failed through the weakness of the flesh, but in their hearts they have continued to love Christ to the uttermost. These folks always get back on the victory road, because they feel their weakness; and, through that, Christ's love for them is magnified. They have nothing to which they could point with pride, but a yearning need to be close to their Lord.

The Apostle Paul knew of the danger of failing to hold Christ as the Supreme One, and he warned the elders of Ephesus at Miletus (Acts 20) to "watch and remember." In his letter to Ephesus, he prayed for these very saints of Revelation two, and for us too, of course, that we would never experience such failure as is seen in the Church. In Ephesians 3:14-21, we

read this prayer; and the body of that petition concerns our knowing Christ's love for us.

In Ephesians 3:17 we read, "that ye being rooted and grounded in love." This is the first step in knowing the love of Christ. Roots go deep, and intertwine into the soil around rocks or whatever they find to cling to. Thus, the love of God is shed in our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. His love sinks into our hearts, intertwines every fiber of our being and takes possession of our innermost emotions. We then become grounded in the knowledge that Christ loves us. We must know this in experience before we can return any love to Him. We must be assured that this is an eternal love, that He loves us, no matter how many storms rage or how intense becomes the heat of trial.

Some people begin to doubt God's love the minute some trial comes along. This proves that they are not fully saturated with the knowledge of His love. No matter what happens, the overcomer is NEVER defeated, because down deep he feels the tender intertwining of Christ's love gripping his heart -- enfolding him. It is in these trying times that Christ's love is manifest the most; and then our innermost feelings of love come forward to meet His display of affection. Marvelous union!

The next step of Paul's prayer is: "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height" of that love. The apostle does not question the measure of Christ's love, but our comprehension. The word "comprehend" means to "lay hold of, to perceive for oneself." The divine love of Christ is expressed in His dealings with us. The experiences we have, call forth the manifestation of Christ's love. As we look back over our experiences, we see that it has been the love of Christ which has sustained us and encouraged us to continue. It would have been easy to give up, or follow the popular way; but we found ourselves surrounded by the love of Christ which shielded us from satanic blasts and fall-out.

God's love is also expressed in Psalm 130. Read David's experiences carefully. If any one man ever felt the heights of joy and the depths of despair, it was David. He

knew every human emotion there is; he knew temptation and defeat; he knew repentance and victory; he knew sorrow and joy. Above all these things, he knew the love that God had for him. As with David, so we too, comprehend the extent of Christ's love through our experiences of ups and downs. The Christian's road is never smooth and straight; but, His love cushions the bumps and straightens the turns, until we come to the place of "never-worry." His loving care screens out all harmful matter, and makes everything work good for us.

The third and culminating step of Paul's prayer is: "To know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." This is love in its fullest conceivable form. There is nothing as important as to know Christ's love in this manner. Paul extended all his spiritual power and effort in order to know Christ in His fulness - Philippians 3. The knowledge of His love is no less an experience. This exceeds all knowledge. To know what the Bible says is wonderful; but there is something greater yet -- His love. We might be able to quote from every chapter in the Bible; and yet to know the supreme surpassing love of Christ is a greater experience.

"Knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth - I Corinthians 8:1. Referring again to I Corinthians 13, we read that love has the supreme place of importance in God's eyes. We might have the tongues of men and of angels; we might understand all mysteries; we might give all we have to the poor; and might even give our body as a sacrifice; yet without divine love as the basis, it all would be meaningless, useless, and unprofitable.

Love surpasses faith and hope. There is nothing so important as to know the love of Christ. His love is the center and the hub around which everything revolves. What can we say more? Words fail to express the feelings concerning a knowledge that HE LOVES ME!

In concluding this article, we would like to refer to the letter written to the Philadelphia assembly in Revelation 3:7-12. This is an overcoming church, and represents the saints who will be alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord. They will be joined by the Smyrna saints who were faithful

unto death. In this letter we are made to see that the proof of these saints' love is in Christ's love for them.

One promise to these overcomers is: "Behold. I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and "TO KNOW THAT I HAVE LOVED THEE." What a revelation these false accusers will have! They will be made to know that Christ loved these saints all the time. They may have been little and unknown; despised and persecuted; unwanted and unappreciated; but all the time only these saints knew that Christ loved them.

What is the next step? Let us read it. "And I will write upon him My new Name." He will give us His love and His Name as Bridegroom. Surely He is serious in His devotion toward us, and we are serious in our adoration of Him. This wonderful relationship is too precious to let slip away through our carelessness. Oh, let it not be said of us, "Nevertheless, I have somewhat against you, because you have deserted Me, your first love"!

## **BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE SONS OF THE MORNING**

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, Dawn on our darkness  
and lend us Thine aid!

Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant  
Redeemer is laid!

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining; Low lies His head with  
the beasts of the stall; Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield Him costly devotion, Odors of Edom and  
offerings divine,

Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest  
and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure; Richer by far is the  
heart's adoration, Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

-- Reginald Heber

## Take Courage

Dave Albrecht

Have you ever been through a dark time in your life? Silly question. More appropriately put, I should ask, “are you going through a dark time now?” The truth is we will all have difficulties in life. Job said, “*Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble*” (Job 14:1). And being Christians does not really exempt us the way we would like it to. There will be some dark days that we must go through when we will be looking for light at the end of the tunnel - any little ray of sunshine beaming down that would offer a glimpse of hope to carry us through another day.

King David knew about dark times as he described it somewhat in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil*” (Psalm 23:4). As a shepherd boy, David, no doubt lead his father’s sheep through some dark places where shadows seemed quite menacing. David, who had been anointed and was aspiring to become king of Israel, awaited the time when he would actually ascend to the throne. He went through some dark times and places. The shadows indeed were menacing and even death many times lurked in the darkness for David. He had an enemy that wanted to destroy him. Sound familiar? You and I have an enemy also. One who is sometimes subtle, always crafty, and would like nothing better than to destroy us or watch us fail. He hopes that at least we will be totally discouraged and depressed, disabling us as vital witnesses of the grace of God and His redeeming love. He does not want you or me to ascend to the place that God has chosen for us!

Fanny J. Crosby was a famous hymn writer from years ago who wrote words to over 8,000 hymns. She has a remarkable life story. One of the things that was unique about her life of 95 years was that she was blind from the time she was approximately 6 weeks old. At her passing, Eliza Hewitt memorialized her life in this poem:

Away to the country of sunshine and song,  
Our songbird has taken her flight,  
***And she who has sung in the darkness so long***  
Now sings in the beautiful light.

Take courage, my friend! Our time to sing in the light is nearly here. No matter what you are facing or you are going through...He is there. No matter what difficulties or disturbances have clouded your days with darkness... take courage, He is there. Read on in Psalm 23. God is with you, He is for you. He has some remarkable things to accomplish in your life, He is certainly not finished with you yet, and He is coming to take us home. We will soon be basking in the sunshine of His love as we leave the darkness of this world behind...so take courage!

### **PERHAPS THIS YEAR!!**

**It may be that during this year we shall see the King  
In His beauty, caught up to meet Him --  
The longing of our hearts fulfilled at last!  
Is it too much to desire that when we see our  
Wonderful Lord in His glory, when trials, toils,  
And sacrifices are all at an end,  
Is it too much to desire that He should say  
Something like this:  
*"Thy love to Me was wonderful"?***

**It will make all seem as nothing to hear such words  
From the Savior, and to hear Him say to the one  
Who has sought to be faithful to Him at all costs,  
Well done, You were never popular on earth,  
And no one knew much about you.  
The life you lived  
To My glory in your quiet sphere of duty  
Seemed to be wasted, and your sacrifice and denial  
Worthless in the estimation of those who knew it,  
*But your love to Me was wonderful!***

**Men said you made mistakes, and were narrow-  
minded,  
And did not catch the spirit of the age.  
They thought you were a fanatic  
And called you so.  
Men crucified you as they crucified Me.  
*But, oh! Your love to Me was wonderful!*  
WELL DONE Anon.**

## FACE TO FACE

Carrie E. Breck, 1855-1934

*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:2, 3)*

For some the concept of heaven is a place of peaceful resting. Others envision it as filled with golden streets and sounds of beautiful music. For most of us the thought of reuniting with loved ones is comforting. However, the most thrilling anticipation for every believer when he reflects about heaven is surely the moment of seeing our Savior "face to face."

The thoughts so well expressed in "Face to Face" were written by a busy wife and mother who by her own admission could not carry a tune. She had only a sense of rhythm. She said, "I penciled verses under all conditions; over a mending basket, with a baby on my arm, and sometimes even when sweeping or washing dishes, my mind moved in poetic meter." Living with her husband and five daughters in Portland, Oregon, Carrie Breck was a deeply committed Christian and life-long member of the Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Breck occasionally sent some of her poems to a composer of gospel hymns, Grant Colfax Tullar, with the hope that he would set them to suitable music. Amazingly, when the verses of "Face to Face" arrived in the mail one day, Mr. Tullar had just completed the music for a song with words that did not fully please him. The lines of Mrs. Breck's text, however, were a perfect fit for the music he had composed.

Face to face with Christ, my Savior, face to face-what will it be?

When with rapture I behold Him, Jesus Christ who died for me!

Only faintly now I see Him, with the darkling veil between;

but a blessed day is coming, when His glory shall be seen.

What rejoicing in His presence, when are banished grief and pain,  
when the crooked ways are straightened and the dark things shall be plain.

Face to face -- O blissful moment! Face to face-to see and know;

face to face with my Redeemer, Jesus Christ who loves me so.

Chorus:

Face to face I shall behold Him, far beyond the starry sky;

face to face, in all His glory, I shall see Him by and by!

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## Editorial June 2010

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” John 20:17

Though Psalm 68:5 tells us that God will be “A father of the fatherless, and Psalm 103:13 likens Him to a father who “pitieth his children,” the Fatherhood of God is primarily a New Testament doctrine. There is no record that the patriarchs or any of the worthies of faith such as David, Daniel, Job, Elijah or any of the other prophets addressed Him as Father.

Jesus Himself introduced the glorious relationship and when the disciples requested that He teach them to pray, He responded “When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven,…” Luke 11:2

Our opening text is even more intimate and personal as The Master specifically gives instruction concerning “your Father.” Rather than simply The Father, A Father, or a collective “our Father.” His terminology indicates that we may have the same boldness, liberty, and intimacy with our Father as He does.

The pattern prayer recorded in Luke 11, is often called “The Lord’s Prayer”, but the true Lord’s Prayer is found in John 17. This portion is often referred to as the “holy of holies” of the scripture, and we are surely treading on holy ground as we are given access to this most intimate prayer of Jesus just prior to His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Six times He addresses God directly as “Father.” Verses 1-5 is a request for Himself, that He would be glorified to bring glory unto God. The next segment ending with verse 19 records a prayer for His disciples. Verses 20 through 26, give us a glimpse into His tremendous heart of love for The Church. “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they

may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” V. 20-23 It is almost too much to comprehend that we could be granted such unity with Jesus and His Father, but this is His request. He further desires that we be with Him in glory and behold His glory, even the transcendent glory of His Father found in V. 5. “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

Jesus’ petition of verse 23 is also one that some Christians are reluctant to claim, some even declaring it impossible, but we dare not draw back from it in unbelief, for Jesus prayed earnestly “...that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” I have heard it said that The Father could never love me to the degree that He loves Jesus, but that is exactly what this verse proclaims. Just as all Christians do not claim the glorious provisions of unity and glory seen in this passage, so also many would fail to enter into this glorious provision of Divine Love. Sadly some Christians rarely if ever, address God as Father, preferring such terms as Almighty God, Lord, or perhaps Master. However, when we understand the depth of love Our Father has for us, even the love shown to Jesus, then we too can have the same glorious intimacy, and boldness which Jesus had, in approaching This Grand Personage known as Father.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We have already received some testimonies as to how various people came in contact with the Grace & Glory and The Bible School. We continue to ask for more such accounts which, once again, we hope to put into somewhat of a scrap book that may viewed at The Labor Day Convention.

We are also planning a “walk through history” as we visit the graves of Bro. Copley and Sis. Bodie, and return to the original Bible School building at 3339 Harrison. This tour will include The Tabernacle at 2515 Harrison and 406 S. Gladstone, site of the school after moving from the Harrison St. address. The print shop was also located in that area and the building still stands, though somewhat changed. This event will take place Monday, September 6, following our weekend of services.

IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

Alice S. Mooneyhan

It was amazing to me when I realized that the truth which is revealed in Paul's epistles is hidden in the Song of Solomon.

When the Jewish Rabbis met to decide which books to include in the Holy Scriptures, there was a controversy over this book whether to include it or not. When it was put to a vote, there was a one vote majority to include it in the Scriptures. It is not strange that they could not understand this book, because the truth it contains was hidden until the time of its fulfillment. The Apostle Paul was given the revelation concerning the Church and her espousal to Christ. This book is the more precious to us since we have learned from the epistles of Paul that the Holy Spirit is preparing a Bride for God's Son.

Those of us who have chosen to "go with this Man" - Geneses 24:58 have found this book to be very instructive and encouraging, because we see our own experiences portrayed in its pages. This courtship began when the Shulamite expressed her longing for a token of his affection (1:2). This longing was satisfied when she received the kiss which satisfied her -- a very positive sign of his love for her -- and a figure of our being anointed with the Spirit.

The chapters of the Song of Solomon roughly agree with these books of the Apostle Paul.

Chapter One	Romans
Chapter Two	I Corinthians
Chapter Three	II Corinthians
Chapter Four	Ephesians
Chapter Five	Philippians
Chapter Six	Colossians

The end of Chapter Six gives I Thessalonians
Chapter Seven - All the truths of these
epistles are summed up in this chapter
Chapter Eight II Thessalonians

CANTICLE ONE -- 1:1 - 2:7

LOVE'S LONGING SATISFIED

"The Song of songs which is Solomon's" (1:). Most of us know something about the history of Solomon; mainly, that he had a thousand wives. But there is something else that we overlook. II Peter 1:21 tells us that "the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The Song of Solomon is prophecy in type. It is prophetic of God's purpose which began to be fulfilled through the revelation given to the Apostle Paul.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"- II Timothy 3:16. This writing by the king was inspired by the Spirit of God. It is not concerned primarily with Solomon's courtship of his beautiful lover, but is prophetic of the courtship of Christ - the "Heavenly Courtship" as A.S. Copley calls it. It is true that this was possibly based upon Solomon's love for the Shunamite, the fair maiden who was in the court of David, but this is not what the book really consists of. The words are those of our Heavenly Lover to us, if we have ears to hear. As we read, I believe we will hear the voice of our Beloved speaking to us out of this little book. Solomon was a prolific song writer, as he wrote 1,005 songs. This one which is called the "Song of Songs" is the only one preserved by the Lord for our edification.

"Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth" - 1:2.

There are two thoughts in this verse that are outstanding. First, is the identity of the one called "Him." There is only one Man for whom our soul yearns -- the Man Christ Jesus. Second, is the identity of the one speaking. This speaker is the one who has come to the place where she cries out with longing for the Lover of her soul. She represents the heart that is weary of this world. She longs for a token of His personal affection.

The word "kiss" has a peculiar meaning: "to equip with weapons." When she has been kissed, then she knows that He loves her, and she is able to face the world of contestants, those who are vying with her for His love. She is "covered", which is another meaning of the word "kiss." covered with the assurance of His love. She longs for this close fellowship: she longs for assurance; she longs for Him. It is only through the

anointing with the Holy Spirit that we come into the closest fellowship with the Lord. The Spirit takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us. He reveals the Truth of the Scripture to our hearts. He guides us into all Truth. And it is only through the knowledge of the Truth that we are loosed from earthward tendencies, and are enabled to appropriate the spiritual blessings in the heavenlies which have been given to us in Christ - Ephesians 1:3.

“For Thy love is better than wine.” Some of us have had this experience perhaps: After we were saved, we went on with the Lord for awhile and everything seemed bright. Gradually though, things began to go wrong, and we became miserable. Life did not seem as bright as it did at first. We found that the things of this life disappointed us. Maybe we were seeking pleasure or money or success, but even if we found these, they did not satisfy. “Wine” is a figure of everything in this world, in which people indulge, to gratify their desires, but their hearts are left with an unsatisfied longing.

“Because of the savor of Thy good ointments Thy Name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love Thee” - 1:3. This actually seems to intimate that she has now been anointed with The Holy Spirit. The word “ointment” means anointing. It is akin to the word “unction,” and refers to power. Jesus Christ was born of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, and it was said to her: “That Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” Luke 1:35. When He came to manhood, He was anointed with the Spirit. After His anointing, He ministered in the power of the Spirit. In everything He did, He was led of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God taught Him and revealed the Truth to His heart, even as he does us.

“Because of the savor of Thy good ointments Thy Name is as ointment poured forth.” In the first chapter of Matthew, we read that His Name shall be called Jesus, “for He shall save His people from their sins.” It is only through the Holy Spirit’s power that we have been convicted of our need of salvation. “There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” - Acts 4:13. The power of that Name is expressed in Philippians 2:9-11: “God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall

bow....and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

“The virgins love Thee.” In this book, we will notice several different groups of people. “The virgins” represent those who will be guests at the wedding in the air, the 144,000 out of Israel, who are the third group out of the Church to be seen in Heaven. The early Christian Church was made up of believers out of Israel, who were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost: they will be in the same rank as the 144,000 of the end-time. After Paul’s revelation, the Gentiles were included in the Church. The greater revelation was given to Paul for Gentile believers, although the Jews were not excluded from being in this group which is represented by this woman we are studying about now. This does not exclude anyone in this Church Age. Let us have ears to hear what the Spirit is speaking to each one of us.

“Draw me, we will run after Thee” - 1:4. It is always the Holy Spirit who draws sinners to the Lord for salvation, and who draws the saints on to seek the Lord. Salvation is of the Lord. It is only as He works in our lives, transforming us by His power, that we are able to overcome either the world, the flesh, or the devil. When we receive a revelation of Christ and our gaze is turned upward, then we will run after Him. By our upward gaze, we cause others to look up. By our separation unto the Lord, others are drawn to the things of God.

-To Be Continued -

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\* Conscience is God’s built-in warning system. Be very happy when it hurts you. Be very worried when it doesn’t.

\* The mighty oak was once a little nut that stood its ground.

\* Most people wish to serve God -- but only in an advisory capacity.

\* The more we count the blessing we have, the less we crave the luxuries we haven’t.

\* The Bible should do more than inform us, it should transform us!

# *FROM GOD WITH LOVE*

R.B. Thieme, Jr.

***“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” I John 4:16***

To know what God is like, we must know what Jesus Christ is like. Jesus is the unique Person of the universe - God and Man, united inseparably in one Person forever! As the outward or visible expression of the invisible God, He is the Revealer of God. (John 1:18; Heb. 1:1, 2)

From the independent volition of God, came a Divine plan called “Operation Grace” (Rom. 11:6) No one has ever deserved or earned anything from God; it is God’s love and grace which has provided everything for us. His plan of grace centers in Jesus Christ (John 1:17), who possesses all the Divine attributes.

He is declared to be sovereignty, omniscience, omnipresence, immutability, eternal life, love, righteousness, justice and truth. He is set forth as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (John 1:3; Col. 1:16, 17). He is the object of worship, both among angels and mankind. He Himself declares eternal existence and equality with God the Father (John 10:30). He calls all men unto himself; He promises to forgive sins, to send the Holy Spirit, to give rest and peace, a resurrection body and above all, eternal life.

All Divine names and titles are applied to Christ: He is called God (John 20:28), the Mighty God (Rev. 1:8), the Great God (Rev. 19:17), Jehovah (Ex. 3:17 with John 8:58), Lord (II Thess. 1:12), and King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16). Therefore, God is not more, cannot promise more, or do more than Christ is said to be, to promise, and to do.

At the same time, in His incarnation, Christ was true humanity. His flesh-and-blood body had normal growth, feeling and actions. He had all of the limitations of a human being: He suffered hunger, thirst, pain, fatigue; He enjoyed pleasure and rest. He suffered death; He had resurrection. He possessed both a human soul and a human spirit.

Through this unique Person, God expressed His love to the human race: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). If we are to have eternal life, our sins must be forgiven and blotted out. Jesus Christ did not come into the world simply to perform miracles and to alleviate suffering, or even to provide marvelous principles of life and death (though He did all these); He came for the express purpose of dying on the cross for your sins and mine. "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God....by the Which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 10:9.

Now that the work has been accomplished, Jesus Christ offers eternal life to everyone who will believe in Him: "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any one pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:18). "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name." (John 20:31).

The issue of eternal relationship with God is the individual's attitude toward the Person of Jesus Christ. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36.

#### THE BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

Billions of years ago, God knew that "by one man's disobedience" (Romans 5:19) man would become a sinner. When God's foreknowledge became fact and the first man sinned, a great barrier arose between God and man.

Man's righteousness is declared to be as "filthy rags" in God's sight (Isaiah 64:6). While it is true that some men are better than others, it is also true that all righteousness in the human race is relative; and relative righteousness can never have fellowship with perfect or absolute righteousness, which belongs to God.

Therefore, a barrier exists between God and man. There is no work or activity of any kind whereby man can remove this great barrier. Throughout the ages, man has sought, through his own good works, somehow to gain the

approbation of God, but no man has ever succeeded. (Titus 3:5).

This barrier is rendered even more impregnable by the fact that God in His justice has pronounced a penalty on sin: "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:33). Adam did not die physically for nearly a thousand years after his sin; but his human spirit died immediately.

He was separated from God by spiritual death. Without a human spirit, man cannot have fellowship with God, either in time or in eternity. This was the penalty of which God had forewarned Adam in Gen. 2:17. Physical death was the eventual result of the spiritual death.

### THE ETERNAL DECREE

From man's viewpoint, this barrier is insurmountable. From God's viewpoint, grace could overcome it. Therefore, we have the doctrine of "the eternal decree." This is the plan determined by God the Father whereby God would do all the doing and man the receiving under the principal of GRACE.

The Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son, would enter into the world and become true humanity (John 1:14). Equal with God and equal with man, yet without sin or the sin nature He would be qualified to take the place of the sinner and at the same time satisfy the righteousness and justice of God. This plan is stated in many passages of Scripture. "Who will have all men to be saved...For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all...." (I Tim. 2:4-6).

### THE REMOVAL OF THE BARRIER

The removal of the barrier can be summed up in one word - reconciliation. "For He is our peace, who hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us...so making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Eph. 2:14-16).

Just as there are six strikes against man in the barrier, so there are six categories in the doctrine of salvation which describe the work of Christ on the cross by which the barrier was removed.

(1) UNIVERSAL SIN in the human race was solved by REDEMPTION. The source of personal sin is the sin nature, which was passed down from Adam to the entire human race (Rom.5:12).

Since everyone is born with an old sin nature, we are said to be in the "slave market of sin" (John 8:34). The purchase price of our redemption was the blood of Jesus Christ, which represents His spiritual death (the bearing of our sins on the cross). "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

UNLIMITED ATONEMENT resolved the problem of the universality of sin, for Christ was judged for every sin everyone in the world has ever committed or ever will commit. "And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (I John 2:2).

However, while all are savable, not all are saved - only those who believe in Christ.

(2) THE PENALTY OF SIN was cancelled by EXPIATION. Christ removed the penalty by suffering the punishment "in his own body on the tree" (I Peter 2:24). He paid for our debt of sin. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross" (Colossians 2:14).

(3) Even man's PHYSICAL BIRTH constitutes a factor in the barrier, for he is born spiritually dead. By His work on the cross, Jesus Christ provided REGENERATION, whereby the one who believes in Him may be "born again" (John 3:7). Through regeneration, man becomes spiritually alive to God. "And you hath He quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

(4) The CHARACTER OF GOD keeps man from God, for God is absolute righteousness. The holy God cannot have fellowship with sinful man. His perfect justice demands that a penalty be paid for sin. PROPITIATION (I John 2:2) solves this problem: God the Father is satisfied - not by our works - but with the work of Christ.

(5) The RELATIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS of man was solved by IMPUTATION AND JUSTIFICATION. At the moment of salvation God imputes or credit's the righteousness of Christ to our account, even as the first man's sin was once imputed to the human race. On the basis of the imputation of righteousness, God declares the undeserving sinner justified - just, or righteous in His sight and acceptable to Himself (Romans 4:5).

(6) Man's POSITION IN ADAM renders him incapable of fellowship with God: "In Adam all die...." (I Cor. 15:22). Through salvation the believer is placed into a NEW POSITION "in Christ" the last Adam.

Thus the entire six strikes against man have been removed, totally, by the cross. The door to heaven is open; and where once stood the barrier, Christ stands as the way to heaven. By an act of personal faith in Him, the barrier is removed for you, and you are reconciled to God. At the moment you believe, 36 things will happen to you immediately; 36 things which constitute a perfect salvation!

#### DIVINE GOOD VERSIS HUMAN GOOD

Ultimately, every person who is saved chooses the work of Christ rather than his own good deeds. God is perfect; He is absolute righteousness; He is immutable and unchangeable. God's righteousness can never change and become unrighteous. God is also eternal. Eternal life plus immutability and righteousness means that there never was a time, there never will be a time - in fact, there never can be a time when God can be unfair or unrighteous in any way. Therefore, anything that comes from God must be absolutely perfect; and since salvation comes from God, since He planned every detail of it, it has to be perfect.

On the other hand, man is imperfect, a temporal creature. Under no circumstance can man be considered perfect; and no perfect plan can originate from an imperfect being. If man could do anything to achieve or merit the plan, then it becomes imperfect. But how grateful we are to the eternal God who provided a plan which came from Himself, a plan which is perfect because He designed it Himself, a plan which is perfect because the execution of the plan is not in the hands of man, but in the hands of the unique Person of the Lord Jesus Christ!

While the Son of God was hanging on the cross, He cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Why did God the Father, who loved the Son eternally, forsake Him at the cross? The answer is simple, but tremendous: "For He (the Father) hath made

Him (Christ) to be sin for us, who (Christ) knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Cor. 5:21).

Jesus Christ was taking our place; He bore our sins in His body and in His soul (I Peter 2:24; I John 3:16); and as He did, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit had to turn away from Him because perfect righteousness can have no relationship with sin. We will never begin to understand the great depths to which Christ went in order to provide eternal salvation for us. But the fact remains that He did it ALONE; He required no help from us! When He cried, "IT IS FINISHED," there was nothing else to be done.

That's why I say that ultimately salvation has as its great issue: will you choose the work of Christ on the cross, which satisfied God the Father, or will you choose your own works in order to gain the approbation of God? You must choose one or the other; yet the Scripture declares so clearly: "For 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).

And that is the beauty of our "so great salvation" - it is appropriated by FAITH. Faith in itself carries no merit; but the object of faith always carries merit. What is the object of your faith in the matter of salvation? Are you trusting in your own work - Church membership, baptism, some system of morality, the Sermon on the Mount? All of the good deeds that any one has ever been able to accomplish in a lifetime, placed along side the matchless work of Christ, add up to a great big "MINUS"!

God's plan is so great in its concept and execution that it is impossible for man to compare it, much less understand it. The plan involves each member of the Trinity: The Father planned it; the Son executed it; the Holy Spirit reveals it. The barrier was removed by the spiritual death of Christ. Who took our place and became our Substitute and Sin-bearer. What greater plan can there be than this? And yet for us it is so simple: we have but to receive it! IT IS FREE - WITHOUT MONEY, WITHOUT PRICE (Isaiah 55:1).

"As many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name (John 1:12). Since the barrier has been removed, the only thing which stands between you and God, between you

and eternal life, is your attitude toward the work and Person of Jesus Christ.

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THE GIFT OF GOD

Lucille Moore

***It passeth all knowledge that I should see
The MARVEL OF MARVELS revealed to me;
God's own Son from Glory a baby became,
Being born of a virgin, Jesus was His name.
He grew up in old Palestine's Galilee,
Where He worked at the trade of carpentry,
He came down to earth in His Father's will,
Although He was man -- He was God still.
God's perfect creation had fallen in sin;
Slaves and sick, was the plight they were in.
The triune God then revealed a Plan
To redeem and lift up fallen man.
Oh, MARVEL OF MARVELS that Jesus the Man
Should offer to die in Redemption's plan.
Willingly to Calvary's Hill He was led --
Though well He knew His blood must be
shed.
He took on Himself man's sickness and sin,
That they might be loosed from the power
therein.
The Lamb without blemish, spot ,or stain,
Died for each mortal; thus their SAVIOR
became.***

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\* The words "think" and "thank" come from the same Latin root. If we take the time to think more, we will undoubtedly thank more.

\* A shallow understanding has a short memory.

\* Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.  
(Pocket sayings)

## FROM DEATH TO LIFE

*Marie Chaloub*

“Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish’s belly.....The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast Thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God.” Jonah 2:1, 5-6.

“Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whatsoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” John 11:25-26.

Very little was revealed in the Old Testament concerning the resurrection and the life beyond. The prophets were chiefly occupied with earthly prosperity and millennial blessings. They anticipated the coming of Messiah, the hope of His elect people, Israel. Yet, some glimpses of the resurrection were noticeable: Hosea 6:1-3; Daniel 12:2; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 16:9-11.

The most remarkable type of the resurrection is pictured in the prophet Jonah. He is a type of Christ in death and resurrection, and also a sign to Israel. Christ Himself chose the prophet as a type of His own resurrection: “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and nights in the heart of the earth” Matthew 12:40. Some people interpret this as just an allegory, but characters in an allegory cannot rise in judgment with the men of that generation whom the Lord addressed. God is the God who does miracles even if science objects. God is sovereign. He flung a wind onto the sea and there was a mighty tempest, even though summer time usually brings fair weather in the Mediterranean. We realize, then, that this storm, terrifying in its intensity, was really supernatural.

The remarkable feature about this story is that Jonah told the sailors the truth about himself, and in essence, sentenced himself to death: “Take me and throw me overboard!” Being guilty, he became the willing victim.

Christ became the willing Divine Substitute, who upheld the majesty of God's broken law. Jonah was disobedient and guilty, but the Lord Jesus Christ was sinless; yet, He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Each of these men willingly suffered to save the lives of others: Jonah, to save those in the ship; Christ, who saved all humanity from sinking into the waters of eternal death.

The next wondrous event was the sudden end of the storm. Those superstitious sailors who had called on their gods earlier, now called on Jehovah. Perhaps because of a holy revelation from God, that the blood makes atonement for the soul, offered a sacrifice to Him. Faith in God's sacrifice begets works of righteousness, and they made vows. The sign of Jonah given to the scribes and Pharisees, provides an anticipation of the truth concerning our Lord's bodily resurrection and the justice and mercy therein involved. His resurrection was the Divine seal upon His finished work on the cross, which opened up a new and living way by which sinful men might have a chance to be justified from their sins.

Christ's full victory over death was displayed at Lazarus' tomb. Lazarus also speaks of Israel's condition in his need and only hope. It is clearly stated that Jesus loved Lazarus, and it was confirmed by His attitude when He saw Mary and the Jews who came with her unto Lazarus' grave weeping. Jesus also wept. All the bystanders said: "Behold how He loved him!" Jesus showed a stern and angry attitude toward the blind leaders and the cold, deadly system which Judaism had become, but there can be no doubt as to His love for His people.

Israel, like Lazarus, had to die "for the glory of God," in view of a future resurrection. Israel was desperately sick, even as Lazarus, and there was no remedy for them except in the risen Savior. What was true of Lazarus as representing the state and need of Israel, is true of the whole human race--sick unto death, dead and stinking. Therefore, the only hope is in resurrection, a new beginning with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In that magnificent moment when Christ emerged from death unto life, the proof was made that the eternal God and His holy Son had been working together to open a new and

living way. The apostles' sermons after the Day of Pentecost emphasized the resurrection of the Lord. Jesus had said to Martha, "He that believeth in Me shall never die!" Henceforth, we want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, to attain a life entirely separated from the things of the old dead self. The risen Christ remains the absolute Master, the One who won the final victory over our last enemy--DEATH!

Dear Friends, let us yield ourselves to HIM so that we may be called to share in His glorious resurrection. Let us prepare ourselves for His coming, trim our lamps, making sure to be ready when God's clock strikes that glorious hour!

(From "The Messiah's Call")

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RISEN WITH JESUS

***Are you risen with the Savior
Into resurrection power?
Are you now a new creation,
Trusting Jesus every hour?***

***We may live in glorious newness,
By a new and living Way;
Find in Him eternal dawning
Of an everlasting day.***

***Every morning His new mercies
Wake our hearts in new refrain;
His salvation is sufficient
For life's sunshine or its rain.***

***Let us not, 'mid old surroundings,
Live old habits and old ways;
But in His renewing presence
Ever sing new songs of praise--***

***Ever think new thought inspiring,
Ever speak new words of truth;
Ever look above to Jesus,
Source of everlasting youth.***

--Carlan S. Messler

THANKFUL HEARTS

*Father, we lift our thankful hearts to Thee
With gratitude, for all Thy bounty free,
For love, and friends, for home, for faith's pure
light,
For health, for harvest store, for rest at night --*

*For every blessing showered from above --
Bestowed on us unstinted, by thy love
And thoughtful care; O hear us, as we pray,
Father in heaven, this Thanksgiving Day.*

*Watch over us, be Thou our Stay and Guide,
Thro' days and night; guard us from sinful pride,
For we are human, weak, and prone to wrong,
And by Thy grace alone are we made strong.*

*Give us our daily bread, our wants supply,
And touch our hearts, that we may not deny
The widow and the orphan of their share
Of what we have -- relieve their want and care.*

*O grant that we may keep Thy Word, and live
A Christian life; our enemies forgive;
That we may love our neighbor, work for peace,
That so Thy glory may on earth increase.*

-- Henry Coyle

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## **ALWAYS THANKFUL**

Dr. Alexander Whyte of Edinburgh was famous for his pulpit prayers. He always found something to thank God for, even in bad times. One stormy morning a member of his congregation thought to himself, "the preacher will have nothing to thank God for on a wretched morning like this." But Whyte began his prayer, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this.

