

# Trouble From Not Listening!

by Bro. Jerry Wicks  
Binghampton, New York

Though I spent a couple of years in a Bible College when I was younger, I soon drifted far away from God. Then, I met a pastor who worked with me (while I was physically working for him in a lawn business). He would talk with me every day, trying to encourage me to turn away from things I was doing that dishonored God. He started picking me up to go to Church with him, and sometimes I would go to his home to eat, study, and have fellowship. He manifested so much love to me, though sometimes he would have to be very blunt and forceful about correcting me as I would go backward in sinful ways. Sometimes, I listened to him, but sometimes I did not.

As I look back over the past few years, I now realize that if I had listened to him, and done what he said, it would have kept me out of a lot of trouble. I ended up in jail several times for misdemeanors (spending a total of 1.5 years in jail over a 6 year period). I would get out of jail, straighten up, then drift backward again. Each time, pastor would warn me and try to get me to listen to counsel from God's word. Sometimes I would listen, sometimes I would not. When I would live right, I felt much peace and joy, having good

fellowship with God and with the brethren in the church. However, when I would not listen, I always ended back in trouble, even if I did not end up in jail every time.

Pastor kept talking to me, ministering to me, warning me, but I would not listen. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10,11). Pastor would warn me that I was building my house upon sand because I would not do what the Lord was telling me to do in His word. (See Matthew 7:24-27.) My house has fallen several times because I would not listen. Failing to listen to wise counsel from my pastor has caused me a lot of heartache and trouble for several years.

Pastor never stopped loving me even though the Church had to put me out from her membership because of my ungodly living. (See 1 Corinthians 5:11-13.) Though he would not have

fellowship with me when I continued walking in ungodly ways, he would occasionally call me to let me know he was praying for me to return to the Lord's word and way. He proved his love for me, like a natural father loves his son. He is the closest thing I have to a Daddy. Though I was foolish, hard-headed, and stubborn, and had to experience so much trouble in my life, I know that if I had only listened, I could still be living in Waycross, Georgia, enjoying the Church and his fellowship. He did everything he could to get me to live the way the Bible teaches we should live, but I would not listen. He made me memorize Proverbs 3:5-7, which I now feel is the most important passage from God to me.

Though I have been in New York now for several years, Pastor still calls me and I call him. He encouraged me to find a Church to attend in New York, and I now go to Church like I did when I was living by God's word in Georgia.

I hope I have learned my lesson about not listening. May God bless every reader to learn from my mistakes, and help us all learn to listen and obey God's holy word! It will honor our Heavenly Father, and keep us out of a lot of trouble!

\*\*\*\*\*

## What Manner of Man?

by Sis. Erni Jean Chancey  
Pearson, Georgia

*What Manner of Man is this, I say,  
That even the winds and seas obey?  
What Manner of Man is this, tell me,  
That one look from Him makes  
darkness flee?*

*What Manner of Man is this, I hear,  
Who can dry away your every tear?  
What Manner of Man is He to you?  
Does He cheer you when you're blue?*

*What Manner of Man who will never leave  
You all alone to sigh or grieve?  
What Manner of Man;  
Oh, What Manner of Man!  
Who can do all things as this One can?*

*What Manner of Man who can mold a life  
And remove from it all sin and strife?  
What Manner of Man who can set you free,  
Open your eyes and let you see?*

*What Manner of Man who can speak a word  
In a still, small voice that's always heard?  
What Manner of Man is He, and how  
That at His name every knee shall bow?*

*What Manner of Man though busy as He,  
Still has time for you and me?  
Again I ask, What Manner of Man  
Who can do all things as this One can?*

# America In 1863

by the President of The United States of America  
A Proclamation  
For a Day of National Humiliation  
Fasting and Prayer

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and Just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day of National prayer and humiliation;

And whereas, it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon: and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the

needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to go to God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863,

as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Servility

by Elder W. H. Durrence  
Brooklet, Georgia

Servility pertains to servants and service. Most of us have some preconceived notions about servants. May this study teach us valuable lessons about servants which will enable us to form constructive views about the position. Hopefully we shall be able to rejoice in the fact that the Bible depicts the saved as servants of God.

When people think of a servant they generally think of someone who is very poor and who is hired to do menial work. Unfortunately, in our society such a person is generally looked down upon. There seems to be a stigma associated with the word servant; however, some servants are better off than we are, such as the servants of an extremely wealthy person. Although it is difficult for most of us to comprehend such immense wealth and the luxury associated with it, there are people in the world today whose worth is valued at several hundred million dollars. They travel in the finest vehicles, stay in the most luxurious suites, and dine in the most elegant restaurants. They are constantly surrounded with the finest that money can buy in houses, clothes, and cars.

Now consider the servants who work for such individuals. Think of a valet who travels with a wealthy man and takes care of his clothing. He would enjoy the finest of accommodations and “live in the lap of luxury” each day. Think of the women who are employed as maids in these homes, surrounded by the latest appliances, the finest furniture, priceless art, and comfort at its grandest level. They enjoy more benefits of wealth as servants than most people can ever imagine. When we think of servants like these, the position of a servant doesn’t seem so bad, does it?

The servants described above were

referred to in the Bible as hired servants. Such servants provided various services in the home of the prodigal son, as recorded in Luke 15:17. He said, “...How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare...” Those who served in his house evidently enjoyed the prosperity and wealth of his father, yet the son had chosen to be a servant to hogs rather than a master at home. Most of us cannot understand why he made such a foolish choice, yet many of God’s children are doing the same thing today. They prefer to exhaust their energies on the decaying and disappearing pleasures of this world rather than to serve God and enjoy the benefits that come from serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Remember that “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalms 24:1). Is it better to independently serve our own interests or to serve God and enjoy the luxuries of the soul as well as blessings for the body?

Thus far we have considered the hired servant, but the word servant as used in the Bible usually denotes a slave. When Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). He was talking about a servant who is a slave. We cannot be a slave to God and a slave to money, for they are opposites. We may respond as did some ancient Jews who denied their bondage to any man (John 8:33), but were in fact under the authority of Rome. Many today boast of their independence, yet they are in mental bondage to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or the lure of wealth. I would rather be in bondage to Jesus

than to anything or anyone I know.

The word slave expresses the idea of ownership of a servant. A hired servant is someone who is employed by another, but the slave belongs to the master whom he serves. The frequent injustices and cruelties of men to their slaves have made us despise the idea. Whether or not we like the idea, the fact is that we are slaves (servants) to God because we belong to Him. Paul said, “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

Like many other concepts, slavery is both good and bad depending upon the circumstances. It is bad if the slave has an evil master, but it is wonderful when your Master is the essence and presence of good—God. We should be eternally grateful that God bought us from the evil task master (Satan) and made us not only servants, but also sons. Like the prodigal son, we are son-servants. We serve, but we also have an inheritance. “...And if children, then heirs: heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:17). He bought us and made us royal servants (I Peter 2:9), but He also calls us friends. I count it a happy privilege to be a slave to God, and it is good to engage in His service.

How blessed to be called servants of God. Of Paul and others it was said, “...These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation” (Acts 16:17). Paul even acknowledged his servitude by referring to himself as “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle,

separated unto the gospel of God...” (Romans 1:1). Jude introduced himself as “Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ...” (Jude 1). Have you yet recognized this about yourself? Have you thought in terms of the ownership of God and yourself as His slave-servant? If you have not, you should. We must recognize in our hearts that we are servants of God before we can become serious about the duties of service.

Strangely enough, Jesus even described Himself as a servant. Notice these words of Christ, “For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? But I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:27). He came to this earth to serve His Father by doing His will in the work of salvation (John 6:38), and He came to serve us by taking away our sins on the cross of death (I Peter 2:24). He said that He is our example (John 13:15) and showed Himself the perfect servant by washing the disciples’ feet as symbolic of the total cleaning by His blood. Then He said,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:16-17). Joy is found in our willingness to serve, and happiness comes by performing acts of service to God.

My friends, we are not under the heartless rule of the Pharaoh who increased the already burdened existence of the Jews in Egypt; we are under the loving and gracious care of God. When God broke the bondage of Egypt, it opened the door of service to Him. God said to Pharaoh, “...Let my people go, that they may serve me” (Exodus 8:1). Even so, we have been set free from the bondage of sin and Satan and are now free to serve God (I Peter 2:16). If you are mostly interested in yourself, it is very unlikely that you are truly serving God. To serve God requires that we be primarily concerned with His will and seek to please Him in all that we do. Since God is such a wonderful Master, we can rest

assured that He will take care of us in a most excellent way! May we submit to God as did one of the kings of Israel who said, “...My Lord, O King, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have (I Kings 20:4).

In conclusion, remember that if you are saved you are a slave and Jesus is your Master (John 13:13). If you can truthfully declare your love for Him, then you will truly experience gladness in His service (Psalms 100:2). Are you serving Him as you should? If you are not, why not? How would you feel about a servant who showed no more loyalty and devotion to you than you do to God? How do you think God feels about your service? Let us serve God as Paul advised, “...Not with eye-service as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart...” (Ephesians 6:6). He has done so much for you, you know that He deserves better from you; so serve Him faithfully and glorify Him as your Master.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Grow in Knowledge

1. “But \_\_\_\_\_ ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”
2. “The night is far \_\_\_\_\_, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”
3. “And that ye put on the new \_\_\_\_\_, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
4. “Put on the whole \_\_\_\_\_ of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
5. “And above all these put on \_\_\_\_\_, which is the bond of perfectness.”
6. “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”
7. “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, \_\_\_\_\_, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering;”
8. “And have put on the new man, which is \_\_\_\_\_ in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

# You Are Not Alone

by Elder Don McWilliams  
Brownsburg, Indiana

"I looked on my right hand and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul" (Psalms 142:4).

How often during our lives we fall into a state of depression, feeling there is no one around with whom we can bare our soul or pour out our troubles. The feeling that no one cares and that we are carrying all the load, doing all the work around the home, all the work in the community, and all the work in the church because we only are left to do it, has been a malady of many.

I recently heard that this state of mind is referred to as Elijah's Complex. In I Kings 19:10 Elijah makes the statement "I, even I only am left. What a strange loss of trust in God for a prophet who

had just withstood Jezebel's 450 false prophets of Baal, and had led in their being put to death: that he should lose faith after the display of God's power in sending down the fire from heaven.

Life is a series of feeling sorry for oneself. As we can see by the Scripture written by David, even he had the feeling that no one cared. As with Elijah, who had the feeling that he only was standing for right, he was reassured by God that there were 7,000 who also had not bowed a knee to Baal.

Jesus knew we would have periods of depression and the feeling of solitude, for we find that after Jesus had spoken of His return to His Father, He told His disciples in John 14:18, "I will not leave you comfortless." In Hebrews

13:5, Paul reminds his brethren of the Scripture from Deuteronomy 31:6, where God says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." I have found in my own life that when I begin to feel as if I only am left to do it all, I have done as all the disciples in Mark 14:50, "they all forsook him and fled." Christ remains! We are the ones who flee and forsake Him, running to and fro, trying to escape reality by the ways of the world, when all along Jesus Christ, the rock, the solid foundation, is there to stand upon.

I have found that when the tempestuous storms of life would cause my small ship to sink, I have only to flee unto Jesus who is ever present to help in my time of trouble.

\*\*\*\*\*

## My Commitment as a Christian

*I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have HOLY SPIRIT power. The tie has been cut. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back. I won't let up, slowdown, back away or be still. My past is redeemed. My presence makes sense. My future is secure. I am now finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tainted visions, mundane talking, cheap living and dwarf goals. I no*

*longer need preeminence. I no longer need prosperity, position or promotions, or popularity. I don't have to be right. I don't have to be first. I don't need to be tops. I don't need to be recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded; I now live by faith. I lean on His presence. I walk by faith. I walk by patience. I'm lifted by prayer, and I labor by Divine Power. My face is set, my fate is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow; my way rough, my companions few, my God reliable, my mission clear. I cannot*

*be bought, compromised, detoured. I refuse to negotiate at the table of the enemy. I will never ponder at the pool of popularity. I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up, for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know and work until He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problems recognizing me, because my banner is clear. I am a disciple of Christ.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MOST IMPORTANT: BIBLE or CELL PHONE???**

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?  
What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?  
What if we flipped through it several times a day?  
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?  
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?  
What if we gave it to kids as gifts?  
What if we used it when we travelled?  
What if we used it in case of emergency? This is something to make you

go..hmm.  
Where is my Bible? Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.  
Does it make you stop and think, "Where are my priorities?"

# Shining in Salutations

by Dr. Ben Brown  
Thomaston, Georgia

## I. Introduction

When we wake up each morning, we are able to see (unless blind) because on the 3rd day "...God said, Let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). Jesus uses this very light as a metaphor to teach a lesson when he said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). Our first opportunity to use our light to witness is when we greet someone.

## II. Salutations

### A. Use God's light

As we meet someone, we have choices as to how we will greet them. We can use any salutation that just pops into our minds and therefore pops out of our mouths, or we can choose to follow God's clear and lighted path to the right choice. Remember Psalms 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." We should use God's light to direct us in all that we do.

### B. Paul's examples

When Paul wrote to the different churches, he set an example. "... Grace to you and peace from God our

Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7). "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 1:3; II Corinthians 1:2). He used this format in writing to all the churches—The Ephesians, The Philippians, The Colossians, The Thessalonians, as well as to his brethren Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. We certainly would be wise to open correspondences to our own brethren in such a manner. What a marvelous greeting!

## III. What to say

We are to think carefully using God's Word and our hearts to guide our mouths which are directed by our thoughts. We should use pleasant words that are sweet to the soul. (Read Proverbs 16:23-24.) We are not to be a babbler, but rather choose our words wisely. (Read Ecclesiastes 10:11-14.) What are we to say if we have warnings about one's behavior or have recommendations in an attempt to save a brother from the error of his way? We are to follow God's light and speak the truth just as Paul did in many of his writings. Jesus's words to the church at Ephesus say, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not hear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not, and hast found them liars...Remember

therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelations 2:1-5). Jesus starts with positive attributes of the church and then ends with a warning!

## IV. Body Language

Our eyes, our facial expressions, which include smiles, frowns, and wrinkled foreheads, frequently greet people before our lips utter a sound. A smile signals peace, happiness, and friendliness. A frown signals just the opposite. (Please read II Corinthians 3:18; Acts 6:15, and Exodus 34:30). The tone of our voices are also indicators of our true greetings. Think about it.

## V. Conclusion

Remember to let God's light shine within and outwardly as you greet people - especially your brothers in Christ. Always turn to the path of God's light in order to choose the correct greeting.

## VI. Questions

1. What is a lamp unto your feet?
2. When is our first opportunity to use our light to witness?
3. What was Paul's salutation when he wrote to the churches?
4. What is to be our guide when we greet?
5. What facial expression expresses happiness?

### Leaving Home

Psalm 121

Matthew 10:16-20

### Lonely

Psalm 23

Hebrews 13:5,6

### Needing God's Protection

Psalm 27:1-3

Psalm 91

Philippians 4:19

### Needing Guidance

Psalm 32:8

Proverbs 3:5,6

### Needing Peace

John 14:1-4

John 16:33

Romans 5:1-5

Philippians 4:6,7

### Needing Rules for Life

Romans 12

# Time Salvation

by Elder McKinley Wright  
Jacksonville, Florida

The subject of "Time Salvation" is very controversial among Primitive Baptists. Almost everyone is either in favor of using the term or against using it. It is the opinion of this writer that the principle reason for this division is that many of us do not have a clear understanding of what it is all about. The first time the writer ever heard the expression he saw the user's explanation to be very inadequate. He felt that its use was a simplistic way of avoiding serious discussion of a complicated subject. The experience prejudiced him against the use of the expression to the point that he seldom uses it in conversation or writing. Recently he heard two Primitive Baptist ministers discussing religion. One of them asked the other if he believed in "Time Salvation". The reply was that the other minister did not know whether or not he believed in it because he was not sure what was meant by the expression. This conversation set the writer to thinking and he realized that such uncertainty probably reflects the general condition among our people. In his ministry of fifty-five years the writer has never heard a discussion of the subject that he considers adequate. It is very possible that this one will fall short also. This article assumes that the reader is familiar with Romans 8:28-39.

It is suggested that the reader stop at this point and put markers in his/her Bible at Acts 2:47, Romans 10:8-17, 2 Corinthians 11:24 and 1 Timothy 2:15. These four passages are selected because they use the word "save" or "saved" and show how they are used. The words are used in many other scriptures but time and space prevent our looking at all of them. These four passages are selected as being a typical sample of how the words "save" and "saved" are used in scripture.

Romans 10:9 says, "...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Je-

sus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." This verse is part of a complicated sentence that also includes most of verse eight. The principle clause in that sentence (the main thought) is "thou shalt be saved." The wording of this clause is what we learned to be passive voice when we studied grammar in school. The subject of the clause is "thou" and the verb is "saved." In passive voice the subject of the sentence or clause is acted upon instead of performing the action. In this clause the action is described by the word "saved." So in this clause whoever is represented by the pronoun "thou" is "saved" by someone else. It does not take a lot of imagination to conclude that God is the one who does the saving. The word "if" in the same verse expresses conditionalism. This means that the saving in the end of the verse will not take place unless two (in this instance) conditions are met. These two conditions are (1) confess the Lord Jesus with the mouth, and (2) believe in the heart (not just say the words) that God has raised Him from the dead. The clear teaching of this verse is that the salvation described is conditional and takes place only when the individual concerned has met the required conditions.

The other verses in this passage deal with how the various ideas relate to each other. Verse ten explains the relationship of the two conditions to each other. Verse eleven establishes the idea of a promise to anyone who meets the two conditions that have been set forth. The expression "believeth on him" in verse eleven is a short way of saying that the two conditions have been met. Verse twelve points out that this principle applies to Jews and Gentiles alike. Verse thirteen ties the things taught in the previous verses together, declaring

again that anyone (of any nationality) who calls upon the name of the Lord (meets the two conditions set forth in verse nine) shall (no doubt about it) be saved.

In verse fourteen and the first part of verse fifteen the Apostle Paul asks a series of questions that relate to the meeting of the two conditions set forth in verse nine. Each question begins with the words "How shall they." The people involved in the word "they" in these questions are the same as those in "thou" in verse nine. Paul does not answer the questions he asked in these verses but the obvious answer is that they cannot do so. This establishes the idea that the gospel (declared and heard) is an indispensable factor in this situation. A person cannot believe in Jesus if he/she has never heard of Him. So unless he/she has heard of Jesus he/she cannot be saved. He/she cannot hear the gospel unless it is declared. So the declaration of the gospel becomes a necessary link in this chain. Hearing of the gospel and heeding it are also necessary links. This logic (system of thinking) brings one to the conclusion held by Arminians that a person is born again (their definition of the word "saved") only when these two conditions have been met. However, this concept ignores one important thing --the fact that an individual is incapable of hearing the gospel in an experimental way until he/she has already been born again. The point is that Arminians have not defined the word "saved" correctly. Scripture does not equate salvation with being born again.

Someone might wonder why Jesus, as He and the disciples stood by the tomb of Lazarus, did not tell the disciples to start speaking to Lazarus. The obvious answer to that suggestion is that Lazarus could not have heard them. He was dead. They could have spoken to

him at the top of their voices and for the rest of their lives and he would not have heard them. The only person in that gathering that Lazarus could hear was Jesus (God). The Bible describes the person who has not been born again as being "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1 ). So such an individual is just as powerless to hear disciples in our day as Lazarus was in his day. We are born again by the direct operation of God (the Holy Spirit) upon our hearts. He does not use the gospel nor disciples in any way in this operation.

After Lazarus arose (he was not resurrected but that is another lesson) Jesus gave His disciples something to do. They were told to "loose him and let him go." When an individual has been born again he/she becomes capable of hearing and obeying the gospel. He/she becomes capable of hearing and believing the gospel so he/she is exhorted to believe in Jesus in his/her heart and to confess Him before men with the mouth. God's children are also exhorted to believe that He arose from the dead. Whereas they had not been able to be active in spiritual things, Christ's disciples are commanded to teach them to the point that they can perform spiritual works. When they can do these things they have been "saved." What does this mean?

The words "save", "saved", and "salvation", mean "separated from their original group and set apart for something else." Paul, the apostle, said in II Corinthians 11:24, "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes **SAVE** one." In I Timothy 2:15 he said, "Notwithstanding she shall be **SAVED** in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." The two words, "save" in the first cited passage and "saved" in the second, are not underlined in the Bible **but have been underlined by the writer to identify them as the words which are being looked at in this discussion.** To understand the meaning of the word "save" in II Corinthians 11:24 we need to be familiar with a common (in that day) practice of the Jews. The Jews used whipping as

a common punishment for crimes that individuals committed. They did this largely because they were subject to the Roman Empire and the Romans would not allow them ( the Jews) to administer capital punishment. This restriction is the reason Jesus was crucified by the Romans. The Jewish Sanhedrin (Supreme Court) had pronounced Jesus guilty of blasphemy, a capital offense under Jewish law. The Romans would not allow the Jews to carry out capital punishment, so the Jews took Jesus before the Roman Commander-in-chief, Pilate, accusing Him (Jesus) of a crime against the Roman Empire which the Romans would regard as a capital offense. Because of this restriction the Jews frequently used whipping as the preferred form of punishment. The writer heard or read somewhere that the Romans would not allow a sentence of more than forty lashes or stripes to be administered. For that reason the laying on of forty stripes was the most frequent sentence. In II Corinthians 11:24, Paul was saying that on five different occasions the Jews had sentenced him to receive forty stripes. The word "save" has reference to the carrying out of the sentence. It was not part of the sentence.

The sentence would be for forty stripes. The stripes would be laid upon the prisoner's back by a Jewish jailer. The Romans were very sensitive about "prisoner rights" so the whole affair would be under the supervision of a Roman soldier. If the jailer mis-counted and striped the prisoner a forty-first time, the prisoner would be removed and the jailer would be chained to the pole. Then forty stripes would be laid upon his back. This happened so often that the jailers began stopping the whipping with the thirty-ninth stripe to minimize the possibility of going above the pronounced sentence. As people began to talk about these things they began speaking and thinking in terms of "forty stripes save one." The word "save" refers to the fact that the last stripe was separated from the original forty and was used for a purpose other than pun-

ishment of the prisoner. This is an example of the definition given above.

In I Timothy 2:15 there is the statement "...she shall be saved in childbearing..." What is the meaning of the word "saved" in this passage? This is the last sentence in a paragraph that deals with the proper behavior of women in the church. The most pointed instruction is Paul's admonition in verse 12, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." In this passage the word "suffer" means the same as our word "allow." Paul establishes the rule that a woman cannot teach in the church, but then he says in the last sentence of the paragraph, "she shall be saved in childbearing." This means that when a woman has borne children, particularly boys, she is saved (set apart) from this rule and is allowed (other portions of scripture make this a responsibility) to teach them about God and godly principles.

These two scripture passages (I Timothy 2:15 and II Corinthians 11:24) establish the idea that the scriptural definition of the word "saved" is "separated from its original group and set apart to some other purpose." The modern-day idea that the expressions "saved" and "born again" mean the same thing is not nullified by this definition. Surely when a person is born again that person is separated from his/her original group (people who are dead in trespasses and sins) and set apart for another purpose (to spend eternity with Christ). But most of the scripture passages that use the words "save," "saved," "salvation," etc. refer to a conditional salvation. In each case we must determine whether this is true by looking at the context (the complete passage). The person involved is required to meet certain qualifications and when those qualifications have been met the person is saved. Again we cite the scripture expounded early in this article (Romans 10:8-17) as an example of this.

This conditional salvation does not refer to the New Birth. When Jesus took our sin upon Himself and His righteous-



ness was accounted as ours, every qualifying condition that anyone might logically imagine had been met. There were no conditions left for us to meet. So the New Birth is not in any way under consideration. This salvation refers to a person's experience. When a person is born again he/she is removed from a group named "unregenerate" and placed in a group that can be described as "destined for heaven but without understanding of the fact." Babies that die in infancy and go to heaven are in this group. This assumes that those who are God's chosen children but die in infancy are born again while they were alive just like the worst sinner. Even though it has been born again such a baby never develops beyond this group. The child of God that dies without hearing the gospel never develops beyond this group. But when a child of God in this group (all are in it for an increment of time; some short, some longer, some all their lives as cited above) hears the gospel and believes that Jesus died for him/her and that because of what Jesus did he/she will one day be housed in heaven, that person will be removed from the group that had no knowledge of their eternal destiny and moved to a group that has a hope of glory. The only connection

between this experience and the New Birth is that this experience never happens to one who has not already been born again. The word "saved" is used in scripture many times to describe this experience.

Another example of this use of the word "saved" is in Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." In this passage Luke (the author of Acts) writes about a people who should (ought to) be saved. If they ought to be saved it is obvious that they are not already saved. If God added them to the church because they ought to be saved there is a strong implication that their being in the church has something to do with their being saved. In the church they are to be exposed to the gospel leading to their being saved. Can we not agree that this is an experimental salvation? Surely it refers to our growing in knowledge of the things of God. Surely it refers to our growth in faith and confidence in God. Surely it refers to our growth in faithfulness and obedience. Those who ought to be saved in the sense of this scripture are people who have already been born again. Now that they have been born again God adds them to the church so they can be saved experimentally

because within the church is the place they will find this salvation.

As was stated earlier, the writer seldom uses the expression "Time Salvation." He prefers the designation "Experimental Salvation." He would always use some defining word because the word "salvation" used alone is so widely used as a synonym for being born again. He does admit, however, that the use of the expression "Time Salvation" is not inaccurate. It places emphasis upon the fact that the consequences of this salvation are limited to our experiences while we are living in the earth --hence in Time as contrasted with Eternity. The only reason anyone (from the one who never heard of Jesus to the most faithful disciple) will be in heaven is the Righteousness of Jesus imputed to him/her. So our being saved experimentally will not result in our going to heaven. Neither will it make heaven any sweeter for us when we are there. This salvation can be called "Time Salvation" because its consequences never go beyond the grave. But while we are living in this time world it will cause us to rejoice as we anticipate being there. Such rejoicing is an indication that we have been saved in the sense of this lesson.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES CAREFULLY!***

Romans 8:28-39

28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Did you understand what you just read?  
May God help us all to believe and rejoice in His word.***

# "It Pleased The Lord To Bruise Him"

by Elder W. A. Mullis  
Deceased

Please read the complete chapter of Isaiah 53. The entire chapter is one of the most beautiful prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. In verse 10 it is said: "Yet it pleased the Lord (God) to bruise him (Christ); he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hands." This is a very beautiful verse of Scripture; may God bless us to see some of the truth contained in it.

The first expression says "it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief." In this 53rd chapter of Isaiah God inspired Isaiah to write of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as though it had already happened. Actually it was more than 700 years to the future. We are told in Romans 4:17 that God "quickeneth the dead and calleth those things which be not as though they were." This is simply saying that God calleth or speaketh of those things which are in the future as though they had already taken place. What God has ordained "to be" is just as sure as though it had already taken place.

It pleased the Lord God to bruise His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. "He hath put him to grief." God is a God of purpose, and indeed it did please the Lord to bruise His son and to put him to grief. God did this and poured out His wrath upon His Son for all the sins of all His elect family. The justice of God was vindicated by the SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST, who was without sin; the JUST GOD suffered for the UNJUST elect family of God. In II Corinthians 5:21, the scripture says: "For he (God) hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us (the elect family of God) who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." One of the ways in which Christ was made

to be sin for His people was in the sufferings that he endured on the cross of Calvary. The sufferings of Christ were more than the human tongue can tell. Paul said in II Corinthians 5:18: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." Peter said in I Peter 3:18: "For Christ hath once suffered for sins, the JUST FOR THE UNJUST, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." God's purpose in pouring out His wrath upon His Son for the sins of His Elect family was their REDEMPTION. It is for this reason the word of God declares in Revelation 5:9: "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." Then we are told in Revelation 7:9, that those people who were redeemed by the blood of Christ were so great in number that "no man could number them." John saw them around the throne of God in heaven. Please read Revelation 7:9-10. The last expression in Isaiah 53:10 says: "The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." He did indeed REDEEM HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him!! **These are the reasons** it "pleased the Lord to bruise" His Son.

We remind you that Christ redeemed a people "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Multitudes of those people of God have lived and died in this world without having heard the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know this is true because the gospel of Christ has never been preached in "every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation!" History records that there are hundreds of

"tongues" or languages spoken in Africa alone. God has a people bought by the blood of Christ in all the world, in every generation; born of the Spirit of God and washed in the blood of the Lamb of God. The broadest doctrine in the world is God's doctrine revealed in His word.

The second expression in Isaiah 53:10 is, "When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin." The Lord Jesus Christ made an offering for the sins of God's elect when He died on the cross. He was not an offering to man, but He made an offering unto God against whom the elect had sinned. The majority of the religious world of our day believed Christ was an offering to man, but this is not taught in the word of God. We quote two verses of Scripture where it is plainly taught that the offering Christ made was made to God: "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given HIMSELF FOR US AN OFFERING AND A SACRIFICE TO GOD for a sweet smelling savor." (Ephesians 5:2). Then in Hebrews 9:14: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit **OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD**, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." Please read these two verses carefully and notice how clearly they state that the offering Christ made was to God. Not one verse of Scripture teaches that Christ was an offering to man!! The offering Christ made to God was accepted by Him as the full and complete payment for all the sins of all the elect of God, from Adam to the end of this time world. "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14).

The third expression in Isaiah 53:10 is: "he shall see his seed", but let's look at this as it is joined to the second expression: "when thou shalt make his

soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed." The word "seed" here means posterity or offspring. This teaches that when the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, and God the Father "laid on him the iniquity" of all the elect, the Lord Jesus in that hour saw all those whose sins God had laid upon Him. He saw "His seed," that is, He saw His people. He saw everything of those for whom He died, whose sins He bore in his body on the cross. We refer again to the words of Revelation 7:9-10: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." If the God of heaven could show the apostle John such a scene as he saw in this Scripture, how much more could the Son of God have seen all those whose sins He bore in His own body on the cross! "The foundation of God standeth sure, **The Lord knoweth them that are His.**" (II Timothy 2:19). Then we read in John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd and **know my sheep**, and am known of

mine." He knew His people when God chose and gave them to Him in eternity before the world began, and He saw them when the Father laid on Him all their sins. God is a great God, and His perfections are more than the human tongue can tell. The half has never yet been told!

The fourth expression in Isaiah 53:10 is: "He shall prolong his days." When Christ died, he was buried as taught in John 19:38-42. After three days and three nights in the sepulchre, He arose! "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." (Acts 2:24). Christ said in Revelation 1:18: "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." **In deed** he did prolong His days when He arose from the dead; He prolonged them for all eternity. God hath "begotten us AGAIN unto a LIVELY HOPE by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (I Peter 1:3).

Then the last expression in Isaiah 53:10: "The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." When God sent His Son into this world, He sent Him to finish some works: "But I have great-

er witness than that of John: for the **WORKS WHICH THE FATHER HATH GIVEN ME TO FINISH**, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." (John 5:36). No man can believe the truth in this verse without knowing there were works the Father sent His Son into this world to **FINISH!** Upon the authority of the Holy Scriptures, He finished those works! The night Judas betrayed Christ, Christ prayed in John 17:4: "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have **FINISHED** the work which thou gavest me to do." Again, in John 19:30, the last three words Christ spoke in the world: "It is **FINISHED!**" He came into this world to "save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1 :21 ). For those who believe the truth of the inspired word of God, we know the "pleasure of the Lord" did prosper in the hand of His Son. He fulfilled and perfectly completed to the jot and tittle every work the Father sent Him into this world to finish. "He sent redemption unto His people; He hath commanded his covenant forever: Holy and Reverend is His name." (Psalms 111 :9). May God bless those of us who believe these great truths to uphold the honor of the whole counsel of His word to be the glory of His great Name.

\*\*\*\*\*

**S**ome folks' religion is more  
 "pomp and circumstance" than "heart and soul".



"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,  
 and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37



God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him  
 in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

# A LETTER TO MY FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

Today, I feel like we need a lesson on time. Time is generally broken down into three distinct periods. These periods are referred to as past, present and future. This segregation of time is very important for us to understand. The human existence transcends these three periods in a very fluid yet detailed manner. For the living, these times are constantly evolving. The present day will soon be past. Should the Lord allow it, future times will become the present and then settle into the past. The past and present have a direct bearing on the future. This is true in our physical life on earth, our spiritual life, and on our future life in the eternal heaven. It can be observed in the laws of nature, in the theory of cause and effect, and most importantly it is taught throughout the Bible.

Once we understand that our eternal future is secure through the executed plan of God and the sacrifice of Jesus, we can look at the past and present as they will relate to our physical and spiritual futures.

For Christians, this study of time leads to a present course of action that should consist of Bible study and personal reflection. Why are Bible study and personal reflection of utmost importance? The two, when combined, take the wisdom derived from the past, and compare it to our present actions. After performing these tasks simultaneously, we will hopefully be convinced of the correct paths to follow in the future. This will affect both our physical and spiritual futures here on earth positively, if we choose to live according to Biblical principles.

What about the future? Most of us expect to be around for a little while longer. Even those of us who are

reconciled to the fact that our life is rapidly nearing its end have hopes for the future of mankind. This leads me to the topic of control. We know that ultimately, God is in control. But, sometimes He allows His children to take a different path than what He has decreed they should follow. This only lasts for a season. He will take back what is His. But He will be much more forgiving if we return to His "old paths" without too much encouragement. During these times of backsliding, others gain control. This is true in both the micro and macro environments. Sometimes these environments are in harmony. Occasionally, we as individuals are following Christ while society as a whole is, for the most part, doing the same. That was the general pattern in the early years of our nation. Laws of the land were based on the word of God. Sometimes we are at odds with society. But, today, more often than we would like to admit, we as individuals and society as a whole are out of sync with the will of God.

Who are we allowing to control the present? Hopefully, due to Bible study and personal reflection, we have reconciled the personal, or micro level, to the will of God. Once we have done so, the task isn't automatically over. We must then maintain our position within the will of God. But that isn't what is really on my mind today. Today, I am concerned with the macro environment. I define the macro as everything from county to country to the entire planet.

Once again, WHO ARE WE ALLOWING TO CONTROL THE PRESENT? This is important because those who control the present usually take control of the past. They commit themselves to changing the public view of the past. Why would anyone in the present take the time to control the past? Think

back to the first paragraph of this letter, "The past and present have a direct bearing on the future". In other words, Those who control the present control the past (history), and those who control the past control the future. That is why we, as Christians need to take control of the present.

Your life is in the balance. Your children's futures are at risk. Government agencies have been stacked with people who promote evil or are afraid to take a stand against it. In our personal lives, we need to take that control away from the devil and give it back to God-fearing Christians. We need men who meet the Biblical standard of leaders! "And of the children of Issachar, which were **men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do**; the heads of them were two hundred; and **all their brethren were at their commandment**" (I Chronicles 12:32). We need to work to have leaders who are as described by God: "able men, **such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness**" (Exodus 18:21). Compromising for anything less will lead to our destruction.

In the lives of our children, WE need to take control back from government schools, social programs and Hollywood. In this land of democratic elections and constitutionally protected rights, WE need to remember our obligations to God and only give legislative, judicial and executive control to those who have a reputation for upholding His standards.

Friends, let's band together to take control of the present, that we may share the truths of the past, and have a positive effect on the future.

Sincerely,

Uncle Neal

# Cleanse Thou Me from Secret Faults

by Bro. Clay Gill  
Patterson, Georgia

Psalm 19:1-12 – “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom come out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the Lord is perfect, concerning the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? **Cleanse thou me from secret faults.** Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins: let them not have dominion over me.”

I enjoy science: chemistry and physics, the laws of nature. My belief is that many of the questions we have about God and His character can be found in the principles and mechanics of His creation. I believe the same holds true when you think about the topic of confession (cleaning ourselves from our faults).

Take a bottle of water, remove the cap, and turn the bottle upside down. What do you notice? Does the water pour out? What else happens? In or-

der for the water to spew out, air must enter into the bottle. Did you notice the bubbles of air? The air entering into the bottle pushes out the water. Making a Godly confession is similar. As a Christian, we have a responsibility to “confess” to God things that are on our hearts. The beautiful truth is that as we confess (take the cap off the bottle) the Holy Spirit moves in and pushes out the untruth that is causing our burden. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for the “problem” to flow out of me. The Holy Spirit also does another great work in the process of cleaning me up: leading me into further truths (revealing to me my “secret faults”). I am so thankful for God’s plan at creation.

The reason this topic is on my heart is that I am convinced that the majority of Christians are unaware of the importance of making a confession. Below are a couple of questions outlined with Scriptures that I have pulled together in an attempt to answer these questions.

## What is confession?

Definitions: to hold out the hand, to throw out, to revere or worship, to acknowledge, and to assent (covenant). The Webster’s dictionary reports the definition as: a disclosure of one’s sins in the sacrament of reconciliation; a written or oral acknowledgment of guilt by a party accused of an offense.

Psalm 32:1-5 “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of

my sin. Selah.”

Confession is the process by which we admit our guilt/sin and we begin the journey of repentance. With confession and repentance comes forgiveness from God and a burden, which we have borne while we held onto that sin/secret, being lifted off of us. Confession is releasing what is hindering us from being who we were created to be.

## What is the purpose of confession?

1 John 4:2, 3 “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:”

1 John 4:6 “...Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Numbers 5:7 “Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.”

Romans 10:9,10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

There are multiple purposes of confession. As you see in 1 John, confession is used as a means for us to discern what is of truth (Godly and righteous) and what is of error (lies from Satan). We all have a responsibility to discern truth and only act on truth. Confession is also about finding forgiveness of our sins and being cleaned. There

is a cleansing that happens because of our confession. Also with confession comes the responsibility of restitution for the wrong that you have done. I feel that Romans 10 gives one of the most important purposes of confession. It tells us that the purpose of confession is to name the Lord Jesus and give Him all glory and as a result we shall have salvation – the privilege of entering into the Kingdom of God as a result of our obedience through confession.

#### **How do we make a confession?**

Proverbs 28:13 “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Leviticus 5:1, 5 “And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity. (v. 5) And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess in that he hath sinned in that thing.”

Proverbs 25:2 “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.”

I believe that the process of how we go about making a confession is very important and widely misunderstood. Proverbs 25:2 tells us that it is the glory of God to conceal a matter. This particular proverb has many applications, but I also believe that it has application to our subject matter: confession. Our confession should bring about glory to God and God alone. When we begin to make confession and it exalts ourselves, our confession is of no good,

it is of the spirit of error. How we go about making a confession is dependent upon the heart condition of the one confessing. We are to confess our sins so that we can be cleansed by the Holy Ghost. Confessing our sins requires us forsaking those sins (Proverbs 28:13) and making restitution for the damage done. Again, I go back to Romans 10:9 to help me understand the proper way to make a confession. God tells us that we should make a confession with our mouth, proclaiming Jesus and believing in our heart that He is who He says He is.

#### **To Whom do we make a confession?**

1 Kings 8:33-36 “When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers. When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.”

Isaiah 57:13 “He that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain.

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous

man availeth much.”

I believe that we most often go wrong with confession by going to the wrong person to make the confession. We are to first make the confession to Jesus. Isaiah tells us that as we put our trust in Him, we will then “possess the land” or better stated, enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. If we haven’t yet made the confession to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, then our confession to anyone else is in vain. We are to confess our faults to one another. However, we are not to just go to anyone. I believe that we are first and foremost to go to another Godly (as deemed by their life, choices, and actions) person, and better yet, men are to go to other men and women to other women; children are to go to their parents and young ladies or young men are to go to adults of the same gender if their parents are not available. We lose our integrity when we go to the wrong person to make the confession. Remember, we must make confession with a pure heart, but if we go to the wrong person, we can be led astray with only a few simple words of poor advice.

In conclusion, I hope that you see the process of confession as important in your walk as a Christian. Just as the air enters into the bottle to force out the water, so the Holy Ghost enters us to cleanse us and lead us into further truth as we confess our sins to God and to one another. It is my desire to go higher up and further into God’s Kingdom. I believe that confessing my faults, as the Holy Spirit gives me knowledge, is going in the right direction. Please, don’t take my word for any of this. Read diligently in the Bible so that you see the fullness of God’s truth and that His truth comes alive for you too.

*Are We more like Moses or Isaiah?*

*Moses might have said, "Here am I, Lord, send Aaron."*

*But Isaiah said, "Here am I, send me."*

# Free - Will Hogs

By Bro. Mike McInnis  
O'Brien, Florida

Our neighbors who live up the road from us acquired a couple of hogs from somewhere. Since this is a rural area, such things are not uncommon. Trouble arose however when their makeshift pen proved no match for the hogs' prowess for escape. Hogs are quite intelligent creatures, (some say more so than most other creatures), though they do not exhibit that trait by covering their body odor or eating the kinds of things one would expect intelligent creatures to eat, but I digress.

These hogs could have gone anywhere they chose to go (as I suppose they have a free will) once they had escaped the confines of their prison. They could have no doubt hitched a ride into town or perhaps left town altogether and pursued a higher education, or even become politicians or lawyers. It is rumored that some of their kinfolk have done both. But not these two hogs decided on their own to come to our house and help my wife till up her flower beds with their snouts. The main problem with this activity is

that she was quite happy with the condition of the flower beds before their visit. Their skill and passion for deep tillage only served to make her very unappreciative of their effort.

Imagine the relief of the hogs' owners upon discovering their valued animals helping out the neighbors in such an unselfish fashion. Somewhat to the porkers' chagrin, however, the only reward that they received for their service was to be re-incarcerated in the same prison from which they had chosen to escape. This same scenario repeated itself two more times, with my extremely patient and normally very appreciative wife becoming increasingly agitated at their continued success not only in escaping from their prison, but their expansion of activities into garbage tipping and spreading, as well as yard fertilization and continued soil aeration. By this time, she was adamant that I persuade the porcine visitors to leave more quickly than they came.

Since it fell my lot to affect their departure I thought I would use a bit of

psychology on them in order to persuade them to leave of their own free will. After all, whoever heard tell of a hog without a free will? So I began to lecture them on changing their ways and acting in a fashion not quite so swinish. It only seemed reasonable to assume that being the intelligent creatures that they are, they would listen to reason. I told them that all they had to do was just make a decision to change their lives and become more productive citizens. I assured them that others had already made the same choice, but all they did was grunt and amazingly keep right on acting like hogs.

I guess "free will" isn't all its sometimes cracked up to be. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jeremiah 13:23). "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:22).

\*\*\*\*\*

# My Mama's Open Heart

By Bro. Chris Bond  
Patterson, Georgia

*(Written two days after his mother passed away)*

You taught me how to love,  
how to laugh, and how to cry.  
Your heart was an open door  
to a place my soul could lie.

We shared our thoughts,  
our hopes, and our dreams.  
We shared our opinions too.  
I thank God for every moment  
I was blessed to spend with you.

You gave me strength  
when I was weak.

You supported me  
when I was strong.  
You had love for me  
when I was right,  
And you loved me  
when I was wrong.

Even though I didn't  
get to say goodbye,  
I can feel you now standing  
by my side.  
I feel that you're in heaven,

looking down from above.  
You're with our Heavenly Father  
transfigured by His love.

Whenever I want to see you,  
I don't have to go very far.  
For you'll always be with me,  
Deep inside my heart.

I'll never forget you.  
I love you Mom!  
Your son, Chris

# Consequences of Sin

by Sis. Christy Bond  
Patterson, Georgia

God is so good! He is such a loving Father and shows His love to us daily. We all have so many blessings and so much for which to thank Him! We should daily make a list of our blessings to remind us of all we have been given. One of the best things about God is His chastising. It may sound strange that I say that is one of the best things, but just think about your life and the times God has saved you from a lot of heartache. When God brings chastisement, it usually saves us from a much bigger heartache.

We make choices every day of our lives. We choose whether we are going to serve God or man every day. In His Word, God states, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15). Sometimes, we make good choices, by choosing God, which brings about blessings. Sometimes we make bad choices, choosing the world's ways, which brings about the judgments of God. There are times when we sin that God forgives us, but He punishes us severely. Adam and Eve made a bad choice and were punished by God for the rest of their lives. Lot's wife was punished severely by God when she sinned, and she was turned into a pillar of salt!

Many times God's wrath and chastisement leave a permanent mark or "scar" on us. We then carry that scar the rest of our lives! It isn't that we aren't forgiven, but the scar is to remind us that sin carries consequences! If a child is told not to play with fire and then the child disobeys, the child will get burned. The parents will forgive that child, but the child may have permanent scars for the rest of his/her life due to disobedience.

It is much like that when we choose to live in sin. When God has told us to turn from a sin, but we continue in that sin, we face serious consequences. God says, "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer" (Proverbs 1:28). His Word also says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). We must pray daily that we live in God's will and hear His counsel.

There are several ways to hear God's counsel. One way is to read His Word every day. God speaks to us through His Word, and it is our duty to read His Word and have knowledge of the truth. Another way God speaks to us is through prayer. When you are truly in communion with God, you will hear Him speak to you. Seeking wise counsel from Christians is another way to hear God. It is very important to have

WISE Christian counselors that you can go to when you are struggling with a decision. Be sure that it is truly WISE counsel. Unfortunately, there are many so-called "Christians" that will lead you in the wrong direction. Many so-called "Christians" have compromised on God's Word, and they cannot give you wise counsel.

Anyone who tells you homosexuality is right is not standing on God's Word. God does not make someone a homosexual. That is a sin and an abomination in the sight of God. Abortion, no matter what the reason, is murder! These are just two examples! There are many things on which the WORLD has compromised, and we must not fall into that snare! Sadly, churches have also compromised on God's Word. That is one reason many churches are dying and closing their doors. Read I Corinthians 5:1-13, and I Timothy 3:1-12 to find out just a few ways churches are compromising on God's Word.

Standing on God's Word and His principles are the only ways to avoid the judgments of God. Choose life! Choose you this day to serve GOD, because it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the LIVING GOD!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Answers to Grow In Knowledge

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Put - Romans 13:14      | 5. Charity - Colossians 3:14         |
| 2. Spent - Romans 13:12    | 6. Breastplate - I Thessalonians 5:8 |
| 3. Man - Ephesians 4:24    | 7. Kindness - Colossians 3:12        |
| 4. Armour - Ephesians 6:11 | 8. Renewed - Colossians 3:10         |



# Bible Reading Calendar for August

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Psalms 62, 63 64	Romans 1
2	Psalms 65, 66, 67	Romans 2
3	Psalms 68, 69	Romans 3
4	Psalms 70, 71, 72	Romans 4
5	Psalms 73, 74	Romans 5
6	Psalms 75, 76, 77	Romans 6
7	Psalms 78	Romans 7
8	Psalms 79, 80, 81	Romans 8:1-18
9	Psalms 82, 83, 84	Romans 8:10-39
10	Psalms 85, 86, 87	Romans 9
11	Psalms 88, 89	Romans 10
12	Psalms 90, 91, 92	Romans 11:1-21
13	Psalms 93, 94, 95	Romans 11:22-36
14	Psalms 96, 97, 98	Romans 12
15	Psalms 99-102	Romans 13

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Psalms 103, 104	Romans 14
17	Psalms 105, 106	Romans 15:1-20
18	Psalms 107, 108	Romans 15:21-33
19	Psalms 109-111	Romans 16
20	Psalms 112-115	I Cor. 1
21	Psalms 116-118	I Cor. 2
22	Psalms 119:1-48	I Cor. 3
23	Psalms 119:49-104	I Cor. 4
24	Psalms 119:105-176	I Cor. 5
25	Psalms 120-123	I Cor. 6
26	Psalms 124-127	I Cor. 7:1-24
27	Psalms 128-131	I Cor. 7:25-40
28	Psalms 132-135	I Cor. 8
29	Psalms 136-138	I Cor. 9
30	Psalms 139-141	I Cor. 10:1-13
31	Psalms 142-144	I Cor. 10:14-33

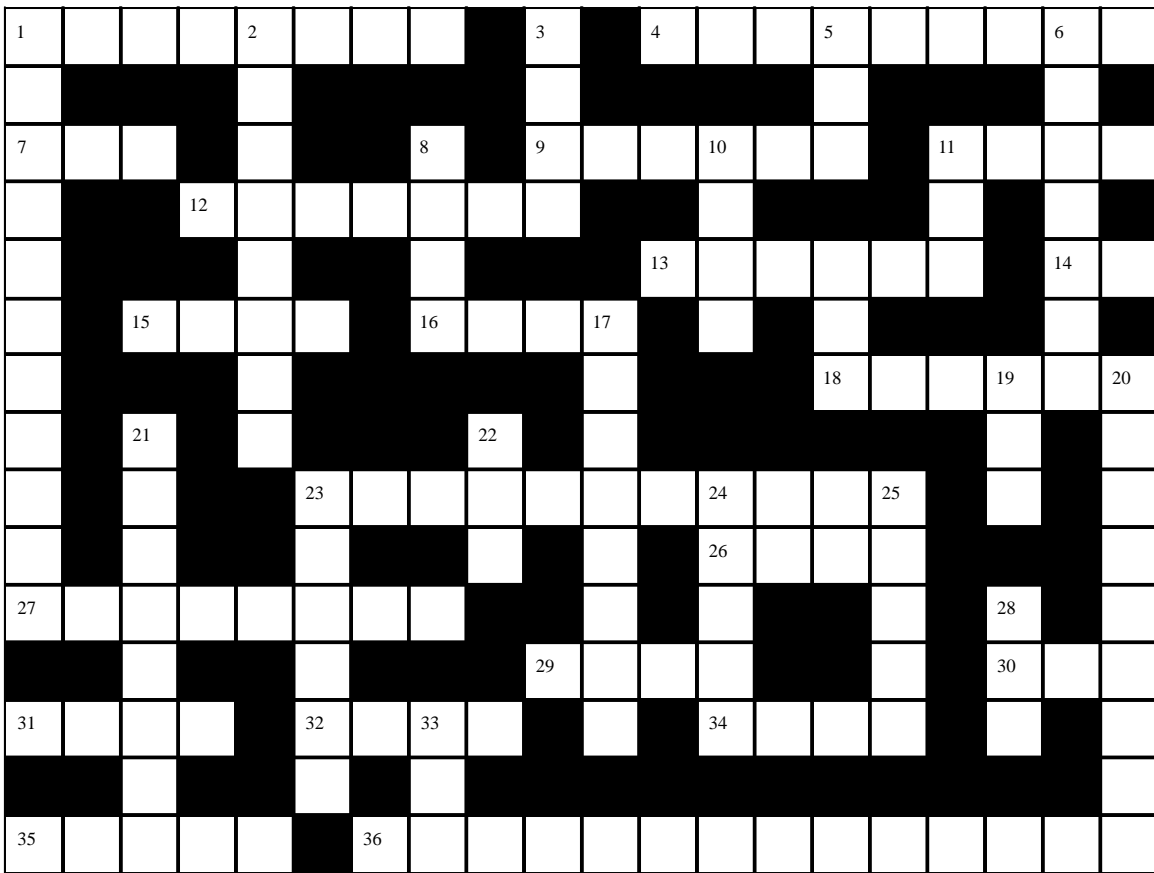
**ANSWERS TO  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
JULY 2008**

<sup>1</sup> F	O	R	N	I	C	<sup>2</sup> A	T	I	O	<sup>3</sup> N		<sup>4</sup> D	U	S	<sup>5</sup> C	R	E	E	<sup>6</sup> T
A						R			A			W			O				H
I		<sup>7</sup> P		<sup>8</sup> T		E		<sup>9</sup> B	I	T	T	E	R		N				O
<sup>10</sup> T	O	U	C	H					O		L			<sup>11</sup> A	S		<sup>12</sup> C		U
H		T		Y				<sup>13</sup> S	H	O	U	L	<sup>14</sup> D		I		O		S
F			<sup>15</sup> N			<sup>16</sup> U	<sup>17</sup> P			N			E		S		N		A
U			U			A			S		N		T		V				N
<sup>18</sup> L	E	A	R	N		<sup>19</sup> F	R	O	<sup>20</sup> M		<sup>21</sup> S	A	I	D		<sup>22</sup> H	E	A	D
			T			<sup>23</sup> C		T	E		O		E		<sup>24</sup> T		N		
<sup>25</sup> S			U			<sup>26</sup> R	E	I	G	N			D		<sup>27</sup> E	V	I	L	
<sup>28</sup> H	A	I	R			E		C							A		E		<sup>29</sup> H
A			E			A		U		<sup>30</sup> B	U	<sup>31</sup> T			C		N		E
D						T		<sup>32</sup> L	O	V	E		I		<sup>33</sup> H	<sup>34</sup> A	T	E	D
O						E		A		A		M				R			G
<sup>35</sup> W	I	C	K	E	D		R		<sup>36</sup> P	R	E	E	M	I	N	E	N	C	E

# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." 4. "After this I beheld, and lo, a great \_\_\_\_\_, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" 7. "...It \_\_\_\_\_ be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually." 9. "And he said unto them, hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my \_\_\_\_\_." 11. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with \_\_\_\_\_ things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." 12. "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: \_\_\_\_\_ it was not possible that he should be holden of it." 13. "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: \_\_\_\_\_ failed me; no man cared for my soul." 14. "I \_\_\_\_\_ he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." 15. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners; of whom I am chief." 16. "The Lord God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I \_\_\_\_\_ this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence." 18. "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with \_\_\_\_\_ and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?" 23. "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have \_\_\_\_\_ the work which thou gavest me to do," 26. "For by one offering he hath perfected for \_\_\_\_\_ them that are sanctified." 27. "I am the good \_\_\_\_\_, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." 29. "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the work which the father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath \_\_\_\_\_ me." 30. "Be strong and of good courage, fear \_\_\_\_\_, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." 31. "And if it seem \_\_\_\_\_ unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." 32. "Wherefore let him that standeth take heed \_\_\_\_\_ he fall." 34. "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I \_\_\_\_\_ preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 35. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we \_\_\_\_\_ be made the righteousness of God in him." 36. "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_."



## DOWN

1. "I will not leave you \_\_\_\_\_: I will come to you." 2. "When Jesus therefore had \_\_\_\_\_ the vinegar, he said, it is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." 3. "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his \_\_\_\_\_." 5. "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who \_\_\_\_\_ the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" 6. "Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ what he hath done for my soul." 8. "And they \_\_\_\_\_ a new song, saying, 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;" 10. "And \_\_\_\_\_ all forsook him, and fled." 11. "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall \_\_\_\_\_ his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." 17. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright and one that feared God, and \_\_\_\_\_ evil." 19. "The thought of foolishness is \_\_\_\_\_: and the scorner is an abomination to men." 20. "And cried with a loud voice, saying, \_\_\_\_\_ to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." 21. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us as an \_\_\_\_\_ and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." 22. "Blessed be the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, which according to \_\_\_\_\_ abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 23. "Thy words have up holden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the \_\_\_\_\_ knees." 24. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" 25. "But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from \_\_\_\_\_, and to have gained this harm and loss." 28. "And \_\_\_\_\_ of his servants said, None, my Lord, a king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber." 33. "And \_\_\_\_\_ shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."