

Definite Sign Posts Of The End

Gene Hawkins

“And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.” Dan. 11:27

All the events of this chapter are history and there will be no further fulfillment of them in the end time. However, the truth of this verse has been repeated again and again, as men throughout the times of the Gentiles have exercised any means, within their reach, to satisfy their insatiable appetite for power. Paul describes such attitudes with these words. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be...covetous,proud, blasphemers,trucebreakers, false accusers,....fierce, despisers of those that are good,....” II Tim. 3:1-3. We cannot even begin to enumerate the agreements and treaties that have been broken by world leaders as each one grapples for power and dominance over the other, and would expect nothing different from recent meetings between current heads of state.

Details of the conference between President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have especially been few and far between, frustrating all the news agencies clamoring for information. Israeli newspapers and the Times of London have reported that “there was no state dinner,.... no official photographs released of the meetings, and no statements were issued to the press.” The President reportedly “even left the Prime Minister behind while he went to dinner, part of what one member of Congress described as ‘a hazing in stages.’ Things were so tense that members of the Israeli delegation feared to use the phones they were provided and insisted on meeting face-to-face to avoid eavesdropping.” Some analysts have described Netanyahu’s treatment, “as a humiliating snub,” but Senior White House adviser, David Axelrod defended the actions of the President saying “This was not about a ceremonial meeting. This was a working meeting. And so there was no snub intended.” We do know that this controversial

meeting was held because “Obama invited Netanyahu to the White House in an attempt to smooth over a dispute about Israel’s approval of plans to build 1,600 new apartments in a part of east Jerusalem captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war. The action was announced during a March 9 visit to Israel by Vice President Joe Biden, prompting rare public criticism of the country by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other top administration officials.” (Another report indicates that President Obama “was livid” over that incident.)

Mr. Netanyahu has since elected not to attend the nuclear summit held in Washington but Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, was quick to explain that his no-show was unexceptional. “You know, Gordon Brown is not coming from Great Britain, Kevin Rudd is not coming from Australia, King Abdullah’s not coming from Saudi Arabia.” She went on to assert that “recent tensions between the Netanyahu and Obama administrations over building in disputed eastern Jerusalem were not a factor, noting that deputy premier Dan Meridor was heading the Israeli delegation.” Reuters reports that “Netanyahu withdrew from the summit, fearing Muslim powers would use it to demand that Israel give up its presumed nuclear arsenal.”

We simply do not know whether any of these principles are fully divulging truth or not. Nor do we know what effects this “non-outcome” meeting will have on future negotiations surrounding Jerusalem. The same sources quoted above, have stated that the President walked out of the meeting after failing to “extract a written promise of concessions on settlements,” inviting the P.M. to “stay at the White House, consult with advisors and, ‘let me know if there is anything new,’ a U.S. congressman, who spoke to the Prime Minister, said.”

Although White House press secretary, Robert Gibbs, cast doubt on minor details in Israeli accounts of the meeting, he did not deny claims that “it amounted to a dressing down for the Prime Minister.” It has been suggested that perhaps Mr. Obama used this tactic as a political ploy to curry favor and win the trust of the Muslim community in an effort to ensure that there will be a two state Jerusalem. Whether or not it will produce the end intended is simply not known at this time.

Israel had to have been further wounded because a promise, granted by Washington in January 2010, was broken when the “U.S. military was ordered to divert a shipment of smart bunker-buster bombs from Israel to a military base in Diego Garcia. They said the shipment of 387 smart munitions had been slated to join pre-positioned U.S. military equipment in Israel Air Force bases.” The World Tribune goes on to say that “The decision to divert the BLU munitions was taken amid the crisis between Israel and The United States over planned construction of Jewish homes in Jerusalem.”

Though Israeli officials are undoubtedly still stinging from these events, there is no sign that they have any intention of calling on Jesus their Messiah, and scripture is very clear that they will bear the brunt of many other broken agreements before they look on Him Whom “they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son,” (Zech. 12:10) and are finally restored.

Another very prestigious summit was held in Prague as Russian President Dimitry Medvedev and President Obama “signed the biggest nuclear arms pact in a generation and envisioned a day when they can compromise on the divisive issue of missile defense. The new treaty, the first of its kind in two decades and nearly a year in the making, signaled a bold new opening in relations between the former Cold War foes. Both leaders hoped for more progress on economic matters and potentially even deeper cuts in their robust nuclear arsenals, while the Russian president still warned of potential pitfalls ahead.

The pact will shrink the limit of nuclear warheads to 1,550 per country over seven years. That still allows for mutual destruction several times over. But it is intended to send a strong signal that Russia and the U.S. — which between them own more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons — are serious about disarmament.”

President Obama has made no secret of the fact that he envisions a world absolutely devoid of nuclear weapons, but in light of end time prophecy, it is very clear that such a goal will never be realized during this present Church Age. The aforementioned nuclear summit in Washington has already

identified both al-Qaida and Iran as serious threats to that effort. If these men would only read God's Word, they would discover that their fears are not unfounded, for Revelation 8 & 9 portray clear references to unavoidable nuclear war. "And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed." Rev. 8:8,9. Right now, Iran is the primary candidate to play the role of this "great mountain burning with fire," for it will undoubtedly be some rogue nation that will eventually defy the seven headed coalition of the end time, and touch off this nuclear holocaust. The entire "sea" of nations will be plunged into war thus becoming "blood," and upsetting "the apple cart" of "peace and safety," which will have been announced at that time. Israel has been greatly concerned with Iran's nuclear threat for some time and has tried to persuade the U.S. to guarantee her some kind of protection. The Obama administration seems to have adopted the pacifist policies of the previous Carter administration, which did not bode well for America when dealing with Iran previously, and their current threat is much more severe due to this nuclear threat. Sanctions against this ungodly regime have now been proposed and The A.P. announced that the U.S. "has the robust backing of Great Britain, France and Germany in adopting further sanctions against Iran. Russia, too, has shown a willingness to join the sanctions effort, meaning the required clean sweep of permanent members of the United Nations Security Council."

Brazil and Turkey are studying an "alternative proposal" to deal with the issue, but "Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said: "China always believes that dialogue and negotiation are the best way out for the issue. Pressure and sanctions cannot fundamentally solve it." She then added "that China supports a 'dual-track strategy,' combining diplomacy with the possibility of international sanctions against Iran."

President Obama has taken a drastic step toward his dream as "The United States for the first time is forswearing

use of atomic weapons against non-nuclear countries, a break with a Bush-era threat of nuclear retaliation in the event of a biological or chemical attack.” This comes with a major condition: “Those countries would be spared a U.S. nuclear response only if they are in compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.”

Based on the above portion of scripture, there is no doubt that this current nuclear treaty will be broken. The only question is when, and by whom? Bro. Smith warned several years ago, when the former Soviet Union collapsed, that we should not assume Russia was gone forever. He has been proven correct, as she is now a major contender in the nuclear arms race.

Many in this country and around the world are very much concerned that Pres. Obama’s declaration, of no nuclear response if America is attacked, is an open invitation to some rogue nation having no fear of reprisal. Currently the airwaves are filled with voices outlining formulas for “taking back our country,” in an effort to defend us, and preserve our former way of life, and we most assuredly applaud any effort to gain the protection of God’s people. However, if we are looking for the coming of Jesus, we know that neither this country, nor the world, is going to fully return to the days of yore before the tribulation is completed. While the reports quoted in this article can be quite depressing, we can encourage ourselves by realizing that they are only harbingers of Jesus Soon Coming! Let us remember that Israel was under horrible oppression by their taskmasters before the exodus from Egypt. Noah endured tremendous ridicule and mockery before he entered the safety of the ark, to be carried away through the waters of destruction. Israel endured horrific pressure, and threats of annihilation, just prior to their deliverance in the days of Purim. Our hope is not to restore our land but to be transported bodily out of it, through the portals of glory into heaven. If our hearts are truly centered on Jesus’ coming, these current events will strike chords of joy and anticipation as we Look Up, for we know that our redemption draweth nigh!

THE KEY OF DAVID

Walter S. Anderson

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.” Revelation 3:7.

It is fitting that we understand the significance of the term, “Key of David,” and give it importance due to the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ spoke it to the Philadelphia assembly. The Apostle Paul explains how importantly Jesus Christ is related to King David of Israel. He wrote in Second Timothy 2:8: “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my Gospel.” All of God’s promises to David were given under a solemn covenant, and were passed on to His Son Jesus Christ. Their fulfillment depended upon Christ’s resurrection from the dead.

Peter also spoke to all Israel on the day of Pentecost, concerning Jesus Christ, being the Son of David. “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him. That of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne”- Acts 2:29-30.

It is the exalted Christ, Israel’s glorious King and Messiah, Who has all the promises of David concerning the Kingdom of God, and has the right to sit on David’s throne. To have the Key of David is to open up all the promises concerning the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. This key has all the governmental authority of the Lord God Almighty.

Since Jesus Christ was rejected by Israel and crucified, what would happen to His Kingdom and throne? God had to replace this earthly kingdom, temporarily, and bring forth a mystery, hidden from before the very foundation of the world. Herein the Kingdom would be exalted in the heavens above, instead of being on earth. “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus

Christ" - Ephesians 3:9. This is the Church, "which is His Body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" - Ephesians 1:23.

The Church, as the Body of Christ, is raised up with Christ into His heavenly Kingdom, whereas Israel's kingdom will be earthly. "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly Kingdom: To whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" - II Timothy 4:18.

The apostles of the Lord recognized the building of the Church, and also the rebuilding of the tabernacle of David-- "After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up." James quoted this citation from Amos 9:11-12 (Acts 15:16)

Inasmuch as Christ the Anointed One has been absent from the earth during this Age of Grace, His return then, will fulfill all prophecy. During His absence, a restoration of "restitution of all things," has been developing. "And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:20-21).

In this "restitution of all things," multitudes of Israelites, who were scattered among the nations, have returned to their land and have been openly declared a nation, with Jerusalem, the city of David, as its capital. Furthermore, "the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Ever since the turn of the century, this refreshing has been demonstrated to the Church as the "latter rain," with the blessing of the Gifts of the Spirit. This spiritual blessing will come upon Israel when the Church has been completed. "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth" (Hosea 6:3; Zechariah 10:1; James 5:7).

David declared, "The stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner" (Psalms 118:22). So the Seed of Abraham, Who is the Son of David, The Lord Jesus Christ, has been denied and rejected by Israel all these many centuries. What a terrible loss to them as their history shows! The Apostle Peter charged the whole nation with gross unbelief of the Scriptures. Despite of all their proclaimed law keeping, they blindly refused and rejected Jesus' claim as THE

CHRIST, THE STONE. "And this is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner" (Acts4:11).

When Israel rejected their "Stone," God turned the tables, resulting in a marvelous move from earthly purposes to heavenly, from Jerusalem below to Jerusalem above, from faith to sight. The glorified Christ is now the Head of the Church, which is His Body. What an amazing transformation from law to grace! This spiritual temple of God is made up of "living stones," with Christ the incomparable Head Stone.

This is part of the "mystery" revealed to the Apostle Paul--"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Corner Stone. In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:20-22). Christ has become the Head Stone and is the crowning keystone of the entire celestial edifice! Its prominence overall the building, is as the "Arch Stone."

As I have gone at great length to relate these Scriptures in their relationship and dependence upon one another, it sets up a marvelous pattern. Herein the Philadelphia Church is set apart from all the others in great recognition. Therefore, it is fitting that the Corner Stone of heavenly Jerusalem, speaks definitely to this church with such commendations. He first identifies Himself as "He that is holy."

The holiness of God and His dear blessed Son, are set apart from all other creatures. The Triune God is absolutely incorruptible. As the only Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ cannot fail or stoop to any ulterior device of Satan's craftiness.

"He that is true," again speaks of Him who is beyond all others. Nobody else can claim such holiness. He is true to His Word, true to His promises; and, as the Bridegroom, is true to His Bride.

The people who comprise the "Philadelphia" Church are given immediate entrance and occupation of the heavenly temple of God. "He that openeth, and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth." With this a blessed commendation is given, "For thou hast a little strength, and hath kept My Word, and hast not denied My Name."

As a result of their undying faithfulness to the end, they are given this marvelous reward: "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelation 3:19) To be kept out of the hour of temptation is surely a most glorious deliverance from the great tribulation. The false messiah, the anti-Christ will be in control of world affairs. To be kept out" is the triumph and victory of an "out-resurrection and translation," that Paul pursued.

To the individual overcomer is given a very highly prized reward: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out." A pillar signifies the most dominant support and columned feature of any building. Take for example Solomon's temple--"And he reared up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and he called the name of that one on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz." Jachin means "he shall establish" and Boaz, "in him is strength." By their commanding position, these pillars receive the highest honor. What a difference there is between "lively stones," which describe multitudes set in their places, and the rearing up of a pillar!

Israel witnessed the greatness of a pillar in relationship to the presence of Jehovah. "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night" (Exodus 13:21-22). The pillar shows His very immediate presence. In regard to this pillar of cloud, our blessed Lord ascended to heaven visibly in a cloud. "And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up' and a cloud received Him out of their sight...This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner, as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:9-11).

The Lord Jesus Christ is filled with all the fulness of the Godhead. "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell" (Colossians 2:9; 1:19). Such a marvelous embodiment of glory will be expressed by our glorious Head and Husband with a "pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire." How else could He show Himself as "God manifest in the flesh"? With this exceeding grandeur and glorious brightness, Christ reveals Himself in the "Image of God." "Who being the

brightness (effulgence) of His glory, and the express image of His Person." (Hebrews 1:3).

Through the exceeding abundance of grace, God is pleased to reveal the Bride of Christ in glory as the Wife of the Lamb. In this marriage, the Wife and the Lamb are "made one flesh." Her pillar-like stature is inconceivably beautiful and a marvel. "Thy stature is like to a palm tree," exclaims the Bridegroom. (Song of Solomon 7:7-8).

The "Key of David" unlocks all the hidden treasures of wisdom concerning the Bride of Christ and her heavenly Bridegroom.

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## A Mother's Love

Lovest thou these more than Me? These words ring in my ear.  
When e'er my world's consumed; He speaks, and lo, I hear.  
From You, dear God, these blessings come; I praise  
Thy holy name.

'Tis Thine own hand, that givest good; am I to suffer blame?

Too tightly I am holding, Lord? Too close to my heart cling?  
The arrows Thou hast given me, such joy to my life bring.  
I've yet to know a love so deep, so true and O, so strong,  
Ah, sweet fulfillment to my soul ; to love them can't be wrong.

Teach me, God, Thy ways to learn, 'tis hard for me to know.  
A vessel weak in need of Thee; direct my path to go.  
Thou formest me and knewest me before the earth and time,  
A steward of these precious gems; Thine to keep, not mine

Faithful Father art Thou to me; to caution wise indeed.  
Shepherd, guide me in this life, Your gentle warnings heed.  
I thank Thee for my children, Lord, a gift from Heav'n above,  
The tender way You hold me close; to Thee I give my love.

Marilyn Higgins

## *YOU CAN'T FLY WITH ONE WING!*

“.....And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Ephesians 6:17

### 1. SOME TAKE THE SPIRIT, WITHOUT THE WORD

The Word of God is the all-purpose instrument with which the Holy Spirit performs all His work. Because a military picture is in view in this scripture and the Spirit viewed as a *Warrior*, his instrument, the Word is called a “*Sword*.” When spiritual agriculture is in mind the Word is the “*seed*” - Luke 8:5-11. As “the Spirit of life,” He uses the Word to quicken them that are “dead in trespasses and sins” - Ephesians 2:1-2: I Peter 1:23. He uses the Word as *milk* and *bread* to feed the “new born babes.” *The Spirit does nothing without the Word.* This is the reason why He enjoins us to take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; for if we neglect to take the Word, we need not expect the Spirit to do anything for us or through us. *He Leads by the Word, guides by the Word, teaches by the Word, comforts by the Word, heals by the Word, etc.*

Nevertheless, we have with us in our day a great many believers who, though they claim to have the Spirit more than all others, place little dependence in the Word. It is a strange phenomenon indeed, that people who profess to know the Spirit best; and should know better than others how jealous He is for His Word -- should esteem the Word less highly than others! The people we have in mind, do not discipline their thoughts, feelings, attitudes and actions by the plain teaching of the written Word, but are governed by what they suppose is “the leading of the Spirit.” They do not judge their sensations, visions, dreams and prophecies by the Word, but vice versa. The Word is less to them than their own “revelations.” We read only today, in a letter received containing what was called a “prophecy” that some of those who read these writings depend on them entirely for their spiritual food. Think of that. The writer of this “prophecy” claimed it was inspired by the Spirit, but it contained little of the “sure Word of Prophecy” which the Holy Ghost has given in the Scriptures. Without batting an eye, these misguided souls unseal the Canon of Scriptures and add their vain prophecies to the Bible, despite

the warning of the judgment which such presumption will surely bring upon them.

We do most vigorously oppose the false notion that the Spirit of God, the source of all Wisdom, has anything to do with such prophecies. There is a false spirit which is out to deceive as many as possible. The true prophet speaks only those things which are in God's book.

The thing that makes this latter day deception so very dangerous, is that the things of the Spirit of God are being counterfeited by the spirit of error. Prophecy, which is intended to reveal the mind of the Lord, is being falsified more than ever before. Tongues are being counterfeited; so is healing; so is faith. False prophets with their deceitful prophecies are a very great menace in the end of this age. They render a twofold service -- not to God, but to the devil. First, they break down the confidence of the people in the Bible, the only standard of righteousness in the world. Second, by their irrational teaching and behavior, they misrepresent the Spirit of Truth and bring reproach upon the Spirit and His ministry, "Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" - I Timothy 4:1. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" - Matthew 24:12. It is frightening to behold the lack of love, the heartlessness, the bitter criticism, the back-biting, the envying and strife, among some of these who take the Spirit without the Word. Because they do not take the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God as their counsel, they have nothing that the Spirit might use to convince them, to lead them, to enlighten them, or to save them from error.

## **2, SOME TAKE THE WORD WITHOUT THE SPIRIT**

Some highly esteem the Word, but ignore its Author, "the Spirit of Truth." We often hear it said, "The Word will do everything." The notion that the Word will accomplish anything apart from the Spirit, or that the Spirit will do anything for those who disregard His Word, is rank superstition. What our body is to our Spirit, the Word of God is to the Holy Spirit. And "as the body without the spirit is dead" - James 2:25, so the letter of the Word without the Spirit has no life - II Corinthians 3:6. Realizing this, it is quite natural for anyone using the Word without the Spirit, to try to infuse his own life into the Word. The same spirit of error that causes some to disregard "the

letter” or truth, and trust in their own leadings, causes others to disregard the Spirit of Truth and trust in the energy of the flesh, to make the Word effective. Some evangelists will labor in the flesh for 30 minutes (after a long sermon) to get someone to come to the altar. They know that the Word will not do everything, but they have little faith that the Spirit Himself will use the Word to move the sinner: so they wear themselves out, trying to supply the “power.”

But someone may ask; “How is it possible for anyone who believes in the Spirit, to be so cruelly deceived by the “spirit of error”? It is only possible when there is disobedience somewhere. The spirit of error is the “spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience,” or disobedient children. Obedience to the Word is our safeguard against being deceived by “spirits.” When a child of God is disobedient, the evil one has a more useful medium to work through than is the case with the totally unregenerate person. This is why the spirit of error is often found in a group of believers, counterfeiting the things of the Spirit of God. But just try to tell this to one of them! He will not believe that he is disobedient, nor that the spirit of error could possibly be in him, much less that anything he does could be false! Especially, if he is one of those who esteem their own “inspired” leadings and prophecies above the Bible. These people will never see any wrong in themselves so long as they are disobedient. The Holy Spirit comes through obedience to the Word of God. Satan comes through disobedience to the Word.

Many believers seem “bewitched” - Galatians 3:1, and appear to court deception these days. God has given us His Spirit and His Word to save, protect, and cause us to “stand in the evil day” - Ephesians 6:12. But many who call them selves evangelical seem determined to reject either the Word or the Spirit. Are we trying deliberately to live dangerously? Do we think we can stand if we reject either the Word or the Spirit? In this hour, when we need great faith, most of us are weak in faith, because we are weak in the Word, and have so little of the Spirit in us. The words of Jesus, “When the Son of man cometh shall He find faith on the earth”? should frighten some of us. Faith comes by the Spirit and the Word - I Corinthians 12:9; Romans 10:17.

The most wicked thing in God’s sight in this hour, is not the unspeakable corruption of the world. It is not modernism,

it is not communism. It is the way His own people are trifling with His Holy Spirit and His Word in this, the time of the end. We seem so irrational. *We try to fly with one wing.* Why is this? Is it not because we have not allowed the Spirit and His Sword to do a deep work of conviction in our hearts? We are too shallow to take seriously the things of God. We seem to think that we are the chief actors in this drama of life, and the Spirit and the Word as mere "properties" to furnish the stage. We forget that we are only the "stagehands," and not the Director.

While we are the least important of the factors employed in the work of salvation, yet the Spirit and the Word - the all important factors -- are subject to our will. We may either receive them and allow them to work through us, or we may shut them out and prevent them from using us. This is a fearful responsibility. We shall have to give an account of our stewardship in this matter! "Be filled with the Spirit." and "take the Sword of the Spirit." Honor the Holy Ghost, jealously guard His sovereign right to rule. Honor the Word and add nothing else to it. "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream. And he that hath My Word let him speak My Word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord" - Jeremiah 23:28.

Beware of man-made prophets, who are filling the religious world with teaching that claims even more than equality with the Bible. There are some true prophets, there are many false prophets. There are some who only think they are prophets. Let us stick close to the Word and "walk after the Spirit."

-- A. E. Reinschmidt

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FISHERS OF MEN

Much patience is needed in man-fishing. Though we have toiled all night and caught nothing, we are to continue steadfast and unmovable in His blessed service. Carey, Moffat and Morrison worked seven years before they saw any fruit. Dr. Chalmers called on an infidel 24 times, and on each occasion was rebuffed. Then the door opened, for the man was dying and he wanted to see the man who loved his soul so much as to keep returning even after 24 rebuffs.

-- A. Marshall

THREE BLESSINGS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST

FORGIVENESS OF SINS: "...That through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10:43.

PEACE WITH GOD: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

TOTAL RENEWAL: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I Corinthians 5:17.

THREE THINGS IN WHICH TO CONTINUE

IN PRAYER: "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2.

IN JESUS' WORD: "Then said Jesus, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." John 8:31.

IN LOVE: "Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1.

THREE THINGS THAT WE KNOW

WE KNOW THAT: "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

WE KNOW THAT: "If our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Corinthians 5:1.

WE KNOW THAT: "when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." I John 3:2.

THREE THINGS THAT ARE BETTER

BETTER is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasures and trouble therewith." Proverbs 15:16.

"It is **BETTER** to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalm 118:8

"To obey is **BETTER** than sacrifice." I Samuel 15:22.

THREE DUTIES OF BELIEVERS

TO GROW: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18.

TO GLOW: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

TO GO: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

THREE RESOURCES ALWAYS AVAILABLE

GOD'S RICHES: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

GOD'S PRESENCE: "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4.

GOD'S STRENGTH: "The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble." Psalm 37:39.

"THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US" John 1:14

Editorial May 2010

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.” II Tim. 2:15-16

Many “profane and vain babblings” or doctrines have emerged during this Church Age directly because men have taken scripture out of context and build teachings based on partial verses and phrases of God’s Word rather than rightly dividing It. Some months ago a Pastor, trying desperately to defend the current wave of Christian Rock Music sweeping the country, used Rev. 2:9 “And they sung a new song,...” to declare that such music would be the new song sung in heaven. But read the rest of the verse “..Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation...” This is a song advocating the worthiness of Jesus to pour out the book of judgment shortly to come on the world. Furthermore, it may be defined as the “song of redemption,” for “thou...hast redeemed us,” and those singing it have learned those glorious lessons by experience, during their tenure on earth.

I Tim. 5:17, “Let the elders that rule (preside) well...,” has been claimed by many to justify the teaching that elders are to be in charge or control of an assembly, but read the next verse. “For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.” The ox has long been the symbol of the faithful Christ-like pastor, who was willing to trek round and round, on a sometimes monotonous path, treading out the corn of God’s Word in behalf of the congregation. He is identified here as “the ruling elder” to be counted worthy of double honour because he is faithful to “labour in the word and doctrine.” The double honour is a reference to natural substance given to him in addition to the tithe, and convenient times to do it would be on the traditional “Pastor’s Day,” Christmas, birthday, anniversary, or any other special time, just to show the respect and loving appreciation of a grateful congregation.

“...unless ye have believed in vain,” is a partial statement from I Cor. 15:2, used several years ago as the basis for an entire book denouncing, what the writer termed, “the damnable doctrine of OSAS.” (Once saved always saved.) Coupling it with verse one, he declared it to mean that if a Christian does not daily keep the gospel in memory, he would not be saved; would have believed in vain, and thus go to hell. But read the next verse, wherein Paul introduces a full explanation as to why one would believe in vain. “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;” The context of this chapter lies in the fact that some declared there was no resurrection, and the verses that follow, reveal multiple proofs to refute that assumption. Paul reasserts in V. 14 “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.” The next few verses list 4 more devastating things that would also be true “if Christ be not risen,” but we rejoice because he negated all of them with one stroke of the pen declaring “... now is Christ risen from the dead.” V. 20

Matt. 24: 40 “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left,” has often been used to describe the rapture of the Church. But...., in this case, read the previous verse “And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Those taken away in Noah’s day were by no means taken away to heaven, but rather swept away by the waters of judgment. Likewise, those taken away at the coming of the Son of Man will be removed in judgment. Those left will remain on the earth to begin life anew in the coming Millennium. GH

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Reminder:

Grace and Glory is now available in audio form for those who are sight challenged or; if you would simply desire Sis. Kathleen Tye to read to you while driving, she would be more than happy to do so. If you would desire these CDs, just let us know either by e-mail or at P.O. Box 831, Grandview, Mo. 64030, and we will put you on our mailing list.

# ATTITUDES TO MINISTERS

## Hebrews Chapter 13

The last chapter of this interesting book is before us. Because of the everlasting redemption, wrought by Jesus Christ, the Apostle offers a number of wholesome, practical instructions for the mutual benefit of Christian Hebrews. We Gentiles should profit by them also.

**1. “Let brotherly love continue;”** for this will regulate all the other exhortations. The love of Christ, shed abroad in every heart and fostered continually, will insure healthy growth among saints. We will overlook one another’s faults and bear one another’s burdens. We will provoke one another to good works.

**2. “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers.”** Brotherly love is to be shown among acquaintances; but the Lord has other children, who are also our brothers and sisters. By entertaining strangers, we meet some of them. Paul would have his Jewish brethren to know that they might find some angels among the Gentiles; for they too should believe on Jesus. The word angel simply means messenger, a servant of God. We need to try the spirits today when professed ministers come around; because religious run-about abound. They seek a living without working.

**3. “Remember them that are in bonds.”** It was a common thing for saints to be imprisoned for the Gospel’s sake in those early days. Paul was in bonds when he wrote this epistle from Rome. Today multitudes are in adversity because they reject the Gospel. How vastly better it would be for humanity if they would turn to Christ instead of depending upon brains and brawn and inventions. Owing to universal conditions, many of God’s people are in bonds and adversity. These we are to help and comfort.

**4. “Let marriage be had in honor.”** R.V. the sanctity of the family life is to be observed by all saints. Though people are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, yet they possess bodies of humiliation, cumbered with infirmities and surrounded with temptations. The flesh is treacherous in

believers as well as in unbelievers; hence, the old creation must be counted dead, so that the new life may always be in victory through Christ's indwelling.

**5. "Let your conversation be without covetousness."**

Two different Greek words are translated conversation here and in verse seven. The root words of both mean to turn, to change. Hence, "let your turn of mind be free from the love of money" (R.V.) expresses the thought better here; and "consider the issue of their manner of life" expresses the thought in verse seven. The Greek word generally rendered conversation in the New Testament means "manner, or habit of life." Conversation is only one phase of the truth to be conveyed. In Philippians 3:20, the Greek is "politeuma," which means citizenship, or commonwealth. Covetousness is a grave offence against God, because it is termed idolatry - Ephesians 5:5. God wants our love and confidence; therefore, we should be content with what we have, content with the promise of His never failing presence and help.

**6. "Remember them that had the rule over you,**

which spake unto you the Word of God" - R.V. the Greek for rule is from "ago" meaning to lead, to guide, not to rule in an arbitrary or domination sense, but with a father's heart. It is the same word also in verses 17 and 24. Peter, who also wrote in the Hebrews, expresses the nature of such rulership by saying, "Feed (or tend) the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but by being ensamples to the flock" - I Peter 5:2,3. Notice the past perfect tense of Paul's entreaty, Revised Version. He refers to the ministry of Peter, James and John and the other kingdom apostles. He confirms the truth which they had proclaimed. And observe by this verse and verse 9, that faith and **grace** are the two outstanding points -- faith on man's part and grace on God's part. "By grace are ye saved through faith" - Ephesians 2:8. The manner, or habit of the first apostles was to believe God in simplicity with a single eye. The one object of their faith was "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever,**" or unto the ages.

Therefore, multitudes turned to Him and many miracles were wrought.

7. **“It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace, not with meats,”** - etc. vs. 9. Once more the Apostle seeks to turn his readers from the types and shadows to Jesus Christ, the true and living Substance. Though grace shown brightly from them all; yet they had no saving power. Only Christ can save. There is no salvation in a picture. “We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.” After Jesus came and fulfilled the Old Testament types and symbols, God could no longer accept the worship of Moses’ tabernacle. All men, Jews as well as Gentiles, must worship God in spirit and in truth, looking unto Jesus alone as the channel of worship. Even the disposition of the sacrifices taught separation from and abandonment of the types and shadows. Note how wonderful this is. “For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, **are burned without the camp**” - vs. 11. What is the New Testament conclusion? Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, **“suffered without the gate.** Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach” - vs.12,13. Shadow and Substance cannot operate in the same camp. Continuing with the shadows is in effect denying the Substance. In spirit, the early Jewish disciples were even cut off from their own city, as Paul says, “Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” Therefore, he names three sorts of sacrifices - “the sacrifice of praise, to do good and to communicate,” or give of your earnings to support the Gospel. “With these (three) sacrifices, God is well pleased.” Spiritual fruit is what God wants. Praise is the fruit of the lips. Doing good to others by pointing them to Jesus, the Savior, and communicating of our means, are fruits of our hands and feet.

We are compelled to comply with verse 13, for though the churches do not observe the Jewish ritual, yet they are rejecting Christ in reality. They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof, which is just as abominable as for the Jews to go on with the Mosaic form and ritual. Jesus knew that this condition would obtain, therefore He said, “Where two, or

three are gathered together in my name, **there am I in the midst of them**" - Matthew 18:20. Saints are continually compelled to come out from among religious people in order to worship God in the liberty and power of the Holy Spirit and serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Men will tie our hands and break our hearts if we let them. Hence, it is written, **"Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."** A sister said recently, It seems to be a time of crown grabbing. We must fight to hold our crown.

**"Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves"** - vs. 17. The word for rule is the same as in verse 7. It refers to leaders. The Greek word "peitho," here rendered obey, means also to persuade, to yield to persuasion, to trust, to have confidence in. Therefore, it means here to obey our God-appointed leaders as those who are worthy of our confidence. To trust them is to put the responsibility upon the Lord, the Head of the church. Obey them because "they watch for your souls." They have the place of guardians, or overseers, spiritual custodians, or shepherds, "as they that must give account." God holds His shepherds responsible for the spiritual welfare of their flocks: for they are His sheep. Jesus said, **"Feed MY lambs: feed MY sheep"** - John 21:15-17. Accordingly, the sheep should yield to their shepherds, that they may give account with joy; that is, render a good report. To be necessitated to render an unfavorable report would not be profitable for the sheep. The leaders and flocks should obtain a mutual reward at last. Therefore, the Apostle adds, saying, **"Pray for us,** for we trust we have a good conscience in all things, willing to live honestly." How mildly he speaks; and how greatly saints may help their leaders to help them. Let them maintain the yielded attitude steadfastly, even though they may think them unwise sometimes. Be very slow to put up your thoughts against your shepherds. Pray for them. Prayer never harms or hinders. Criticism and complaint do both. Oh yes, PRAY. If they are unwise, God will give them Divine Wisdom. If divinely chosen, they earnestly desire the perfect will of God for themselves and for their people. If they are not chosen of God, He will remove them. PRAY for them.

Paul was a prisoner in Rome when writing this Epistle; hence, he requested his friends to pray for his deliverance.

### **The Benediction**

“**Now the God of peace**, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will,” etc. vs. 10,21. What a beautiful and blessed benediction. He leaves his readers occupied with “**the God of the peace**” and with “**The Shepherd, the Great One.**” Jesus announced Himself as “The Good Shepherd” - John 10:11, who gave His life for the sheep. And Peter declares Him to be “**The Chief Shepherd,**” when He shall come to reward the faithful under shepherds with “crowns of glory” - I Peter 5:4. As the Good Shepherd, Christ redeemed us. As the Great Shepherd, He ever liveth to make intercession for us; and as the Chief Shepherd, He will come again to govern His people and enjoy them forever. His right to these titles is proven by the fact that His Father raised Him from the dead. (Comp. Romans 1:4). And the blood which He poured out was demonstrated to be “the blood of the eternal covenant.” Study chapter 9:20 with Exodus 24:8 and Zechariah 9:11. Jesus purchased the right to be raised from the dead by His bleeding to death on the cross; for there He died, not for His own sake, but for the sins of all men. If He had not been raised, it would have proved Him an imposter and unable to redeem and save. But, glory eternal to the triune God! He was delivered to Calvary for our offences, but was raised up from the grave for our justification - Romans 4:24. God brought Him from the dead through the blood of the everlasting covenant upon the basis of this fact, Paul prays that his people may be perfected in every good work to do God’s will. Note how that is done - by God working in them that which is well-pleasing in His sight; and all that He works in them is “**through Jesus Christ.**” Nothing is done for humanity except through Jesus Christ, crucified and raised from the dead, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift.” Jesus Christ! “**And I beseech you,**

**brethren**, suffer the word of exhortation; for I have written a letter unto you in few words. Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty, with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.” Verses 18 and 19 with these two verses should be conclusive proof that Paul wrote this Epistle. Compare also chapter 10:34. He was imprisoned in Rome twice. The first time, he wrote this letter; but II Timothy was written during his second imprisonment. **“Salute all them that have the rule over you and all the saints.”** Paul certainly emphasized the importance of the right attitude of believers to their leaders. He closes by admonishing them to greet warmly, embrace them fervently. In chapter 11:13, the word here rendered salute, is there rendered embrace. The saints in Italy sent fervent greetings to the Christians in Jerusalem. “Grace be with you all. Amen.” This is the customary closing of all of Paul’s letters. The word “grace” occurs only eight times in this letter (first in Ch. 2:9); but the amazing and glorious truth of divine grace abounds and super-abounds herein. It was written that Israel might know the love of God toward them and enter into the riches of God’s grace.

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SOARING

*Sometimes God takes away our props
That we might lean on Him.
Allows temptations, so we'll grow
And triumph over sin.*

*Sometimes he takes away our strength
For doing earthly things,
To rest our bodies that our souls
May soar on eagle's wings.*

*Let's not resent it when He says,
"Come ye apart -- Be still"
Or chafe at disappointments
That are His sovereign will.*

*Oh, let us not doubt or question "Why?"
With unexplained delays,
But keep on soaring 'neath His wings
With gratitude and praise!*

WHO ARE YOU?

Sharon Malhiot

How do you usually introduce yourself? Most often we introduce ourselves by identification with something or someone. Women usually introduce themselves as identifying with a family or relationship, and men usually introduce themselves with a form of work or a job or a position. For instance, “Hi, my name is John Smith. I work at Wal-Mart, or I build cars, I’m a teacher, I’m a carpenter,” etc. Personally, I have been known all my life as Merle Reed’s daughter, Eugene Malhiot’s wife, Ronnie Reed’s sister, Stuart’s mother, etc., etc., etc. But who am I? It is somewhat like asking the age old questions, Who am I, Why am I here, and What is the meaning of life?

A review of history reveals that Adam never questioned his identity, even when God sought him out following his disobedience in The Garden of Eden. God called, and he responded, albeit with guilt.

Noah asked no question as to who he was, when asked to do the Lord’s bidding in building the ark. He simply did it and preached for the duration of the task.

Neither did Abraham weary God with questions when he was called out of Haran at 75 years of age. (At my age, if God called me out of Burlingame to start a new life somewhere else, I might be tempted to question God’s sanity!)

Joseph did not question who he was, and his self-assurance seems so strong that he risked humiliation and the hatred of his own brothers. Or maybe, just maybe, he was too self-assured and God had to knock him down a peg or two before he was in a position of being used by God.

This brings us to Moses. What do you think made the difference—that man now began to question who he was? First of all the presence of sin, which of course, always causes us to know that we are not worthy to be called by God. Also, circumstances have now changed. God’s people were in slavery. They had had no spiritual leader for hundreds of years. There was seemingly no presence of God for a rather long period of time. Israel as a people knew who they were, but their confidence in that knowledge had been beaten down.

“...God called unto him ... and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.” Moses answered when God called to him, but when he was told to go back to Egypt, he questioned God about who he was. “And Moses said unto God, Who am I?” Exodus 3:4-11. He had been rather confident when he committed murder and thought no one had seen him, but now that confidence was shaken. But who was he? He was the perfect choice. He was a Hebrew, one of Israel’s own. He was a prince of Egypt, so who better to speak to Egypt. And yet, when he went to Pharaoh, he went in the name of the Lord, “Thus saith the Lord God – let my people go.” Exodus 5:1 He did not go in his own name, or in the power of who he formerly was. He rather went in the Name of the Lord.

We do not read that Joshua questioned God about his existence when he was ready to assume the tremendous leadership role before him. He had been groomed and prepared to step into this place of leadership having witnessed both the faithfulness of God and the failure of man. Even his own leader had failed, but God assured him that He would be with him, and Joshua evidently took that to heart.

Samuel, was called by God as a child in the house of Eli, but did not discern the voice of the Lord at first because he did not yet know who he was nor did he yet know who God was. But he learned. He received instruction at the knee of Eli and was prepared to assume the awesome role as God’s mouth piece to the nation of Israel and her kings.

Next we read that Gideon did indeed question who he was, because he felt so inadequate to carry out God’s instructions. Once again, the reasons are circumstances, sin, and the lack of the presence of the Lord because Israel had done evil in the sight of the Lord.

Esther never questioned who she was. She accepted her position and her training and so was ready and able to participate in a great act for God.

Mary’s story is found in Luke 1:26-56. She didn’t really question her role or who she was, she just wasn’t sure how it was going to happen. Regardless of such ignorance, she simply submitted to the Lord. Verse 38 loudly asserts,

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.” She knew who she was and knew that she belonged to God.

John the Baptist identified himself as merely a messenger, but he knew his purpose was to announce Jesus.

“...He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear....” Matt. 3:11 He did not question who he was, but simply performed the job for which he was called.

Saul, who was later called Paul, knew who he was. He surrendered all he was, on the road to Damascus, and just asked the Lord what he wanted him to do. A brief study of his life reveals that he was like unto Moses. He was a Hebrew of the highest station, comfortable as a Jew. He was a prince in Israel, just as Moses was a prince of Egypt, yet all of that disappeared in an instant, in the light of who Jesus was. He did not question who this new person was that had just been raised from that dusty road, he just did as God commanded.

So, we would ask, “who are you?”

First, as to our flesh, we must accept as fact, that “*I am fearfully and wonderfully made....*” Psalm 139:13-16

Next, our eternal spirit must be viewed in direct contrast to our flesh, which is but a vapor. “...*Ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man.*” Colossians 3:9-10 We are new. We have put on the new man. We need no longer identify ourselves with the old man or with the flesh. We are now one with Jesus and with God our Father.

We are now new creatures, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. II Corinthians 5:17 We must no longer identify with what we used to be as enemies of God, or sinners, separated from God.

We are reconciled, brought back to God. Colossians 1:21

Our position has changed and we are now in God, complete. We have all the access to God we will ever need. Colossians 2:10.

We are buried, risen and made alive. Colossians 2:12,13

Our citizenship is in heaven. We are no longer displaced persons, feeling as if we will never find our niche, but rather claim heaven, where we belong. Philippians 3:20

We are the called of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16), and when we are called by God to a task, we answer as God’s

child, because we have already been called in Christ, and are therefore able to do His bidding.

Romans 8 is filled with our new identity i.e., we are in the Spirit, (v 9) children of God, (v. 16) more than conquerors, (v. 37). Ch. 15:14 further announces that we are full of goodness, and all knowledge

Paul continues this pattern in I Corinthians, where we are called laborers with God, God's work, God's building. (ch. 3:9) We are the temple of God. (ch. 3;16) and finally – we are the body of Christ. (Ch. 12:27)

So, if anyone asks “Who are you?”
What will you answer?

○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

GREAT IS THE LORD!

*Ascribe ye greatness to our God;
Great is the Lord, and to be praised.
The mighty God, this is His Name;
To Him our voices we have raised.*

*Great is our Lord, and of great power;
Great is His faithfulness to all.
How great in counsel, great in goodness!
Upon Him we will ever call.*

*Great are His mercies toward His people,
How great His love wherewith He loved us.
How precious are His thoughts to usward;
The sum of them is marvelous!*

*Who is so great a god as our God?
Unsearchable his greatness is,
Great things past finding out He doeth;
He is our God, our praise is His!*

-- Author unknown

THE WAY OF ESCAPE IN TEMPTATION

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

I Corinthians 10:13. See also James 1:2-12.

Temptation is never stronger than the Grace God has given to bear it. God tempts no one. In fact, without His sovereign will, we cannot ever be tempted. As warriors trained for major battles exemplify greater valor in the measure that the war increases in intensity, so the Christian soldier, while rising from height to height, discovers greater temptations reserved for times when facing the enemy's most malicious and persistent attacks.

But God is faithful. He is faithful because He has taught us to pray not to be led into temptation. Or, as those words really are interpreted, He would have us pray not be abandoned in temptation, because we confess to Him that we are weak and can be easily overcome.

God is faithful because, together with the temptation, He has provided a way of escape. Though the enemy's attacks are wicked and subtle, God has prepared us to see a ray of deliverance in that very moment of temptation. It may appear in subtle advice of the Holy Spirit which invites us to seek the Lord's help. Or it may come through a word of disapproval from someone who is dear to us, and counsels us against taking a precipitous step. Perhaps we may hear a discordant note in the enemy's tempting tune. Or it may appear through an illness or a warning of suffering. Perhaps it comes in the confusion that assails us during the moment when things seem so plausible. That ray of deliverance comes in one of many ways prepared as a warning to us.

God always has the way ready, though it may be hidden, to advise us in the moment of temptation. He has provided the way so that we need not yield. But let us not pretend we are not being tempted, because hypocrisy is sin; but falling is just as bad.

Jesus Christ becomes more real in the measure that the danger of falling increases. He makes Himself the Way of escape. He puts Himself between us and that evil thing. It is as if He says: "You have to pass over Me, in order to fall." This makes us understand how the Apostle Paul was able to say with victory: "...The world is crucified to me, and I to the world." He knew a double crucifixion.

Temptation has a purpose. It makes us know how frail we are. It proves to us the astuteness of the enemy, and shows us how powerless we are in trying to fight him with our own strength.

Above all, temptation teaches us that God is more vigilant than the enemy--that in His strength and mercy He has provided the means for our protection. In fact, it is only He who can make that very temptation turn out to bring glory to His Name. This is why we are exhorted: "Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (patience). Blessed is the man who endures trial (temptation), for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life."

--Giuseppe Petrelli

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### ***GOD IS THERE***

When cherished hopes all crumble,  
And prospects fade, or fall;  
Once sure feet slip and stumble,  
Still God rules over all.  
He lifts the heart of sorrow,  
And wipes our tears away --  
He sees the glad tomorrow  
Beyond the sad today.  
All things are for a reason --  
Though set-backs pain us now,  
They last but for a season.  
For God will not allow  
His loved ones to be tested  
Far more than they can bear --  
In faith and trust be rested --  
Where you are, God is there.

--Frank Roberts

## In the Garden

*Author-C. Austin Miles, 1868-1946*

*Composer-Co Austin Miles, 1868-1946*

*Meter-Irregular*

*Scripture Reference--John 20*

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things unto her. John 20: 18

It was in 1912 that music publisher Dr. Adam Geibel asked C. Austin Miles to write a hymn text that would be "sympathetic in tone, breathing tenderness in every line; one that would bring hope to the hopeless, rest for the weary, and downy pillows to dying beds."

In George W. Sanville's book, *Forty Gospel Hymn Stories*, Miles has left the following account of the writing of this hymn:

One day in March, 1912, I was seated in the dark room, where I kept my photographic equipment and organ. I drew my Bible toward me; it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20-whether by chance or inspiration let each reader decide. That meeting of Jesus and Mary had lost none of its power to charm.

As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life, when she knelt before her Lord, and cried, "Rabboni!"

My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat, as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in, and hurried away.

John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

As they departed, Mary reappeared; leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before

Him, with arms outstretched and looking into His face cried "Rabboni!"

I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music.

Next to "The Old Rugged Cross," this hymn has been one of the most popular gospel hymns ever written, beginning with the days when Homer Rodeheaver led singing for the great Billy Sunday campaigns and used the hymn extensively.

### In The Garden

I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that He gave to me,  
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him,  
Tho the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go thru the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling.

### Chorus:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share, as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

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## The Shortcut

"Our time is very precious, Dear!"  
I told my wife that day;  
I decided then to turn the car,  
And go another way,  
Though she preferred the standard route,  
To take us down the line.  
All the traffic and construction  
I knew would steal our time.  
Besides, I like adventure –  
Some fear of the unknown!  
What exactly might we see,  
Before we make it home?  
So, being wise and older,  
I shot her wishes down  
I picked a road I'd never tried,  
To get us 'round the town.  
But, to my unsuspecting shame  
(We traveled hard and long),  
And found ourselves back at the spot  
In which we started from.

How many times men act like fools  
In choosing paths their own,  
When God has clearly paved the way,  
To come before His throne.  
Men look for better, smarter ways  
Their heaven to prepare  
They take the roads that lead them 'round  
But, never get them there.  
They will wander aimlessly at times  
Seeking shortcuts 'round the maze  
And realize that, in the end,  
They wasted all those days.  
God sent His only Son to die  
Your sins and mine to bear  
That through eternal ages  
His glory we might share.  
So, please don't take the shortcut, friend  
God's way will work alone  
It may be long ... It might be slow ...  
But, it will get you home.

David Albrecht