

God's Word is Precious!

by Bro. Thomas Walker
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In September, 1973, there was a family problem that occurred in my family that also involved my in-laws that greatly distressed me and caused my wife and me to separate for a while, for a few months. It was during that time that I was baptized, and joined the church. Shortly, after that, my wife and I got back together, and the whole family started going to the same church together regularly, and attending other church functions during the week.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” (John 16:13).

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26).

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31,32).

In January , 1975, I had a STROKE in Albany, Georgia, and after spending 3 weeks in a coma and a couple of months in the Intensive Care Unit, I was transferred to the Carl Vinson V.A. Medical Center here in Dublin, Georgia in April, 1975.

In a few months the nurses started sitting me up in a lounge chair type rolling chair for a few hours a day, increasing the amount of time sitting up until I could stand to sit up in the chair all day long until after supper time. It was also about that time that I learned to use a mouth stick with an eraser on the end to provide friction for turning pages in a book, magazine, and some other reading materials. Soon, the mouth-stick was also learned to be used for typing personal letters on a portable electric typewriter.

After having read many books and magazines, and other reading materials, one day in July, 1978, I ran out of things that could be found for me to read on the hospital ward that I was on. That is when life really began to change, as far as my wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and when I really began to grow in faith in a real living God and His Son Jesus Christ. It was at that opportune moment that the Holy Spirit took advantage of that situation and used a nurse to guide me into all truth. She found the Holy Bible in the back of the bottom shelf of my bedside cabinet, and placed it on the reading stand in front of me opened up for me to read. Very reluctantly, I began to read. **Thank God!** (She probably didn't realize that she had just done the biggest and best favor for me that could possibly be done for anybody.)

Many things in the Bible were hard to understand at first. But, I soon noticed that the more I would read the Bible, even re-reading the hard to understand parts, the more the Holy Spirit would il-

luminate my total understanding. That was really great. That seemed to inspire me to continue reading and re-reading of the Bible. Even now in 2008, that increase in my over-all understanding of the Bible, or particular passages in the Bible, still occurs every time I read it! So, from my personal experience from the **DAILY** reading of the Bible, I conclude that it is **INEXHAUSTIBLE!** **PRAISE GOD!**

Continuing to read the Bible **DAILY**, has brought about my repentance leading to a fundamental change in my personal relationship to God. My repentance has been a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. In a more general sense, repentance has meant a change of mind, or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct. This true repentance has been a “godly sorrow” for sin, an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction. (Matthew 9:13; Luke 5:32; Genesis 6:6, 7; Matthew 27:3).

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (I Corinthians 2:14).

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (I Peter 2:2,3).

*We are to "come apart" on the Sabbath,
so we don't come apart.*

The Beauty of Life!

by Elder Don McWilliams
Brownsburg, Indiana

Jesus said unto her, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11 :25, 26).

The spring time of the calendar year is once again with us. As usual, our thoughts turn to the coming forth of dormant plants and trees. Flowers begin to bloom as once again the cold ground becomes warm from the rays of the sun.

It has always seemed so fitting and symbolic that God chose the spring of the year for us to celebrate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. In the crucifixion, the penalty of sin was paid by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. As He lay in the tomb, dead or dormant for three days, lifeless in regards to human

flesh, even in this death He became as us in His flesh. However, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that lifeless body was again empowered from on high. Jesus said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:17, 18). Death could not hold Him; the atonement had been consummated by His blood and God had been satisfied. Jesus, through the power of the Spirit, openly proved what He said He would do by taking up His life again.

In this present life, we can also find life in death. Paul says in Ephesians 2:1, "You hath he quickened (made alive) who were dead in trespasses and sins:" Although we, in our flesh, are dead to the spiritual things of God's kingdom,

when He so chooses in His own particular appointed time, He, by the same Holy Spirit, gives us life. We recall again that Jesus said, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die." (John 11:26). We are in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and adoption of the Father.

Although many people seem to be spiritually dead for a period in life, yet whenever that springtime of spiritual resurrection comes from the Father, we will be as a flower in spring, bringing forth the sweet fragrance of the Spirit to those about us.

Thank God for giving us hope of life eternal through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

".....think on these things." (Philippians 4:8).

Where to Look When:

DOUBTING
Matthew 8:26
Hebrews 11

FACING CRISIS
Psalm 121
Matthew 6:25-34
Hebrews 11

FAITH FAILS
Psalm 42:5
Hebrews 11

FRIENDS FAIL
Psalm 49:9-13
Luke 17:3,4
Romans 12:14, 17, 19, 21
II Timothy 4:16-18

URGENT!

FINANCIAL HELP NEEDED!

It is rare that we have to make a plea for money. In the past 28 years, there have only been about 6 times we have had to make an urgent request for your financial support. We are different than most magazines in that we do not charge a subscription fee. From the beginning, we have felt led to use the magazine as a method of spreading the truth into many areas where the truth would never be known unless it was freely given. There has never been a Primitive Baptist magazine with as wide-spread circulation as the Lord has blessed us to reach.

For almost 30 years, THE TRUMPET OF TRUTH magazine has been distributed all over the United States as well as into many foreign countries.

Some of God's dear children have come to a knowledge of the truth of "Salvation by Grace" for the first time, while others have had their faith in the truth of His word confirmed. In addition to thousands of magazines going to individual homes each month, many others go to Churches and schools where the magazines are used as a teaching tool. Churches of many different faiths have found it to be Biblically based and therefore of great value in teaching their congregations. Schools in other countries are not as restricted as America, therefore they use the magazine to teach children. The magazines are read over and over in libraries, doctors' offices, and other public places where they are sent without charge.

Currently, there is not enough money in the checking account to pay for this issue. We have two individuals who have promised to pay for this issue if others do not respond. However, we have always had good response when God's people have heard of our need. Individuals, businesses, and Churches have always freely given so we can continue to spread the truth of God's word. Will you please personally send us a tax-deductible contribution today?

Will you also ask the Church of your membership to make as generous a donation as possible to get us over this crisis? In addition, will you please ask the Church to send a monthly donation to maintain the circulation to many elderly and those in foreign countries who cannot help in any way financially?

Please be reminded that neither editors, writers, labelers, packagers, distributors, proofreaders, etc. receive any money for their services. Numerous children of God give of their time each month to get the magazines distributed. All money received goes for typesetting, printing, packaging supplies, and postage.

Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Our financial burden is heavy right now. Will you help?

Sanctification

by Elder W. H. Durrence
Brooklet, Georgia

Sanctification is a subject about which there is much confusion, so it cannot be studied too frequently or probed too deeply. The subject is of such great significance that it appears in both the Old and New Testaments. The word **sanctification** denotes a spiritual concept which we shall consider from two perspectives. We must be careful in our division of Scripture with regard to it (2 Tim. 2:15). The Bible focuses predominantly on sanctification as a work of divine grace, declaring plainly that we are sanctified by God. The epistle of Jude is addressed to "...them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called..." (Jude 1). The other view of sanctification concerns man's duty. The Bible commands, "...Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Josh. 3:5). Both perspectives are supported by biblical teaching, yet it should be understood that they are not two parts of the whole. Some may regard sanctification as a work which is performed in part by God and in part by man, but it is not. The Bible does not teach that sanctification is a composite of two parts neither of which can stand alone. What God does to sanctify us is complete in itself and needs no assistance from man. While God is in no measure dependent upon us to perform **His** work of sanctification, we are altogether dependent upon Him to perform our duty. Without His work of grace, we would be powerless to perform the duties of sanctification which He has commanded; but if we are sanctified by God, we are then able to sanctify ourselves.

We need here to give a working definition of sanctification. Its root meaning seems to suggest a setting apart. The Bible speaks of the sanctification of both things and person. Sanctifica-

tion is the setting apart of something or someone to be holy. The word **sanctify** seems to be related to the word consecrate. The implication is that we are separated both **from** something and **unto** something. When the priests sanctified themselves (Ex. 19:22), they not only washed in the laver but also put on clothes of holy significance (Ex. 28:2). Thus as we are sanctified by God, we are saved from sin unto salvation and therefore from hell to heaven. When we sanctify our lives we not only cleanse our conduct of evil but we also replace it with good. By the example of God's sanctification which works salvation **in** us, we are thus taught to work **out** our own salvation (Phil. 2:12); this is personal sanctification. Both concepts carry the idea of holiness.

Look first at the divine aspect of the subject. This sanctification is a supernatural work. It is performed entirely by God - The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Paul said, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly..." (1 Thes. 5:23). As God is our source, Christ is the medium of our sanctification. In Hebrews 10:10, we read; "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Therefore sanctification is not merely something but is also Someone - Jesus (1 Cor. 1:30). The Holy Spirit also sanctifies us. Peter's first letter is addressed to the "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ..." (1 Peter 1:2). The Holy Spirit is the "agent" of our sanctification.

Since sanctification is a supernatural work of the Trinity, it is a perfect and lasting work. Nothing that God does will ever fail. God has set us apart from sin and unto holiness. It took a work of

divine grace to overcome the nature of sin and implant the nature of holiness. We are by nature sinners; therefore God had to divinely impart holiness. Since it is a perfect work, the elect are forever set apart as God's and none will finally be lost (John 6:39, 10:28).

Second, we must recognize that sanctification is a work that takes place not only for us but also within us. It involves the work of God the Father who elected us and thereby set us apart from the remainder of Adam's race. It also involves the work of redemption wrought by Jesus on the cross almost two thousand years ago.

Third, it involves the work of the Holy Ghost by which we are quickened into spiritual life. Yet sanctification is more than a mere combination of these three gracious works. We can be certain that it has its beginning in these divine actions, but sanctification is an ongoing experience which endures throughout life on earth. It is a work of free grace, whereby God has separated us from the reign of sin and unto Himself for service. It is a setting-apart from the world by a holy nature that is within us. It is by this holy seed that we become conscious of sin. Being sanctified does not mean that we live in sinless perfection but that we are aware of our imperfection. Sin does not die within the believer; he must still reckon with his mortal nature. Because of sanctification, the believer dies to sin and desires it no more.

Sanctification is a beautiful work. It not only makes us beautiful to God but makes God beautiful to us, for it glorifies Him. The beauty of sanctification has only begun here on earth, for when we are in heaven with God and are changed into complete perfection, then shall we manifest the full beauty of this glorious work of grace. Sancti-

fication and glorification are both ours. Sanctification is now; glorification is yet to come. Sanctification is the seed and glorification is the flower. All this is to the praise, honor, and glory of His grace!

Now let us look at sanctification from the viewpoint of man's responsibility .God has prepared us by grace through His work of sanctification; now we are to sanctify ourselves and our lives. Remember that God's work of sanctification is unaffected by our success or failures in this area, but our success is dependent entirely upon the work of God's grace. If He had not changed our hearts, we would be unable to change our lives or conduct.

Because God has sanctified us, we are taught by Him to sanctify ourselves. We are to set ourselves apart from the world's sinful ways and unto the holy ways of God. The negative side of this work is putting off the old man, but the positive side is putting on the new man "which after God is created in righ-

teousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:22-24). It is useless for us to put off the old unless we put on the new. If we remove the ways of this sinful world, we are to replace them with spiritual ways and the pursuit of holy interests.

It is with regard to our pursuit of holy living that we are said to be sanctified by the Word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The Scriptures are to serve as a mirror (James 1:23-25) into which we may gaze to see both what is wrong in our lives and also what is right in the sight of God. They also shed light upon the pathway of life (Ps. 119:105) so that we may see both the good and evil ways (Mt. 7:13-14). Once we know what is right or wrong, then we can begin to lay aside the old rags of sinful habits and pick up the new garments of godly practices and holy living. Exercising them one by one, we sanctify ourselves before God and our fellowman.

Only those who truly desire to serve

God will strive for personal sanctification. Such people are vessels of honor. Paul said, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Tim. 2:21). When God's children will cleanse themselves of all known sin, recognize the fact that they are to be filled with holy deeds, and endeavor to become more holy by performing good works, then they are sanctified (set apart) and meet (very useful) in the service of our Master. With a desire to sanctify ourselves, we have a holy vision of what we can become by the help and grace of God. God does not demand us to be rich, successful, or famous, but He does command us to be sanctified. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification... That everyone of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour... For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (1 Thess. 4:3, 4, 7).

Judical Tyrants

By Bro. Robert Varn
Jacksonville, FL

Leviticus 20:13 says, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

Just as I am writing this, the California Supreme Court has issued a ruling that says their state must have same sex marriage, even though a majority of Californians voted to ban same-sex marriage in the year 2000.

Not only are these judges saying that God's Word and the will of the people don't matter, but they are also re-writing the definition of marriage. Marriage is between one man and one woman, not

two men or two women.

Mark my words, it's only a matter of time before three people try to get married, or someone tries to marry an animal. I know this sounds sick, but it's true. More perverted rulings are coming.

This California ruling affects us all because it allows homosexuals from other states to go to California and take part in this mockery of marriage. It will only be a matter of time before someone sues under the full faith and credit clause of the United States to overturn other state bans on homosexual marriage.

We as Christians and Americans must

all work to elect Godly people to office so that we can stop this kind of Judicial abuse. I'm sick and tired of hearing other Christians say that no Christians should be allowed in politics. We are called to be salt and light, and one way to do that is to be involved in politics.

We must cry out to Almighty God to stop these Judicial tyrants, and we must call for their impeachment. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for the sin of homosexuality, and He will destroy the United States if we don't change. It is past time for Christians to go to work-let's go to work!!

The Church is... A Building

by Elder Greg Phillips
Chattanooga, Tennessee

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” (I Corinthians 3:9).

While we often call the meeting-house the church, we must understand that the church is a called out body of believers, people, who assemble in a particular house. Scriptures do, however, use the figure of a building to represent the Church so that we might better understand Jesus Christ’s relationship with His people.

In I Corinthians 3:9, Paul used two different figures, a husbandry (a cultivated field) and a building. Both belong to God. The husbandry is to bring forth fruit and the building is to be His dwelling place.

In his Epistle to the church at Ephesus, Paul also used the figure of God’s building to picture the church. “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 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” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

The picture here seems to be taken from the temple, where God dwelt among His people. “Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel” (I Kings 6:12-13). The temple was a house of great beauty, expense, and

sacredness. It was the sacred place where God dwelt on the earth; and the church is the place where he delights now to abide.

This building, the church, says Paul, is permanently founded, and was rising with great beauty, with great majesty and splendor. It is built upon a sure foundation. “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”

(Ephesians 2:20). The building plan, the principle on which the church was built, is the doctrine taught by the prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New. Following the resurrection of Jesus Christ, two of the disciples were walking the road to Emmaus when Jesus joined them, “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). The message of Moses, the prophets, and the apostles was the same, Jesus Christ. The word of God, given through the prophets and apostles, is the basis on which the church rests. Every doctrine and every principle of practice of the church is given in Scripture. Is complete and perfect and needs no addition or revision. That the traditions of men have no authority in the church, and constitute no part of the foundation. No articles of faith, creed, or confession is a part of the foundation. These may be valuable to the church to express its belief, but not to form it. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Jesus Christ is that “chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20), the connect-

ing medium, by which both Jews and Gentiles were united in the same building.

In laying the foundation of a great building, a large stone is generally placed at one of the angles or corners, which serves to form a part of the two walls which meet in that angle. The cornerstone is the true support of the foundation, because it is the binding-stone of the building, holding two walls together because it is built into both. In Christ, Jews and Gentiles both are made one, and the building is made complete. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (I Corinthians 12:13).

In Christ, “...all the building” is “.. fitly framed together...” (Ephesians 2:21). By the foundation corner stone, Christ Jesus, all the building, composed of converted Jews and Gentiles, is fitly framed together. Each component of the building is properly jointed and connected together. As a carpenter does the framework of a building, the materials are accurately and carefully united by mortises and tenons, so that the building shall solidly stand. Different materials may be used, and different kinds of timber may be employed, but each part is worked into another, to constitute a durable and beautiful structure.

In the building of the temple, every stone was hewn and squared, and its place in the building determined before it came to Jerusalem. “And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building” (1 Kings 6:7). It appears the

timbers were fitted in like manner. All was prepared beforehand so there was neither hammer, axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the building; nothing except mallets to drive the tenons into the mortises, and drive in the pins to fasten them, was necessary: therefore there was no noise and unnecessary commotion. In the church of Jesus Christ, every stone and timber, every member, must be prepared beforehand by the Holy Spirit. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). The church is a spiritual entity, made up of spiritual individuals. Unless one has been born of the Spirit of God, he can have no part in the church.

It is an absolute necessity that a child be born into the natural world before he can see its light, behold its beauty, and enjoy its good. Likewise, there is an absolute necessity that the soul should be brought out of its state of darkness and sin, through the light and power of the grace of Christ, before able to see, or to discern, the glories and beauties of the kingdom of Christ.

This building, the church, "...groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

It is, then, a growing structure. This building is not yet openly and visibly completed, as it will be. David in prophecy spoke as Christ and concerning His body when he said, "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalms 139:16). A skilful architect draws a plan before he builds the building. In this plan he will show every room and component of the building before any of them are framed and set up.

The church is complete in its doctrines; nothing is lacking. It is complete in its power, having the Holy Spirit in her midst. Our heavenly Father has chosen His elect family and none can be added to that number. In the expe-

rience of the saints, however, members are constantly being added to God's building.

The word "groweth" denotes the growth and increase, both of persons and grace, that the church has in and from the Lord Jesus Christ. "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:16-17). "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Unlike a building made of wood and stone, God's building is alive. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Living stones are laid on a living Foundation. The stones are alive to God through him, and are in union with Him and each other. These stones are of the same quarry, and are the same by nature as the rest of mankind. Only when they are "dug out" and separated from the quarry by the powerful and efficacious grace of God, hewn, and made fit for the spiritual building can they be compared to living stones. Because their life is derived from Christ and having His principle of life being implanted in them, and Him living in them, they fit into this spiritual building.

The building "...groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

It is set apart for holy uses, and internally sanctified by the Spirit of God; and which is to be manifested by external holiness of life in the members of it. Nothing is holy in itself, but anything becomes holy by its consecration to Him. A place where He manifests His presence is holy ground (Exodus 3:5). The tabernacle or temple in which His glory is revealed is a holy building (Exodus 28:29; II Chronicles 35:5); and all its sacrifices, ceremonial materials and utensils are also holy. The Sabbath is

holy because it is the Sabbath of the Lord (Ex 20:8-11). "Holiness, in short, expresses a relation, which consists negatively in separation from common use, and positively in dedication to the service of Yahweh" (Skinner).

God's building, the church, is "... builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22). It is God's dwelling place. God, the Holy Spirit dwells individually and personally in every born-again believer. "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?" (I Corinthians 6:19). Just as the living God dwelt in the tabernacle in the wilderness and in the temple of Solomon, so truly does the Holy Ghost dwell in genuine Christians. As the temple and all its utensils were holy, separated from all common and profane uses, and dedicated alone to the service of God, so the bodies of genuine Christians are holy, and all their members should be employed in the service of God alone. We are purchased by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We belong to God. We are bound, therefore, to devote ourselves, body, soul, and spirit, as He directs, to the glory of his name, and not to the pleasing of the flesh.

As well as dwelling in each believer, Jesus Christ dwells uniquely and manifestly in His Church assembled. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

In both the tabernacle and temple God dwelt between the cherubim. There He promised to meet and commune with His people, Israel. "And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel" (Exodus 25:22). According to the same model, the spiritual temple, the Christian Church, was constructed.

The presence of Jesus is the fixed center of the assembly, the reason for its coming together, and the power with which it acts. When the church, however small, is gathered in his name, Jesus is there first.

In my name means by my authority, acting for me in my church. It can also mean, for my service, assembled in obedience to my command, and with a desire to promote my glory. When two or three are assembled by his authority, depending on his assistance, calling upon his name, and seeking His glory, "there am I in the midst of them" Jesus says. He is there presiding over them, ruling in their hearts, directing their

counsels, assisting them in all they are concerned with, and blessing and success to all they are engaged in.

Christ promises a real, actual presence, though invisible. This presence is as real as when he appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, as real as when the Shechinah shone in tabernacle or temple.

Christians should carefully consider the solemnity and importance of the truth that God dwells among them and with them. They are under his constant care and protection. They belong to Him, and should therefore be separate from the world. "And what agreement

hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:16-18). It is God's will that his worshipers should be separate from the world, and that if they are thus separate he will receive them, and will accept them as his own children.

Grow in Knowledge

1. "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 _____ me."
2. "For the Lord shall comfort _____: he will comfort all her waste places, and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord;..."
3. "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and _____ shall be comforted in Jerusalem."
4. "This is my comfort in my _____: for thy word hath quickened me."
5. "Let, I pray thee, thy merciful _____ be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant."
6. "But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, _____, be of good comfort; they faith hath made thee whole..."
7. "For whatsoever things were _____ aforetime were written for our learning; that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
8. "Blessed be _____, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;"
9. "Then had the churches _____ throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."
10. "To _____ the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.
Psalm 121

Hills and Valleys

by Elder William M. Mullis
Waycross, Georgia

Though my Daddy was manager of Sherwin Williams Paint Store in Atlanta when I was born, and my mother was a housewife, the Lord brought about some major changes in their vocations by the time I was in the third grade which forever changed their lives and mine.

Daddy gave up his job and began the full-time ministry, and Mama started teaching school when I was in the third grade. We moved from a nice brick home in Atlanta to an old house in the small town of Yatesville, Georgia, population 365. At first, Mama really resented the drastic reduction in our lifestyle. But God blessed her to gradually become more reconciled to His will for our lives.

When I was in the ninth grade, the Lord led Daddy to accept the call to Glazener Church in Atlanta. Mama was glad to be going back to the big city. But this time, Julie (my sister) and I resented leaving a small town and all our friends to move to the Big City.

I was at the age where girls were pretty, but I was nervous around them. Then, Teresa (my future wife) invited me to her house for lunch one Sunday, and my heart fell in love completely. Though she was a little taller than me at that time, holding her hand made my heart beat faster than ever before.

After we had been dating about a year, we began talking about getting married. Of course, the date was far in the future, but we did talk a lot about it.

It was also about this time in my life that I began feeling burdened to preach. I never told anyone about my burden, but I began feeling like I should not marry Teresa because I did not want her to suffer like Mama did: moving all around, never really feeling like you have a home, and not being able to buy many things other people have.

My burden became heavier when Teresa and I would talk about getting married. I finally told her, crying, that there

was a problem about us getting married. She wanted to know what it was, but I told her I could not tell her. Then, she said, "If it's about you preaching, I already know about that; and that is no problem. As long as we're together, I'll be happy anywhere, even living in a tent."

My cup overflowed. My burden was lifted. I cried and cried, thanking God: for giving me a wife who was willing to follow His will wherever He led. Though we were only 17 years old, the Lord was binding us together in a special way. And for 43 years now, the Lord has kept us together.

I say He has kept us together because we had some difficult times when it looked like we were not going to make it. We married when we were 18 years old, having both completed one year of college. Though we were very close to God and to each other at that time, it was not long before I began to become very worldly. Teresa was working at the telephone company, and I started selling family portrait albums and pictures. I went to college in the daytime, and worked every afternoon and night. I became successful and had several salesmen working under me, and was making more money than anyone I knew. Though we drove from Carrollton to Atlanta every Sunday to church (which was 130 miles round trip), I was "proud" of myself. I looked down on most people. It seemed I did not care about anyone. Had it not been for the amazing grace of God, He would have destroyed my life during this period. If God had not blessed me with a good spiritual wife, our family would certainly have been destroyed.

When we had been married about 1½ years, the Lord blessed us to have a son, Marty. We were so happy and thankful. I can still remember the tremendous, overwhelming joy of having a

son. I knew I did not deserve him. I knew God was being gracious to me over and over. It was not like I was totally away from God. I was not. At times, I felt close to Him. On Sundays, in church, I often felt like the Lord was sending a message to me alone, convicting me and warning me.

When bad things would happen, I felt convicted it was because of my disobedience. The "Dr. Jeckel" and "Mr. Hyde" personalities shifted back and forth.

When I finished college, we bought a nice new tri-level brick home in a fancy sub-division in Macon. As regional manager of the picture album company, about all I did was meet with my salesmen, give motivational talks, and send them out to make money.

We were expecting Melissa. Teresa began having trouble carrying the baby, and was put to bed. My number-one salesman and district manager, as well as many salesmen, left to work for a competing company which offered them more money. As my world of fame and fortune began falling apart, I knew it was not "by chance" we were having "bad luck." A multitude of events made the handwriting on the wall very clear to me: it was basically the same message written on the wall to Belshazzar in Daniel 5:25-28: "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting... Thy kingdom is divided..." Like Nebuchadnezzar, I thought I had built a great kingdom "by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty." (Daniel 4:30). But also like Nebuchadnezzar, God woke me up, and let me know, "The kingdom is departed from thee."

Over a period of about a year, we had to sell all our antique furniture after depleting our savings. We sold everything we had of value, then the house, losing over \$10,000 cash we had in the house. It was a typical story from riches

to rags.

I left the business and started teaching school. We moved into a small duplex apartment. But God had done a real good job of getting my attention. The burden to preach had come and gone several times during those first four years we were married. At the peak of my material success, the call to preach was loud and clear. But I would not heed. I did regularly send money to a few preachers I loved and respected, feeling **that** would be a better contribution to the church than for me to preach myself.

When we lost everything, pride was gone, and the burden to preach was stronger than ever. But I did not want to enter the ministry as a pauper. I did not want to enter the ministry simply because I could not do anything better. I begged God to bless me to be successful in education, to lift me up again, and then I would preach.

The Lord did bless me abundantly in the field of education. I taught in an all black school. The students' education abilities were unbelievably low. I started going into the homes of all 90 of my students. The parents' educational background and living conditions were deplorable. The parents could not help their children with homework because their level of education was so low. Therefore, I started teaching the parents of my students at night. Monday through Thursday nights, I taught two different classes: One group came on Monday and Wednesday nights; the other on Tuesday and Thursday nights. I kept the parents a few days ahead of the children. Then the parents could help the children at home. After a few weeks, the newspaper published a feature story about what was going on. Then, the director of adult education came to see me and told me I could get paid for teaching those adults at night. Next, I was hired as assistant director of adult education over 9 counties; and in less than one year, the Lord blessed me to be director of adult education and chief examiner for the GED testing program. In a little over a year, our income

had quadrupled from what I was making as a classroom teacher.

Once again, the Lord burdened me about the call to preach. He reminded me of my promise that if He would bless me to be successful, I would then preach. He had performed many miracles during that 1½ year period. I knew daily He was the One bringing about my success. We drove each Sunday from Griffin to Thomaston to Church, and were very happy at Flint River. For the next four years, the Lord blessed us beyond measure, but He was periodically reminding me about preaching. Though the burden was tremendous at times, I could not seem to give up the success. Once again, Satan had me snared! By faith, Moses left Egypt and all the glory of Pharaoh's house. But I would not let go!

Over and over, God warned me, but I would not obey. Then, I opened a letter at my office one day which said the Federal Government would not be appropriating funds for the Adult Education Act. We would be out of a job and out of money when our present funds were spent. God once again put the handwriting on the wall for me.

I prayed, begged and pleaded, once again, for God to help me one more time, and then I promised I would preach. I began a major campaign for a seven-year extension of the Adult Education Act, and the Lord finally performed another miracle. Money was appropriated -- in fact, MORE than ever before!

Several more events and miracles later, I began speaking from God's Holy Word.

I kept on working full time in adult education, but would go to various churches supplying every Sunday. During my year as a licentiate, I went to numerous churches and enjoyed good liberty most of the time. One church called me to be their pastor, but I did not feel led to accept. I wondered if I was still running, but truly felt I would give up my job if I felt His leadership.

One Sunday, I went to Columbus to supply. Of all the places I supplied, it was the only one I told Teresa I would

never go back to again. About six weeks later, they called me to be their pastor. At first, I literally laughed. But within an hour, I began feeling sick because I began feeling strongly THAT was the Lord's will. After much fasting and praying, I knew we would be moving to Columbus.

When I went to my boss to resign, he told me I was crazy to be leaving my position to be a Primitive Baptist preacher. He told me they were dying out rapidly. He told me I could go there and preach, but keep my job. We were good friends. He was like a father to me. He had helped me in so many ways for five years. When he knew there was no alternative solution, he told me if ever I needed a job, the door would always be open.

As a pastor, though our income was less than half what it had been, God was providing all we needed. We had to make some major adjustments, but we had some extra income from the house we sold when we moved to Columbus.

We moved to Columbus in July 1974, with our three children, including Michael who was only two months old. One month later, while Teresa had Michael at the doctor's office for his standard three-month check-up, he had a seizure and stopped breathing. He was admitted to pediatric ICU for tests and observation. They found nothing wrong, so we took him home after a few days. The next nine months were extremely difficult. Michael would be fine for several days, even a couple of weeks, then have another seizure, stop breathing, and almost died several times. We carried him to the best of doctors at Emory and Eggleston Hospitals in Atlanta, and Shands Teaching Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. Though they knew the part of the brain that would affect him that way, they could find no cause for the seizures. For a while, I held him on my chest during the night in case he quit breathing. The doctors told us his seizures would not occur during the night; but three days before his first birthday, it happened during the night, and he was dead the next morning.

Without God's help, I do not believe parents can survive the death of a child they love. But God held us up. His grace is sufficient! Though it has been 33 years since Michael's death, occasionally I have a day when I cannot get Michael off my mind, and I cry uncontrollably. When those times of overwhelming grief come, I want to be alone to cry all want to without anyone saying he's better off, or he's with the Lord, or anything else I know is true. I just want to cry on God's shoulder because He is the only One who knows how I feel.

The members of the church in Columbus, and all our friends were wonderful to us during Michael's sickness and death. The Lord blessed the church in Columbus with a great revival, and we had numerous mountain-top experiences, even during times when we passed through the valley of the shadow of death.

About a year after Michael's death, the Lord added a new member to our family -- Marie. Just as each of our other three children had been a special blessing from the Lord, so was Marie.

Shortly after Marie was born, I had to have an emergency surgery because of a ruptured colon due to diverticulitis. The Lord performed many miracles in sparing my life. Though I was unconscious for most of two weeks, my dear wife and parents stayed by my side. Peritonitis, blood poisoning, gangrene, a bleeding ulcer, and other complications caused many anxious days. But God spared my life and brought me through three more operations over the next two years. I learned to live with a colostomy. Because of Michael's death and my near death experiences, I learned first-hand about the brevity of life; it changes the way we act every day. My problem is that sometimes I forget the lesson I learned.

During our experiences with Michael and my own operations, hospital and doctor bills were unbelievable. The Lord provided over and over. Sometimes, doctors would greatly reduce their charges: such as Dr. Hazouri, who reduced his bill from \$2,572.00 to \$72.00

The same kind of mercy was extended by many doctors. Churches and individuals repeatedly helped bear our financial burdens. Thousands of dollars were given. Much was given to us anonymously. One Sunday, as I stepped up to the pulpit, there was an envelope which I thought was a card of thanks someone wanted me to read to the church. Inside were several 100 dollar bills. No note! No way to identify the giver, except to remind us that every gift really comes from God.

A few weeks later, I was worrying about all the bills. I had tried to pray, but finally decided I would start back teaching until we could payoff some of the bills. I called a man I knew about a job, but he was not in his office that morning. That very day, I went to the mailbox and found a deposit slip from our bank where \$1,000 had been deposited to our account. When I called to see if a mistake had been made, the lady told me a person came in and told them to deposit the money into my account anonymously. Incidents like that, over and over, helped keep me assured of God's care for us, and that it was His will that I continue being full-time in the ministry.

The Lord has been so good to me and my family! Many times while I was pastoring the church in Columbus, I would tell my family that Columbus was probably the best church we would ever be in. I wanted us to all enjoy every day and realize the blessings He was bestowing upon us. After pastoring the church in Columbus for six years, the Lord led me to give up the church. I was called to several churches, but only had a feeling for two. The few weeks I was in indecision about where to move next were very trying days. I fasted and prayed. I called another minister, and we fasted and prayed together, and talked all day. But I just did not seem to get a definite leadership or answer from the Lord. One day I felt led one way, but the next day I felt led another way. I kept praying, until finally one morning about 6:00, the Lord let me know unmistakably we were to move to Waycross. I was so happy to

finally KNOW beyond doubt what God would have me do.

During my first year in Waycross, there were two major events where the hand of the Lord was manifested in a special way. First, I was preaching a meeting in Ocilla, Georgia, and several members from Waycross were there visiting. Toward the end of the sermon, it felt like an explosion occurred in my head, and it felt like a sledge hammer hit me in the back of my head. Some of the men carried me to the Ocilla hospital, and an ambulance took me to Tifton. Later I went to a neurosurgeon in Columbus who ran tests and said a blood vessel had ruptured at the base of my head, but had sealed itself off and was not bleeding any more. Once again, God spared my life. The other major event was being led to start this religious magazine, THE TRUMPET OF TRUTH.

For 28 years now, the Lord has been blessing our family here in Waycross. We thought we could never be as happy as we were in Columbus. But we have been even happier! **Waycross** has been HOME for our children. We thank God for blessing us to live here **so long**. I never even hoped I would live in one town for so long as a preacher. The song writer said, "Anywhere is home, if Christ my Lord is there." The Lord has been here with us! Though I fall short in many ways, I am thankful the Lord is still blessing us in the church to love one another and be charitable while we try to earnestly contend for the faith.

The word of God describes Canaan land as a land of hills and valleys (see Deuteronomy 11:11). Even so it is in our journey through life. We have our "ups and downs," our good times and bad. But we are wonderfully blessed to be able to say with David, "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). From my experiences of hills and valleys, highs and lows, I know we can be happy and content in whatever state we are in, if we can just feel His presence with us.

"He Holdeth His Integrity"

by Elder Philip Nichols
Blackshear, Georgia

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and **still he holdeth fast his integrity** although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." (Job 2:3).

Integrity is a very important characteristic. A person with integrity is one that is trustworthy; one that is upright and of moral wholeness and soundness. God described Job as a perfect and upright man, one that feared God and eschewed or avoided evil, and one that **held fast to his integrity**.

In the first two chapters of Job, the Bible tells us of Job. Job, a wealthy man, had seven sons and three daughters and many servants. Job also had many sheep, camels, oxen and she asses. In Job 1 :3, it is said that Job was the greatest of all men of the east. One day, all of Job's children gathered together at his eldest son's house for a feast. During this feast, Job, in fear that his sons had sinned and cursed God, rose early in the morning to offer burnt offerings "according to the number of them all". Job had much love for his children.

In Job 1:8-12, we find God talking to Satan about Job's uprightness. Satan responded by saying, "Doth Job fear God for nought?". Satan went on to say to God, "Haven't you put a hedge about him and everything he owns? Haven't you blessed him in everything that he does? Job will curse you to your face if you remove all that he has?" God allowed Satan to take Job's animals, servants and his children away. Job lost all! What was his response? In verse 21 of chapter 1, Job stated "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away;

blessed be the name of the Lord." In verse 20 of the same chapter it is said of Job that he fell down on the ground and worshipped.

Satan, returning from tempting Job, presented himself again before the Lord. The Lord again asked Satan about Job. In all that Satan had done to Job, Job still had not cursed God. **He still retained his integrity!**

Satan said, "Well, if you afflict him and take away his health, he will curse you to your face!" The Lord allowed Satan then to afflict Job, yet he could not take his life. Satan left God's presence and smote Job with boils from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape the sores. Satan even used Job's wife to bring him even lower as she responded, "...Dost thou still **retain thine integrity?** curse God, and die." Did Job still retain his integrity after he lost his health? Yes! Job 2: 10 states "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

It has been said many times "Oh, if I just have my health, I'll be happy; I'll be okay." Satan wants us to get mad and curse God when trouble comes our way. God's children will respond in two ways when afflicted with trouble: we will accept God's will and deal with the trial of faith, or we will become angry at God. The choice is ours. Job was not a supernatural man. His flesh was as weak as ours is. Job could have easily cursed. We should take Job's example to earth and follow it when trials come our way.

Let's look briefly at other examples of those who kept their integrity despite their trouble. In the book of Genesis, chapters 37-50, we find a life

full of problems with Joseph. Joseph never lost his integrity despite the fact that he was sold into slavery by his brothers, put into prison for an accusation that was not true, and then had to stay in prison two years longer than he should because he was forgotten by the butler who promised to help him get out. When He was finally released from prison and placed in authority over Egypt (second only to Pharaoh), he came in contact with his brothers again. Joseph could have lost his integrity and blasted his brothers with his mouth. Joseph easily could have had them killed. Did he? No, he didn't. In Genesis 50:20, we find what Joseph said unto his brothers. He stated "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

In Daniel chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow unto the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar set up. When threatened with being thrown into the fiery furnace, did the three lose their integrity? Did they say unto the king "Well, in that case let us go bow to your idol." No, they didn't. They said in verse 17-18, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us... But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego retained their integrity and were thrown into the fiery furnace. God protected them and they were not hurt by the fire.

In Daniel 6, the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel. When they couldn't find fault against him, they went to King Darius and flattered him into signing a decree that forbid anyone from asking a pe-

tition of any God or man except himself for thirty days. If anyone did, they would be thrown into a den of lions. When Daniel heard of the decree, did he vow to wait out the thirty days before he would pray again? Or did he think to himself "Well, I'll just pray in secret for the next thirty days so I won't get into any trouble." No, he didn't. Verse 10 states that "...he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks, before his God, as he did aforetime." **Daniel kept his integrity** and was thrown in the den of lions.

God protected Daniel and he was not hurt by the lions. Sometimes instead of integrity, we are full of iniquity. Iniquity, being wickedness, is the complete opposite of integrity. We might say, "Well, I'm not that bad of a person.", but as in Psalm 66:18 states, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." If we entertain any wrong thoughts in our hearts or minds, we have iniquity in us and God will not hear our prayers. We were born into iniquity. David said in Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." God has saved us by His grace. Eternally we are His because of what He did on the cross of Calvary. However, we still must deal with our iniquity our sins while we live on this side of glory. We, as God's children, should strive daily for perfection (spiritual maturity). Remember, Job was considered to be a upright and perfect man. II Timothy 3:16-17 states, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Even though we can't reach complete perfection in our mortal bodies, we can reach a state pleasing to God. Yes, we are still sinners and we fail God daily, but as Romans 8: 1 states, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after

the flesh, but after the Spirit." Notice the requirement for no condemnation: it is for those who walk after or follow the Spirit. I John 1:7 states, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Let's look at a couple of examples of those who lost their integrity. In I Samuel 9, we find an example of a young man called Saul. Saul was a choice young man according to verse 2. There was not a godlier person among Israel than Saul. During Saul's younger years, Israel was rebellious and became jealous of other countries that had kings. They demanded to the prophet Samuel that he should appoint a king. God chose Saul to become the first king of Israel. In Saul's anointing, he showed humility and self control. He started out looking to God for guidance. He had integrity. However, we find in I Samuel 13 that Saul began to look to himself and to disobey God. In Chapter 15, the Lord through Samuel, told Saul to go and smite Amalek. He was to utterly destroy everything -men, women, children and animal. Yet, Saul did not harken to the word of the Lord, and he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive. He also saved the best of the sheep, oxen, fatlings, lambs and all that was good. Verse 10-11 states, "Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments...". When Samuel approached Saul the next morning, Saul lied by saying, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord". Samuel heard to sheep bleating and the oxen lowing and asked Saul about them. Saul immediately blamed his people because they wanted to sacrifice the animals unto the Lord. Samuel responded by saying "**Behold to obey is better than sacrifice...**". **Saul had lost his integrity!** Saul repented for a very short time, but he seemed to go down hill from there. He became bitter with jeal-

ousy and hatred particularly toward God's next chosen king, David. Saul wanted David dead, yet God protected David. Toward the end of Saul's life, He turned to sorcery. Saul never really regained his integrity again as he ended his life in suicide. His life ended in misery. The other example we will look at is the apostle Peter. In Mark 14:27-31, Jesus was telling his disciples that they all would be offended because of Him that very night. This was the night where Jesus was taken from the garden in Gethsemane and eventually led to Golgotha to die on the cross. Peter stated in verse 29, "Although all shall be offended, yet will not I." Peter had **integrity**. Peter, a fisherman by trade, left everything and followed Christ. Peter thought he would never forsake the Lord. He thought he would die for the Lord. Yet, here Jesus was telling Peter that that night he would deny Him, not once but three times before a rooster crowed. Peter again told Jesus, "If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise." After Christ was taken by the officers of the chief priests and Pharisees and led to the palace of the high priest, Peter followed from afar. In Matthew's account (Matthew 26:69-75), we find that Peter was first approached by a damsel. She said to Peter, "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee;" but he lied and said, "I know not what thou sayest." Once again, another maid saw him and said unto those about, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." Peter denied the Lord this time with an oath. Again, one of those around Peter said, "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee." Peter began to curse and to swear saying, "I know not the man." Immediately the rooster crowed. **Peter lost his integrity**. Peter not only denied the lord, but did so with cursing. Peter went out from the building and wept bitterly.

There are many blessings for retaining our integrity, just as there are sorrows for losing it. Proverbs 11:3 states, "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of trans-

gressors shall destroy them.” What kind of response did King Nebuchadnezzar have after he saw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and a fourth man like the Son of God walking in the fire, unbound and unharmed by the fire? He blessed the God of these three righteous men, and made a decree to every people, nation and language that no one should speak amiss against their God. King Darius made a similar decree when Daniel survived the den of lions without so much as a scratch. Not only will integrity guide us, but it will also affect others. Other people are watching us in our responses to problems. Many times we never know who or when someone is watching, so it is important that we retain our integrity and respond as Christ would. God shall guide us and be with us when we respond in a godly way, no matter what

the problem may be. It is also crucial to remember that integrity can be regained if lost. Even though we sometimes feel that we fail God miserably such as Peter did after denying the Lord, God is gracious. He is a forgiving God. In Mark 16:17, an angel of the Lord tells Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, as they looked into the empty sepulchre, to go tell his disciples **and Peter** that they would see Jesus in Galilee. Though Peter denied the Lord, Christ loved and forgave him. **Peter regained his integrity** and was a great servant of the Lord. I John 1:9 states, “**If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Life is miserable when it is full of iniquity not feeling God’s forgiveness. Life doesn’t have to be miserable. It is up to us whether we have **a life full of**

iniquity, or one of integrity!

We can retain our integrity and enjoy the blessings of our Lord. James 5:11 tells us, “We count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” Job in the end was blessed with twice as much as he had in the beginning. Job retained his integrity. God help us to be as Habakkuk when he said, “Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation”. (Habakkuk 3: 17-18). It we lose it all, may we as God’s children, retain our integrity and rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ!

A Letter to My Friends

Dear Friends,

“How do you do?” That is what my grandpa used to ask me every time he saw me. After spending a little time with me, he usually let me know what I should be doing different, or what I could be doing better. I knew while growing up that nearly every time I saw either one of my Grandfathers that I would be told a better way to do the task I was working on, or a more appropriate way to behave myself. That was rough on my self-confidence. (On second thought, maybe it just kept me from displaying my ignorance.)

Guess what I started to do as I grew older? I would try to anticipate the way they would have me complete a task. I would try not to repeat the sequence of events that had caused me to be reprimanded on my previous visits. By the time I was a teenager, they were, with few exceptions, pleased with the way I handled myself. They started

to indicate that they respected my opinions and my work ethic. When I realized that I had impressed them, I gained the self-confidence that I had lacked just a short time before.

Many of the young people I see out in public these days look and act like they could benefit from some time with papa. They didn’t gain self-confidence by learning and earning. It was handed to them so as not to hurt their feelings. As an adult, I have seen people’s lives shattered when they realized that some people wouldn’t bend over backwards to make them feel good about themselves. Also, I’ve also seen lives changed when people came to the realization that people were just propping them up to avoid hurting their feelings.

I’m sharing this with you because this topic has many implications depending on your station in life. The young folks reading this can benefit by

paying attention to the old-timers who are trying to steer them in the right direction. Most of us aren’t giving you a hard time just for the fun of it. We honestly want to see you improve your situation. The old-timers need to take the time to explain the better ways of doing things to the younger generation. And we all need to look to the Author of Truth and realize that we have a God! He is an even better guide than our grandfathers. The fact that my Grandfathers had any goodness in them and were able to use it to mold me into a better citizen, was only through God’s grace.

So, “How do you do?” Think about it. It may just inspire you to place your confidence in God, be worthy of others’ confidence, and be an honest guide to those who need some direction.

Sincerely,
Uncle Neal

The Bible and Economics

By Bro. Milton Allison Brown (89 years old)
Culloden, GA

“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should they eat” (II Thessalonians 3:10). Many view labor as a curse on their life because of the fall of Adam. Before sin ever touched this Earth, God commanded Adam to tend the Garden. “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

God created us to have meaningful employment and to earn our keep. This principle doesn't refer to a person unable to work. The Eighth Commandment “Thou shalt not steal” makes it clear that we can own property, ruling out certain economic systems such as communism. In fact, I believe free enterprise is a Biblical principle. This was especially true in America where free enterprise has its reign.

When I was 10 years old, the Great Depression hit our country and all the banks went broke. We lost all the money my family had. My Daddy lost his job as the Road Superintendent for Lamar County because they couldn't pay him. We had to move back to the farm where I live now. I will never forget when Daddy told Mama we had to go back to the farm. She said, “Don't worry, the Lord will take care of us.” We have never been without food, clothing, or shelter. Paul tells us, “My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ.” God gives us another promise. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will

not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

We moved back to the farm, and the house was in such bad shape the roof would leak when it rained. We had to put all the pans we had under the leaks to catch the water. We sold the house in Barnesville, and bought dairy cows. There were several old houses on the farm. We took one and made it into a milking barn. The other houses we let our help use. One family helped with the milking and one share-cropped. The other family helped with the daily chores such as hoeing the cotton, washing clothes, and cooking the daily meals. Mama fed the day laborers as well as her family. While hoeing cotton, Mama would sing, “Leave one and two stalks don't talk--come on fast--don't leave no grass.” And the help would sing gospel songs while they worked. They were happy in their work. Milk helpers were paid \$8.00 per week, while day laborers were paid 40 cents per day to hoe cotton. The clothes were washed once a week for 50 cents. There was no such thing as welfare. Everybody had to work, or not eat.

On Sunday, everybody went to church. When I was little, we would ride in our horse-drawn buggy. When it was cold, we wrapped up in a buggy robe, and Mama wrapped hot bricks in newspaper to warm our feet. Even when we got our first car, it didn't have any windows, just side curtains. We still used the buggy robe and hot bricks to stay warm. My Daddy would use

his hat to take up collection out in front of the church, and then he would give all the money to the preacher. Brother John Glenn Pierson used to say during collection time, “Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” There were no financial records or books kept. When anything needed to be done, the members and the deacons took care of it.

When I was ordained a Deacon, Brother Thomas read part of the sixth chapter of Acts to me. “Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, “It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:2-3).

Notice that the 2nd verse says “tables”-plural. To me, these tables include taking care of the preacher and his needs such as paying his rent and utilities, taking care of church repairs and grounds maintenance, serving the members during communion, as well as taking care of widows, etc.

But in this century, we have turned from these Biblical principles and have created in our nation “Social Justice,” in another word, Welfare. Public Welfare is neither just nor charitable, because it takes money from one person and gives it to another. I challenge you to apply Biblical Economics in your life, and to cultivate responsible work ethics.

We cannot serve God and mammon, but we can serve God with mammon.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1

Pride

by Bro. Clay Gill
Patterson, Georgia

I have picked up this pen in an attempt to write a reflection of truth from God's word. I find myself writing a few lines, then tearing the page from my tablet and throwing it away to start over again. After many attempts, I end up laying my tablet aside so that I can do more studying. I think to myself that the problem is that I need to read more about the subject that is on my heart. But as I sit here tonight, I feel that God has revealed to me my problem. I have been sitting here attempting to write thinking that I have something to say to God's people through an article for The Trumpet of Truth. The truth hurts my pride because the truth is I have nothing to say. There are no words I can put together to convey God's truth. Understanding God's truth comes by inspiration from God and I realize that I have nothing to say. There is one little word in that last sentence that is the most important, "I." I have nothing to say, but God's word does. So let me go back to the very first sentence of this letter and rephrase it so that it reflects the truth, "Pride has picked up this pen in an attempt to write a reflection of truth from God's word." Pride has been my motive. You see, the Scripture that is on my heart is 2 Timothy 2:3,4. It reads:

"Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No

man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

My writing is an attempt to exposit this passage of Scripture. However, I have been so busy being the expositor that the inspiration to exposit this Scripture hasn't come. I have been entangled with "pride." Only when I disentangle myself and seek first to please Him who hath chosen me to be a soldier will the inspiration ever come.

I think back to the Jews of the Old Testament and the pride they had. They offered sacrifices to the Lord as an atonement for their sin. Their pride taught them that the sacrifice was enough, but God requires much more simple yet great faith. For He tells us in the Psalms that the sacrifices he requires from us are not the finest lambs or fattest bulls. He says in Psalm 50:13,14: "Will I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? Offer unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows to the Most High." God didn't accept the sacrifice itself as the atonement. He accepted the thankful heart in that act of obedience as the true sacrifice. He accepts "a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart. (Psalm 51:17)" That is the sacrifice that he requires from us – a broken spirit.

My original attempt at 2 Timothy 2:3,4 was to say that entangling yourself with the affairs of this world was about getting caught up in the culture of today, financial bondage, sins of lust, or even the busyness that today's life seems to demand. And I still think that these things entangle us. But, I have come to realize that for me, I am deeply entangled with pride. Read a little further with me in 2 Timothy 2:11, "It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him." I read this passage asking myself what does it mean to be dead with Christ, and then it hit me, Christ was dead to the "self" long before He died on the cross. He never came into the world to fulfill His own will. He gave up His "self" so that He could fulfill His Father's will. To be dead with Christ means dying to my "self" so that I can be obedient to fulfilling Christ's will. Pride entangles us more than anything (the pride of the eyes and the lust of the flesh) and keeps us from being a good soldier of Christ. So, with my pen in hand, I pray that the word of God itself helps you see the truth contained in 2 Timothy 2:3,4. The affairs of this life that entangle us is anything that keeps you and me from offering Christ the sacrifice that he deserves and requires: "a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart."

Answers to Grow In Knowledge

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Comfort - Psalm 23:4 | 6. Daughter - Matthew 9:22 |
| 2. Zion - Isaiah 51:3 | 7. Written - Romans 15:4 |
| 3. Ye - Isaiah 66:13 | 8. God - II Corinthians 1:3 |
| 4. Affliction - Psalm 119:50 | 9. Rest - Acts 9:31 |
| 5. Kindness - Psalm 119:76 | 10. Proclaim - Isaiah 61:2 |

Bible Reading Calendar for July

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Job 19, 20	Acts 9:23-43
2	Job 21, 22	Acts 10:1-23
3	Job 23, 24, 25	Acts 10:24-48
4	Job 26, 27, 28	Acts 11
5	Job 29, 30	Acts 12
6	Job 31, 32	Acts 13:1-23
7	Job 33, 34	Acts 13:24-52
8	Job 35, 36, 37	Acts 14
9	Job 38, 39	Acts 15:1-21
10	Job 40, 41, 42	Acts 15:22-41
11	Psalms 1, 2, 3	Acts 16:1-15
12	Psalms 4, 5, 6	Acts 16:16-40
13	Psalms 7, 8, 9	Acts 17:1-15
14	Psalms 10, 11, 12	Acts 17:16-34
15	Psalms 13-16	Acts 18

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Psalms 17, 18	Acts 19:1-20
17	Psalms 19, 20, 21	Acts 19:21-41
18	Psalms 22, 23, 24	Acts 20:1-16
19	Psalms 25, 26, 27	Acts 20:17-38
20	Psalms 28, 29, 30	Acts 21:1-14
21	Psalms 31, 32, 33	Acts 21:15-40
22	Psalms 34, 35	Acts 22
23	Psalms 36, 37	Acts 23:1-11
24	Psalms 38, 39, 40	Acts 23:12-35
25	Psalms 41, 42, 43	Acts 24
26	Psalms 44, 45, 46	Acts 25
27	Psalms 47, 48, 49	Acts 26
28	Psalms 50, 51, 52	Acts 27:1-25
29	Psalms 53, 54, 55	Acts 27:26-44
30	Psalms 56, 57, 58	Acts 28:1-15
31	Psalms 59, 60, 61	Acts 28:16-31

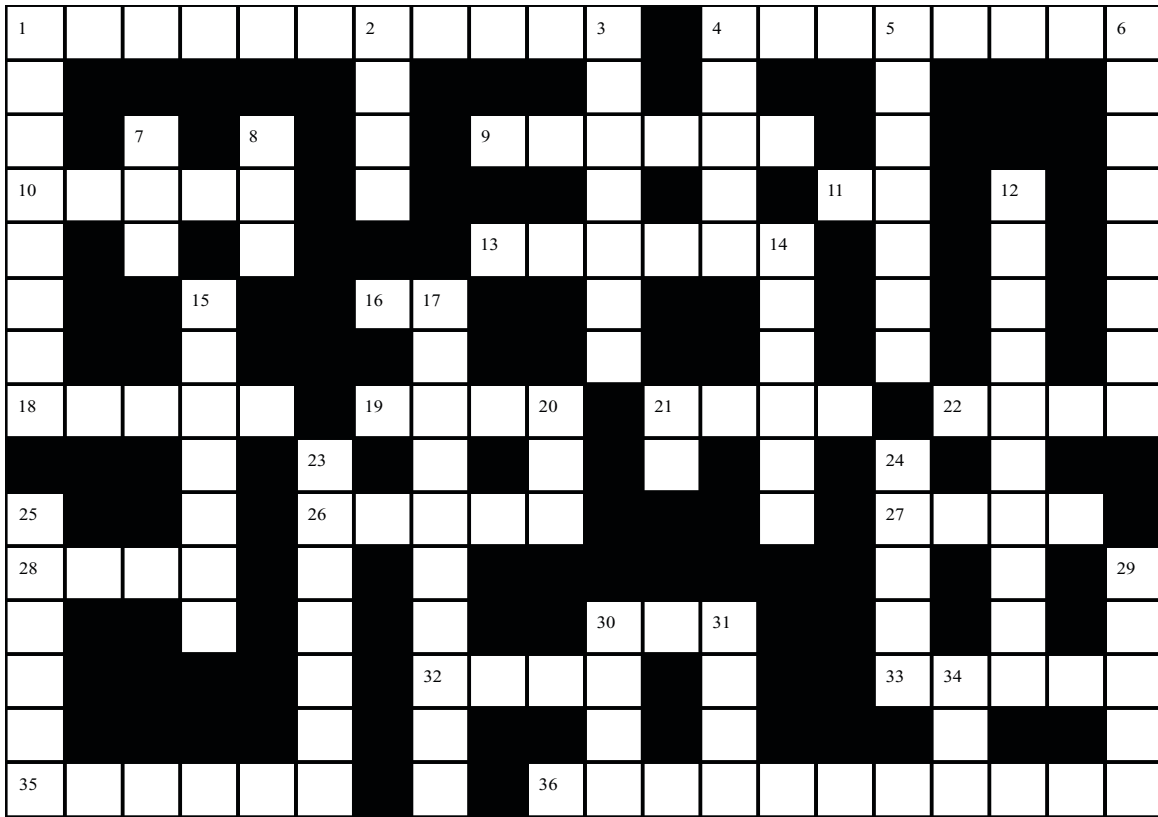
**ANSWERS TO
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE VOLUME
????? JUNE
2008**

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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "But _____, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" 4. "To be _____, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." 9. "Husbands, love your wives, and be not _____ against them." 10. "But put forth thine hand now, and _____ all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." 11. "So ought men to love their wives _____ their own bodies..." 13. "For it please the Father that in him _____ all fullness dwell" 16. "The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth _____: what lack I yet?" 18. "And if they will _____ anything, let them ask their husbands at home:..." 19., "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us _____ all unrighteousness." 21. "Then Satan answered the Lord, and _____, doth Job fear God for nought?" 22. "For the husband is the _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:..." 26. "If we suffer, we shall also _____ with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:" 27. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth _____?" 28. 'Whose adorning let it' not be that outward adorning of plaiting the _____, and the wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;" 30., " _____ now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator,... with such an one no not to eat." 32. 'Husbands, _____ your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" 33. "For no man ever yet _____ his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." 35. "But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that _____ person." 36. "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the _____."



DOWN

1. "It is a _____ saying; For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:" 2. "For what have I to do to judge them -that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?" 3. "For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the _____." 4. "Likewise, ye husbands, _____ with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, ..." 5. "And he is before all things, and by him all things _____." 6. "His substance also was seven _____ sheep, and three thousand camels, ...so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east." 7. "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall _____ away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery:..." 8. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold all that he hath is in _____ power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand " 12. "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not _____: but rather giving of thanks." 14. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath _____ the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 15. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the _____ and admonition of the Lord." 17. "Nevertheless let every one of you in _____ so love his wife even as himself;..." 20. "Young _____ likewise exhort to be sober minded." 21. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, _____ let the wives be to thine own husbands in everything." 23. "For by him were all things _____, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,..." 24. "That they may _____ the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," 25. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the _____ of death, I will fear no evil. ..." 29. "Hast not thou made an _____ about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?..." 30. "I will therefore that the younger women marry, _____ children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." 31. "For the _____ is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:..." 34. "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they _____ commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law ."