

Definite Sign Posts of The End

Gene Hawkins

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Dan. 12:4

It is quite apparent in reading some of the prophetic material written by Bro. A.S. Copley and Sis. Mary Bodie, that they most assuredly thought the coming of The Lord was imminent even back in the 1930's. They were witnessing first hand, the tremendous cruelty and barbaric intentions of a man such as Hitler who evidenced many characteristics like unto the anti-christ in his endeavor to destroy the Jews and rule the world. History, however, has revealed that one great element of end time prophecy was missing in their day. Daniel is told in the latter part of our opening text to “...shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end:” meaning that the fulfillment of the visions he has seen in this book are reserved for a much later time. He is then told that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” These two statements seem to be directly linked together and we can easily see their fulfillment as this present world is literally “running to and fro,” clamoring for knowledge. Men are told today that such knowledge is the “way out” of all their difficulties, that education will eventually eradicate all the ills of this world. Young people are encouraged, almost forced, to take out student loans to learn things they may never use. Many are left with “mountains” of debt, and sadly no prospects of jobs in the fields wherein they have been educated.

Despite these facts, history does verify Daniel's prophecy, as knowledge has increased in every sector of life, and the pattern continues, as a witness of this “time of the end.” Our “modern” world is in direct contrast to that of previous generations. My own father was born in 1911 and spent 90 long and productive years on this earth. He witnessed extreme changes as the era of the Model T gave way to supersonic jets and man landing on the moon. He owned a battery powered, “tuning eye” wireless radio that was later replaced by a black

and white T.V. Still later he was able to substitute monochrome pictures for images in living color. He enjoyed the use of the telephone and obtained the “latest technology” of the CB radio, but Dad knew little to nothing of the cell phone, blackberry, I-pod, the computer, fax machine or the superhighway of the internet, things which are, now “staples” in our present society, and that is just the “tip of the iceberg” in regard to the knowledge that is astronomically increasing almost daily. Such knowledge is not necessarily a good thing, for much evil has been introduced into our world because of it. The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima delivered horrendous devastation, but it is today an antiquated weapon when compared to the modern nuclear arsenals being developed by a variety of nations. Most recently, both North Korea and Iran have been in the news because both of them are believed to present tremendous nuclear threats to their immediate neighbors as well as the rest of the world. Much negotiation is being implemented today because this destructive “knowledge” and ability is perceived to be in the hands of such rogue nations.

Electronic technology, in one form or another, probably represents the most comprehensive example of Daniel’s prophesied knowledge. The 9/11 attacks on the United States prompted The Patriot Act Legislation which gave the U.S. government power “to eavesdrop on or to monitor electronic communications, such as telephone calls and e-mail, and also made it easier for law enforcement authorities to listen to a suspect who was using multiple phones by authorizing “roving” wiretaps.” It’s intent was to “gather intelligence on the activities of foreigners or of foreign governments within the United States.” Though there has been much controversy regarding the Patriot Act, as some greatly feared invading the privacy of private citizens, the fact still remains that such technology exists. The same technology has already been used in identity theft and private citizens are constantly warned and instructed as to how to protect themselves. The internet, which has become a tremendous tool in gaining knowledge of any kind, has also proven to put countless thousands at risk as

various predators use it to “stalk” and make contact with their victims.

Another example of unbelievable knowledge is found in the medical field. Heart, liver, lung, and other transplants have almost become commonplace. Artificial knees and hips are practically a routine procedure. Surgeries, which just a few short years ago demanded a lengthy hospital stay, are now done “arthroscopically” on an “outpatient basis, and “nuclear” tests which enable doctors to examine and take 3D pictures of every organ in the body, are unbelievably revealing. Pregnant mothers can “see” their babies long before they are born because of ultra sound techniques. Many of God’s people have indeed benefited from these tremendous accomplishments. However, as noted above, such knowledge also produces tremendous evil, as for example, “body parts” are literally “harvested” and sold illegally around the world. Stem cell research is touted to hold the answers for curing a great number of diseases, including cancer and Parkinson’s disease, but some are in a moral dilemma as to how to obtain those stem cells. Modern medical achievement has also, in recent years, produced accomplishments that surely do bespeak man’s total independence of God. “Dolly (the sheep) became the first mammal clone when she was born on 5 July 1996. She was revealed to the public the following year,” and died at the age of six. It has long been feared by many that such “cloning” would eventually include people, and given the history of man who seems to be intent on “living forever” that fear is by no means unfounded.

Yet for all these startling accomplishments, fulfillment, satisfaction, and certainly righteousness, have eluded mankind. Instead, his “wisdom has produced exactly the same thing reported by Solomon. “And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.” Eccl. 1:13-14. God has most assuredly given man his “wisdom,” or knowledge, but Solomon’s experiments with it brought “sore travail”, that is browbeating, or self-abasement.

Solomon further indicates that men are to be “exercised therewith,” meaning that this knowledge, though given by God, will bring great affliction, and it has proven to be so. The aforementioned medical discoveries are nothing less than astounding but though they have prolonged life, various maladies have been the direct results of a great many medicines. When death would have provided a release, certain wonder drugs and machines have prolonged pain and suffering.

The context of Daniel’s prophecy indicates that knowledge is allied with wickedness and God Himself indicated that connection while Adam was yet in the Garden of Eden. “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:” Gen. 3:22. We have often noted that God did not finish this sentence, as though He could not bear the thought of man partaking of the tree of life and living in his sin forever, but the inference also appears to indicate that if man were to achieve an unlimited lifetime, there would be no restraint to his knowledge. This thought is reinforced by His declaration just prior to the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel. “And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.” Gen. 11:6 Genesis 6:5 likewise connects man’s knowledge with his wickedness. “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” We have wondered, in view of the scientific developments regarding “cloning” and other “imagination” in the hearts of men, how far God will allow these endeavors to go, before He once again stops them as He did in these instances. We have also wondered, because of the simplicity of the Kingdom Age described by Isaiah, if any of the modern technology enjoyed around the world today is going to find its way into the Millennium, after the massive destruction inflicted by the great tribulation. Peter plainly tells us that the “the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” II Pet. 3:10 Such massive

destruction would undoubtedly include the multitude of communication satellites the nations have placed in outer space, instruments that not only enable men to send e-mail and faxes to the far corners of the earth in a moment of time, but also provide pin point details regarding the activities of their perceived enemies. If the increasing knowledge prophesied by Daniel has produced the atmosphere of violence, corruption, and wickedness prevalent in these last days, will it be present in the coming utopia?

Would to God that the increasing of knowledge predicted by Daniel included knowledge of God's Word. Scripture, however, declares plainly that men will not be searching for that kind of knowledge. Paul, the chief apostle for this entire Church Age, issues this warning: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in **the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy;..... Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats,...." I Tim. 4:1-3 These warnings continue in the second epistle to his young successor. "This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come. For men shall be.....lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." II 3:1-8 One might think that such abrasive words would apply only to sinners, but such is not the case, as Paul warns his young warrior about other ministers who will publish ideas contrary to sound doctrine. These indictments have a religious connotation as men "depart from the faith" and go about to establish their own agenda with absolutely no real desire or drive to "come to the knowledge of the truth." They do most assuredly have a religious "form of doctrine," but it denies the genuine power of The Word Itself. Overall, men simply do not desire the deep knowledge of God's Word. We have previously stated in these pages that music has, in our day,

taken precedent over God's Word. The Church has adopted the world's ungodly "rock beat" to literally stir the emotions and touch the physical chords of the body, and it has been at the expense of the Word of God, which is designed to reach the spirit of man with the knowledge God intended.

The message of the Judge to the Church at Laodicea, representing the closing days of this Church Age, confirms this same atmosphere as she is assailed with this message. "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire,and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, (of fellowship) I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev. 3:14-20 These words are often used as an invitation for sinners to accept Christ, and indeed that is most proper. But their scope goes far beyond that, as Jesus also addresses carnal Christians of this end time who have become very passive and complacent in regard to the knowledge of The Truth. They are increased with goods, a reference to the modern prosperity message, wherein they do not even realize that they are "poor, and blind, and naked" as they neglect the fact that we have been blessed with all SPIRITUAL blessings in the heavenly realm. (Eph. 1:3) They are blinded to the deep spiritual mysteries they could have had (I Cor. 2:10) and have in no wise appropriated the practical righteousness of Christ, because they have chosen the righteousness they believe comes by the law. These are admonished to "anoint thine eyes with eyesalve," an invitation to be filled with The Holy Ghost, Whom Jesus introduced as The Minister of Truth in John 16:13. He has the knowledge necessary for today, but few in Christendom are fervently seeking Him out for it. Instead, men are depending on so-called "visions" and new revelations of sensationalism that gain the attention of the multitudes, as they appeal to fickle emotions. God's Way is the same as it has always been, the declaration of His Glorious Word.

Though this world is in an absolute state of collapse and chaos, let us find comfort and solace in the fact that we can claim the promise given to the Philadelphian Church, which occupies the same time frame as Laodicea. The promise to this Church, however, is: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from (out of) the hour of temptation, (tribulation) which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10 These believers, even in the midst of the same environment as Laodicea, “kept” (to guard (from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon;) or valued and sought out the depths of God’s Word and they are abundantly rewarded for it.

WORKING IN US

Paul N. Smith

*Working in us what He has purposed,
Performing what His wisdom has planned.*

*We are His workmanship - created -
Destined to splendor, glorious and grand!*

*But - worried, puzzled, we sometimes feel;
And question the why, the when, the where.*

*We seek to answer by ways and means,
To lighten the load we’re called to bear.*

*We struggle, we squirm ‘neath chast’ning hand,
And call for prayers to bring relief.*

*We’ve prayed to God for His very best,
But soon forget in the hour of grief.*

*At last His love shreds the dark of doubt,
And brings to light what we should have known -
These suff’rings, though great, are not the end,
But only the gateway to heav’nly throne.*

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# THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

Andrew L. Turner

“THE ETERNAL GOD IS THY REFUGE, AND UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS: AND HE SHALL THRUST OUT THE ENEMY FROM BEFORE THEE; AND SHALL SAY, DESTROY THEM” - Deuteronomy 33:27

If our God is an eternal God, as our text declares, then we have an eternal Refuge. Since I have learned that the eternal God is My eternal Refuge, I can well appreciate His mighty arms. That Refuge is a haven, a place of rest, a shelter from the storm. I have needed that for my little craft, which has come near going down many times. I really felt the need of such a haven or refuge. Since God has taught me that the eternal God is my Refuge, I park my little bark in that haven.

If our God is eternal, then I know that His Son is eternal. Hence, we have an eternal Refuge. “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?” - Hebrews 9:14. We learn here that the Spirit is eternal. So then we have an eternal Spirit, and an eternal Redeemer.

The eternal God had an eternal purpose. We learn that through the eternal scheme of redemption, God is working out His eternal purpose. We read what Paul said, “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” - Eph. 3:7-11.

If God’s grace was sufficient for Paul to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, he being “the least of all saints,” don’t you think it ought to be sufficient for me? If it is sufficient for a little man, then it is sufficient for a big man. Not many big

fellows know much about the grace of God. I am so glad we are little folk.

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, and not many noble, are called” - I Cor. 1:26. How sufficient was that race for the Apostle Paul? It was sufficient to the effectual working of God’s will in him. Praise the Lord forever! If God’s grace is sufficient to work the will of God in him, it should work the will of God in you and me.

All kinds of institutions scattered around the face of the earth are digging up and bringing to our minds what men call wisdom. God expects the Church to bring to the knowledge of men and women a wisdom that the world knows nothing about. That is one of God’s eternal purposes. I thank God that He let me live right now when we learn that God is able to reveal His wisdom through weak things.

There are several eternal purposes. One of them is - “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” - Heb. 9:12. That was one of God’s purposes - that the man whom God’s enemy had ruined should be eternally redeemed.

Not long ago, a man stepped into a business place and left a musical instrument worth \$225.00. He received \$12.00 for it. A short time after that, the same man went to the hospital and died. His wife said to our school superintendent. “If you give \$12.00 to that man you may have that instrument. That \$225.00 instrument can be redeemed for \$12.00.” Redeem means to purchase out of the market. That instrument may again be placed in a pawn shop. The \$12.00 is not the price of its redemption. Thank God, the blood of Jesus Christ is the price of our eternal redemption. We will never be in a pawn shop. We are redeemed forever. Our redemption is eternal.

We feel that we are not worth that much. We do not get anywhere on feeling. I remember reading about a man of God who went on feeling. He felt another man’s flesh and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau” - Genesis 27:22 he went by feeling and missed the mark. If we go by feeling, we will miss the mark. If he had gone by hearing, he would not have missed the mark. If we hear the Word of God, we will not miss the mark. We hear John 3:16.

That is one of the purposes of God. Sinners are saved by believing on Jesus.

Then we have Hebrews 9:15 - "And for this cause He is the Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." We also look for an eternal inheritance. "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" And if children, then heirs" - Romans 8:16,17. Thus we obtain an eternal inheritance. Then we must be eternal children.

There are twenty-six positive declarations in the New Testament that we have eternal life. Here is one - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God." - I John 5:13. John wrote that we might know that we have eternal life. When we take these Scriptures into consideration, we wonder that any of the people of God can take a stand against the truth of eternal life. We wonder sometimes if they read and hear the Word of God. It is one thing to listen to the Word, and another thing to hear or give heed to the Word.

John wrote that we might know; yet some tell us that we do not know that we have eternal life, and will not know till we die. We *have* eternal life, and we *know* that we have it. We read in Revelation 21:7 - "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." All things. That covers a great territory. It takes in the universe. "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.

It might not cost you much to get a little experience with God, but it *will* cost you much to get a big experience. Yes, God gives us eternal life - Romans 6:23 - but if we are going to be glorified with Him, we will suffer with Him. One lady said, "Well I thank God salvation is free. I have believed God for forty years, and it has only cost me twenty-five cents." She suffered the loss of twenty-five cents only. If we look up to the milky way, more than likely we may see that lady's glory. Many of God's people will come up in the milky way glory. We should get out of the milky way path.

A certain brother said, "God could not be just, and give me more than another. He is a just God." I said, "I know of two

men, born on the same day, raised in the same home, went to the same school, dressed as near alike as possible and went to the same meeting. One of these men devoted his life and all that he had to God. The other lived for himself. Could God be just and reward these men alike?" Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly ; and my reward is with Me, to give to every man according as his work shall be" - Revelation 22:12.

If we are glorified together with Him, it will cost us much.

There are many ways we may suffer for Christ. First, it costs us the world. That is not the nearest thing to you. From a personal standpoint, it cost me my own loved ones. I was filled with the Holy Spirit twenty-eight years ago. My mother said, "I believe Andrew is losing his mind. I believe he is going crazy." So she bought me a nice book to read and said "People have lost their minds reading the Bible, don't read the Bible, read this." Her words just passed over me. Then my brother told me I was wrong. I knew I had the eternal Word of God. I closed my eyes to my mother and brother. I said, "If my mother, brother or my father will not take this journey I will still journey on, I am on my way to heaven." I went on! Bless God! By my going on I have had the privilege of seeing my dear mother, after the age of 70, my brother and my baby sister all fall at the altar and be filled with the Holy Spirit. I had lost my loved ones, but God gave them back to me.

If we give anything to God, He gives us back more. If we enjoy the best things of heaven, it will cost us the highest price. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things" - Rev. 21:7.

Abraham had a great storehouse of wealth. No doubt Rebekah knew that through Isaac she was heir to all his wealth. But I believe that she would have suffered the loss of all earthly wealth before she would give up Isaac. Isaac was the prize. Our prize will be to reign with Christ on His throne. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" - Rev. 3:21.

Jesus Christ is going to sit on an eternal throne, and that throne is in eternal glory. We also shall sit with Him on that eternal throne of eternal glory. Hallelujah!

So we have seven eternal purposes of God. The *eternal* God, through His *eternal* Son, by the *eternal* Spirit, according to an *eternal* covenant, has given to us *eternal* life,

and made us heirs to an *eternal* inheritance in the *eternal* glory.

We will enjoy that eternal inheritance sitting with Christ throughout the eternal ages.

### ***A PERPETUAL NOW***

*The past has known its sorrows,  
Its days of fevered care,  
Its years of pain and anguish;  
But - I'm not living there!*

*The future in its bosom  
A thousand griefs may bear,  
To hurl athwart my pathway;  
But - I'm not living there!*

*Of mingled joy and sadness  
The present has its share.  
I would absorb its lessons,  
For - I am living here!*

*Demands upon the present  
Grant me no time to spare  
Brooding o'er past or future,  
For - I'm not living there!*

*Past, present and the future  
Eternal NOW declare;  
And bid me use this moment ,  
For - I am living there!*

## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

**“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” I Thessalonians 2:13.**

There are three stages of Bible study: first, the cod-liver oil stage, when you take it like medicine because it is good for you; second, the shredded wheat biscuit stage - dry, but nourishing; third, the peaches and cream stage. Have you reached the third stage? A true answer to that question will tell more about your spiritual life than almost anything else.

F.B. Meyer admonishes: “Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it, and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you.”

J.G. Mathieson tells of a little boy who was in the habit of attending the preaching of the Gospel every Sunday. Being unable to attend one evening, he decided to go to his room and read his Bible. His mother was upstairs caring for the little ones and did not know what her boy was doing. However, she noticed he was very quiet. Thinking perhaps he was up to some mischief, she called to him, “What are you doing, Henry?” The lad replied, “I am watching Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead!”

What a beautiful answer! He was, of course reading the eleventh chapter of John, and it was all very real to him. Do you read the Bible like that? When Jesus is real to you, His Book becomes a heavenly love letter, every line a choice spiritual morsel to delight your soul!

Read your Bible with an eye of love, with a strong determination to let the Holy Spirit cleanse you by it and practically apply each lesson to your own needy heart. Do this and the Bible will become a new book for you; and, what is equally important, you will become a new person, ever advancing from one grace to another! - H.G.B. -

## **Faith**

### **Pearl Lubke**

Heb. 11 This chapter is often called the “hall of faith,” (fame). We need to come here often and linger long, that our faith may become strong in the Lord, for in this scripture we get a view of the history of Israel and the Church as it is written by faith, in the blood of the saints.

They worshipped by faith as Abel. They walked by faith as Enoch. They worked by faith as Noah. They lived by faith as Abraham. They governed by faith as Moses. They followed by faith as Israel. They fought by faith as Joshua. They conquered by faith as Gideon. They subdued kingdoms by faith as David. They closed the mouths of lions by faith as Daniel. They walked through the fire by faith as the three Hebrew Children. They suffered by faith as Paul. They died by faith as Stephen, this first Christian Martyr (Acts 7:54-60) By faith these were patient in suffering, courageous in battle, made strong out of weakness and were victorious in defeat. They were more than conquerors by faith. Roman 8:37 It is only by faith in the all-powerful Christ that we can be superior to circumstances, and victorious over all the evil forces that would destroy us. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith:” Heb. 12:2 The faith of the saints inspires us, but we look to Jesus as our example of faith. As your faith is so be it unto you. Praise The Lord!

We need a faith that is bigger than the elements that would drag us down to defeat. We can have big faith by “prayer and fasting”. Matt. 17:20-21 By feeding your faith on the Word of God, you can have mountain-moving faith. Rom. 10:17

#### **THINK.....**

*Of passing from storm and tempest to a calm harbor,  
Of stepping on shore, and finding it Heaven,  
Of taking hold of a hand, and finding it God's hand,  
Of breathing a new atmosphere, and finding it celestial air,  
Of feeling invigorated, and finding it immortality,  
Of awakening, and finding it Home!*

# GRACE THE GREATEST

Walter Anderson

Whatever our interest may be, grace must supersede all other interests. In grace alone, we find all of the sufficiency of the very Godhead for all things.

To limit grace is to limit the Almighty Himself. What conditions could be put upon Him? Unthinkable indeed! Whenever we believe grace, we cannot believe in ourselves. Isn't this where the rub is? Of course, some people are positive thinkers - either positively right, or positively wrong. What difference does it make to them as long as they are positive? Isn't this the point of consideration? After all, this is the best this creature can do on his own.

On the other hand, grace is always positive. If it is ever questioned, the Almighty must be questioned too. What chance would they have in questioning Him? Our beloved apostle said, "We speak before God in Christ." Would there ever be a greater authority than this? Never! Grace is always right, because God is right.

In grace alone we have all of God's favor. Why should there be restrictions? If God puts none on us, why should we? After all, only apostates can turn from the grace of God into lasciviousness. If a believer tried this he would be found to be a reprobate.

Grace is for glory. What creature ever had it? None whatsoever. Only faith can possess it. Reason can never secure it. To have a reason is to have a cause. Whoever said they were the cause of grace? What could they show? It therefore remains that Christ only and His blessed Father are the cause of it. Therefore, we can only believe and not rationalize it. To reason is to seek our point of view. Here is where many believers fail. Its point of origination is in the very Godhead. Therefore, only faith can hold it.

Grace is foolproof. To undermine grace would be to undermine God Himself. If He was not responsible for it, who would be? Do not get me wrong, I did not say I was foolproof, only grace is. That is why I believe it so much. Grace is always available. After all, sunshine is free too. Why can't they let it shine? Is there a law against it?

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Editorial September 2009

“In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.” Eccl. 11:6

Ecclesiastes is a book wherein Solomon describes constant and often radical changes “under the sun,” a key term used throughout these writings, to describe life in this world. It seems, for the most part, that change of any kind brings apprehension, because it often brings uncertainty and perhaps even fear for a time. Moses experienced all these emotions when God called him from the anonymity he had on the back side of the desert to the awesome responsibility of leading Israel out of Egypt. His successor likewise needed God’s direct intervention and heard these words. “....Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9 Paul both admonished and incited a rather timid young Timothy with these words: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,.....” I Tim. 1:7-8

Despite such reservations as experienced by these godly men, we are admonished here in Ecclesiastes to sow the seed, regardless of being threatened by wind, rain, or any other detriment. As noted by the change in our return address, changes have most assuredly come to “Grace & Glory.” In the past few months, we have been in process of transition, due to the fact that Bro. Smith, my beloved mentor, and Father in The Faith, has experienced what his predecessors and other worthies of faith discovered: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh of this physical body is weak. He has, for some time now, been unable to meet the rigorous demands of writing, editing, and meeting all the other requirements of publishing a magazine such as “Grace and Glory.” For this reason his son, and daughter-in-law, Tim, and Laura Smith, along with their family, have graciously stepped forward to “stand in the gap.”

Over the past 29 plus years, many of the Assembly in Mountain Grove have volunteered to assemble and mail the publication, but in recent years, some have either gone home to be with The Lord or have come to that place where they can no longer participate in this worthy cause. For that reason, we are transferring these operations from Mountain Grove, to Grandview, Missouri, where a number in the Assembly here eagerly await the opportunity to assume these duties. We would surely express our deepest gratitude to Tim and Laura, and their children, along with Sis. Margaret Clark who has been invaluable in searching out and preparing articles for publication. She has also been most beneficial in handling all the new “postal regulations” and, from what I hear, knows more about the system than the P.O. does. She has graciously consented to continue with her expertise in these roles.

We earnestly desire your prayers, as we continue with this transition. We are in process of selling the building in Mountain Grove, and purchasing another in Grandview. In view of the present economic crisis, such transactions are extremely uncertain. Nevertheless, we will continue to believe that God will take care of His Own and supply these needs in due time. Our desire is to continue to publish this glorious message of Divine Grace until we be “taken out of the way,” even in time of chaotic change for this country as well as the world. II Thess. 2:7

ANNOUNCEMENT

Grace & Glory Bible College classes will begin on September 13, 2009 for both Grandview and Mountain Grove. For further information contact Paul Smith’s office in Mountain Grove at 417-417-926-4292 or 417-259-0017. Gene Hawkins may be reached in Grandview at 816-618-3306 or 816-582-9873.

.....

WAIT

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.
I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate,
And the Master so gently said, "Child, you must wait."

"WAIT? You say 'wait'?" my indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers. I need to know why!"
Is Your hand shortened? Or have You not heard?
By faith I have asked and am claiming Your Word.

My future and all to which I can relate
Hangs in the balance, and YOU tell me 'Wait?'
I'm needing a 'yes,' a go-ahead sign,
Or even a 'no,' to which I, can resign.

And, Lord, You promised that if we believe
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.
And Lord, I've been asking, and this is my cry:
I'm weary of asking! I need a reply!"

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate
And my Master replied once again, "You must wait."
So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut
And grumbled to God, "So I'm waiting ... for what?"

He seemed, then, to kneel, and His eyes wept with mine,
And He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun.
I could raise the dead, cause the mountains to run.

All you seek, I could give, and pleased you would be.
You would have what you want - But you wouldn't know Me.
You'd not know the depth of My love for each Saint;
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint:

You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there;
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me-
When darkness and silence were all you could see;

You'd never experience that fullness of love
As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove;"
You'd know that I give and I save (for a start),'
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart,

The glow of My comfort late in the night,
The faith that I give when you walk without sight,
The depth that's beyond getting just what you asked
Of an infinite God, who makes what you have LAST.

You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
What it means that, "My grace is sufficient for thee."
Yes, your dreams for that loved one overnight would come
true,

But, Oh, the loss! If I lost, what I'm doing in you!

So, be silent, My child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts, is to get to know Me.
And though oft may My answers seem, terribly late
My most precious answer of all is still, **"WAIT."** –

Author Unknown

We don't know the exact age of the human race, but it is
certainly old enough to know better.

Happiness is the perfume you can't give to others without
spilling on yourself.

It is hard to get ahead if you spend all your time getting
even.

You don't have to be listed in "Who's Who" to know 'what's
what.'

Some people will trust God for the salvation of their souls,
but they won't trust Him with the key to their cash boxes.

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

LESSONS IN HEBREWS (Cont'd)

Ch. 6 concluded, Ch. 7

“The hope set before us” is the theme of verses 12 to 20 of ch.6. What is that hope? The descendants of Abraham , because of God’s promise to him (Gen. 12:1-3), looked forward to a land all their own. They looked also for a “heavenly city and country” - Ch. 11:13-16 and 13:14. That is the “eternal inheritance” (Ch. 6:15), which Peter describes as incorruptible, undefiled and unfading and includes “the glories that should follow” the sufferings of Christ - glories for Israel and for the church - I Pet. :4,5,11 and 13. See also I Pet. 4:13 and 5:1,4,10. Take time to study these citations. We learn by Heb. 11:39,40, that Israel will not receive their full inheritance until Christ’s second advent; hence, the frequent exhortation to “hope to the end” - Ch. 3:6,14 and 6:11 and I Pet. 1:3. Though God confirmed His promise to Abraham by an oath; yet the shadowy ceremonies gave no assurance of eternal life. The priests went daily into the first tabernacle; but the high priest went into the second alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the errors of the people; but those offerings could not take away sins - Ch. 9:7,8 and 10:4,6. Therefore, they were looking for eternal life continually - Matt. 19:16 and John 6:38.

Now the Jews, as well as we, have a glorious hope set before them, sustained by three immense pillars of Truth - God’s immutable Counsel, or Word, His immutable Oath and the entrance into heaven of the Forerunner, Jesus. This is for all people, “a strong consolation,” affording “the full assurance of hope unto the end” - vs. 11. This hope is an anchor of the soul. When a ship comes into port, it casts an anchor, a two pronged hook, attached to a strong rope, upon the shore. That holds the ship at bay until all the passengers and freight are safely landed. Just so, the glorious hope of Jesus’ coming to finish all His ordained purposes in behalf of Israel and the church, is as sure as God’s unchangeable counsel and as steadfast as His unchangeable oath. It is wrought in us by the Holy Spirit through the Word. The entrance of the Forerunner into heaven is the guarantee of our entrance there; for where the Head is, there the body must be also. The phrase, “eternal salvation” (Ch. 5:9), or eternal life, is a very comprehensive one of a vast compass. Most saints fail to see this fact. It has

a beginning, when we are saved, or born again. It makes great progress, growing in grace, having fellowship with Christ and increasing in the knowledge of God and of His will. And it must have an unspeakable and glorious climax. We obtain an eternal standing with God by initial faith in Jesus Christ. But eternal salvation also anticipates a state, wrought by the daily sanctification of the Holy Spirit. Corresponding to the standing, which will culminate with an "eternal inheritance" - Ch. 9:15. We are born babes in Christ; but in I John 2:12-14, we read of "young men" and "fathers" as well as "little children." The Scriptures teach emphatically the first principles of eternal life, then its progress and finally its perfection. It begins with security, goes on in purity and culminates in maturity. As babes in Christ, we are disciples, or learners. As young men, we are workers and warriors. As fathers, we give counsel and shall receive rewards.

This is the full-fledged view of scriptural and eternal salvation, or eternal life. This turns legality topsy-turvy, whirling with incurable dizziness and irrecoverable defeat. Initial salvation saves us from sin and hell. Growth in grace saves us from fear, laziness and uselessness. Overcoming, worship, work and warfare will save us from blushing with empty hands when the Lord shall appear - I John 2:28. All Old Testament people like Abraham and David, etc., who saw and believed the word of grace, as revealed to them, were justified, born again and became overcomers. By faith they lived beyond the shadows. They will receive their full inheritance or reward when Christ will be revealed from heaven and the believing Old Testament dead shall be raised.

Chapter seven is the basis for our study - Jesus Christ as High Priest compared with Melchisedec. The Priesthood of Christ is the Key-theme of the book. This is a very prolific portion. First, we will notice half a dozen facts concerning Melchisedec; then seven facts concerning Christ Jesus.

1. Melchisedec was a king priest. His name means, "My king is righteous." we read of him in Gen. 14. Some think that he was indeed the Christ; but a close study shows that he was predecessor of Christ, who was called "THE BRANCH," and will also be a king priest during the millennium - Zach. 6:12,13. Melchisedec was a descendant of Shem. He was king of Salem, the oldest name of what is now Jerusalem. Abraham acknowledged him as God's anointed king and priest. **2.** His

priesthood was universal that is, it was not limited to one people only, as Aaron's priesthood was limited to Israel. He was "priest of the most high God." The Phoenicians also called their chief god by the same Hebrew title "Elyon," or Most High. **3.** His priesthood was not limited to 20 years, as was the Aaronic priesthood;" having neither beginning of days, nor end of life, "that is, his genealogy is not recorded. This is also the meaning of the phrases, "without father, without mother, without descent. "Therefore, **4.** He had no predecessor, no successors. Aaron's priestly line was limited, and passed from father to son. **5.** His priesthood was superior to Aaron's; hence, he was above Abraham. Therefore, Paul reckoned that "Levi paid tithes in Abraham," who "gave a tenth of the spoils" to Melchidec, gathered from the battle of the nine kings, when he delivered his nephew Lot -Gen. 14. Permit a word about tithing. Some saints insist that tithing was a Mosaic law, and originated with him. Like circumcision and sabbath-keeping, it was made a part of the Mosaic ritual; but it originated under grace and was observed by Abraham and Jacob - Gen. 28:22. Doubtless, Abraham passed this practice on to his son Isaac, and Isaac on to Jacob.

Sabbath-keeping, circumcision and tithing were not marks of legality, but expressions of faith in God's wondrous grace. The first pointed to the rest of soul, which the Gospel brings to believers, as well as to the thousand years rest from the oppression of the nations, which Israel will enjoy. Circumcision figured the death of the old creation, wrought by Christ's death in our stead, the necessary basis for us to enjoy life, freedom and victory in Christ. And tithing is a glorious privilege and a means of expressing our devotion to God and our gratitude to Him for His unspeakable Gift and gifts to us. The first two were shadows. The last is not in any sense a shadow. Saints should blush to speak of it as a hard, cold duty and law, considering that the Lord has freely given all things to us. What have we that we have not received from Him? By giving the tenth, we only return to God what belongs to Him.

Some folk object to the phrase "payed tithes," saying that we are not under the law, but under grace. The Greek word in Heb. 7:9, rendered thus, is derived from, "dekateuo," which means to exact the tenth, to tithe. The practice of tithing among God's people must have impressed the nations deeply;

for the Greeks took a tenth of the booty as an offering to the gods for the victory won in battle. By giving a tenth of the spoil to Melchisedec, Abraham expressed his gratitude to God for the victory gained in recovering Lot and all that was taken.. Not because Israel were under law, but because they rejected His grace, did God speak to them through Malachi 3:8,9, saying, **“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me.** But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? **In tithes and offerings.** Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.”

Now if Abraham gave tithes, and the Holy Spirit reckons that Levi payed tithes in Abraham; if the heathen honor their gods by exacting the tenth for them; and if the Lord regarded withholding the tenth robbery in Israel , what shall God think of His people under marvelous grace if they withhold from Him what belongs to Him? If the tenth belonged to God in Abraham’s day and in Moses’ day, does it not still belong to Him? If refusing to give, or pay, it was robbery then, is it less than robbery now? And why quibble about the word “payed?” Is that not rather childish? That is a scriptural term. And oh, think of God’s super-abounding grace in giving us richly all things to enjoy. Some pastors oppose tithing, or belittle it to their own hurt. They also do their flocks an injustice by so doing. They rob them of a highly honored present privilege and of a great future reward. As truly as there was provision in God’s house in overflowing abundance in Israel’s day, so there is now, where the saints “bring all the tithes into the storehouse,” and do not spend them on their own backs, or pay the running expenses of their missions therewith. **6.** Melchisedec was “made like unto the Son of God” - vs. 8. This alone proves that he is not the Christ, but a priest by divine sovereign appointment for that time. His pedigree and genealogy are hidden for a wise divine purpose.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

Beginning with verse 11, the chapter contrasts the priesthood of Jesus Christ with that of Aaron, and compares it with that of Melchisedec. **1.** The Aaronic priesthood was subject to change - vs.12. It passed from father to son - vs. 23. But Christ’s priesthood is unchangeable, like that of Melchisedec. **2.** Aaron was after the flesh, not in a bad sense; but Christ’s was spiritual, “after the power of an endless life” -

vs. 16. **3.** Aaron's was limited to 20 years from 30 to 50. But Christ is "a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec" - vs. 17. **4.** Aaron's was imperfect, "weak and unprofitable," the priest being cumbered with infirmity - vs. 18,28. **5.** Aaron's office was without an oath; but Christ's was oath-confirmed and eternal - vs. 21. **6.** Aaron was succeeded by others; but Jesus will never have any high priestly successors. He continueth ever - vs. 23,24. **7.** Aaron was sinful in himself and had to make atonement for himself; but Jesus had no sin in Him, being "holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners" - vs. 26,27. Christ had sin on Himself, when He offered Himself once for the sins of Aaron and all the people. "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" - Rom. 5:8.

The Uttermost Salvation

"Wherefore, He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" vs. 25 This is the greatest verse of the chapter. The expletive "wherefore," refers to the seven aforementioned invincible facts as seven strong pillars that hold it high for every one's adequate comfort and assurance. They indicate the possibilities, the depth, the height, the length, the breadth and the contents of God's salvation. The phrase, "to the uttermost," is the attractive and supreme thought of the verse. The Greek phrase, "eis to panteles," means all-completely, absolutely, all-entirely, into perpetuity, straight through to the end, forevermore. In view of the divine provision as the background, this uttermost salvation can scarcely be exaggerated. Most people minify and belittle it. They attach to it unreasonable and unscriptural limitations which rob the death and resurrection of Christ of their accomplishments and of their purpose. They forget that He ever lives to make intercession for them. They darken counsel and dim men's vision of their blood-bought privileges in Christ. They excite doubt, unbelief and infidelity instead of faith, confidence and assurance. When once we have a Spirit-illuminated vision of the superlative salvation that Christ purchased and now offers to humanity, we struggle for words to express what we see. Our tongues cannot tell what our little hearts feel. We would paint the most brilliant picture in the most dazzling colors of the most charming character,

graced with the most exquisite jewels of entrancing beauty and loveliness, patience and forbearance, changed from glory to GLORY while beholding the face of our adorable Savior. In this uttermost salvation, the Lord "is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above ALL that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" - Eph. 3:20. The thoughts of most people about salvation are very niggardly, poor, few and small; and they ask far less than they think. Many even who have the Holy Spirit are tied up, dried up, tongue-tied, speechless, motionless, useless, forlorn and barely alive.

Oh for a dauntless, wreckless stampede into the boundless ocean of the possibilities of this uttermost salvation. The utmost outreach and up-reach is "filled into all the fulness of God" now (Eph. 3:19) and fashioned like unto the glorious Savior Himself in the ages to come. Let us drink deep draughts from this inexhaustible fountain. Let us learn to drink continually. Drink of Christ for strength when fainting in spirit. Drink His courage when daunted. Drink of His health when infirm in body. Drink patience from Him when every thing is in a whirl. Drink of His ferocity when Satan withstands you in battle. Drink abundantly of the faith of God when unbelief in others would blanket you. Let others sip with a teaspoon; we will drink with an old-fashioned gourd dipper. Jesus said with power, **"Whosoever eateth my flesh and drinketh by blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."** Reader, do you believe that? "For my flesh is meat indeed and my blood is drink indeed." Do you believe that? More. "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him." And do you believe that? We eat by believing God's Word. We drink by believing. Still more. "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." Believe it and rejoice. Rejoice and grow fat. Then our Lord explains - "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you are spirit and life" - John 6:54-57,63. If we believe His words; if we believe the record of God's Son, we are eating and drinking of the power of His death and resurrection. Thus by faith, we eat and drink Him and live by Him as He lived by the Father.

Our whole being is vivified by divine power. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of

our Lord Jesus Christ.” Then as a stimulant, Paul adds, “Faithful is He that calleth **you, who also will do it**” - I Thess. 5:23,24. An Evangelical bishop said to me, Brother Copley, you believe too much. Forty-six years have rolled over my head since that day; but I have no regrets for believing as much as I did. Rather, I am ashamed of having believed so little in comparison with the boundless possibilities of faith, love and hope according to the power of the Spirit of God. I long to scale the uttermost heights of the power of the Holy Spirit in a fully surrendered life, as the Lord showed me forth-six years ago. Will you join me in the stretch of enjoying this all-complete, superlatively entire, absolutely perfect, unceasingly perpetual salvation here and now? Shall we enter into God’s perfect will - “Rejoice evermore; pray without ceasing; in every thing give thanks?” Jesus said, “He that eateth me, even he shall live by me; he that eateth this Bread (Himself), shall live forever” - John 6:57,58. As a boy, I learned to make “a hop, step and jump.” The hop prepared for the step; and the accelerated step assured me of the longest possible leap. Just so, a vigorous hop of a sustained surrender to God’s will is a mighty booster for an invincible step of all-conquering faith in this life. This accelerated step of persistent faith in the faithful Jehovah assures us of a triumphant leap far into the everlasting habitations on high, where we will explore and enjoy with unlimited delight the unfathomable riches of divine grace. This life is the preparation for the next. A slow, indifferent, easy-going career on earth will barely land one inside the pearly gates. But an abundant, untiring, faithful career on earth will be crowned with “an abundant entrance into glory.”

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WHEN YOU PRAY

*Do not pray for easy lives.*

*Pray to be stronger men.*

*Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers.*

*Pray for powers equal to your tasks.*

*Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle,*

*But you shall be a miracle.*

*Every day you will wonder at yourself -*

*At the richness of life*

*Which has come to you by the grace of God.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

Ty Robinson

Many Bible terms express the thought of the Word of God, such as: The Word of the Lord, The Word of Truth, The Word of Life, The Word of Righteousness, The Word of His Power, The Word of Christ, The Word of His Grace, The Word of The Lord Jesus, The word of The Gospel, The Word, Thy Word, The Book, The Gospel, The Holy Scriptures, Christ's Gospel, The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of My Patience, My Word, The Gospel of Christ, Glad Tidings, Good Tidings, Scripture, Doctrine, Epistles, Parchments, The Words of Faith, The Words of the Lord, The Words of The Holy One, The Words of this life, The Words of Truth and soberness, The Words of Faith and of Good Doctrine, The Words of God, and The words of the Commandment of the Lord, just to mention a few.

A scripture that summarizes the importance of the Word of God is Heb 4:12 *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”*.

Another revealing text concerning It, is Rev. 19:13, which references our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: *“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”* Here, The Word of God is synonymous with Jesus, hence we find Him mentioned on every page in the Bible. If you want to know Jesus better, then study The Word of God. The Philadelphia overcomer is noted to have *“kept my word, ”* and to have *“kept the word of my patience,”* (Rev. 3:8,10), which means they actively knew their Bible. When Paul wrote in Phil. 3:10 *“That I may know him, ...”* how did he get to know Jesus better if it wasn't by studying the scriptures, and having the Holy Ghost reveal Christ unto him through The Word of God? He wrote in Rom 15:4 *“For whatsoever things were written*

*aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*” I Tim 1:1 asserts that our “... *Lord Jesus Christ, .... .is our hope....*” If you want a better picture of Jesus, learn The Word of God.

The phrase "In the beginning," is found seventeen times in scripture and we would note five of them, starting with Heb 1:10. “*And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: ....*” This a reference to the work of Jesus Christ, God's Own Son. Paul quotes here from The Old Testament, for the Hebrew speaking Jews to whom he was writing, would be familiar with them. Psa. 102:25 further declares: “*Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*” Similar thoughts are also expressed in Isa. 48:13. “*Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.*” Zech. 12:1 proclaims: “*The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.*” The Apostle Paul expounds upon this same thought, taking us back, even before the foundation of the earth. “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*” Eph 1:3-6

John 1 continues this theme of Jesus being declared even before time began: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was*

*God: The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4.*

A similar declaration to the "in the beginning" statement of John 1:1, is found in Gen. 1:1. *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, ..”* Having just read the previous scriptures, we can see the heaven and the earth are His handiwork. Psa. 19:1 states it thus: *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”* Three more Psalms reveal similar thoughts. Psa. 92:5 *“O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.”* Psa.102:25 *“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.”* Psa. 104:24 *“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches”*. Proverbs, 8-9, are a commentary on wisdom, and Ch. 8:22 specifically announces Jesus: *The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.”*

These proclamations of Jesus Christ, The Word of God, and His creative wisdom continue in Rev. 1:8, where we read His Own words: *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”* Like statements are made three more times in this book. Rev. 1:11 reads in part: *“... I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.* The middle of Rev. 21:6 states: *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.”* The Master again speaks in Rev. 22:13. *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”*

These four scriptures about Christ, The Word of

God, reveal that He also is Alpha and Omega. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and Omega is the last, meaning simply that our Saviour IS the alphabet. Thus we find Jesus in every word of scripture. Stated another way; The Word of God is every letter in the Word of God! Try to wrap your mind around that thought for a moment, and it doesn't matter what alphabet you are talking about, Jesus is still every Letter. Psa. 119 illustrates how Jesus can be The Word of God, and every Letter in the alphabet. This Psalm is a 176 verse Hebrew poem, divided into twenty-two parts, the same number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Each division begins with a different letter of that alphabet. Practically each verse contains a reference in one form or another to The Word of God, with phrases like: "thy statutes," "thy commandments;" "thy law;" "thy precepts;" "thy testimonies;" "thy righteous judgments;" "thy judgments;" and "thy word."

Jesus, The Word of God, the Alpha and Omega, the A to Z, or the whole alphabet of the written word, shows that every letter of our Bible loudly declares Jesus! But there is more! Both the Hebrew's and Greek's had a numbering system which differs from ours, in that each letter of their respective alphabets, was also assigned a numerical valuation. In other words, to do math, the Hebrew's and Greek's used their letters like we use our numbers. So each word they wrote also added up to something numerically. We probably can best relate to this by remembering the Roman numeral system, where certain letters equal certain numbers. Depending on where they are located in a sequence of letters determines their mathematical value. Thus when Jesus says He is the Alpha and Omega, He is also stating that He is every number from the beginning to the ending, from the first unto the last, which makes sense, for Heb. 12:2 tells us that Jesus also is "... *the author and finisher....*" John 1:3 again states: "*All*

*things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made,...*" and this includes the alphabet, the numbering system, the heavens above, the earth beneath, and all things both great and small, seen and unseen, and everything in between.

Our concluding thoughts focus on Christ being the End, the Last, and the Finisher. Rev 1:8 reiterates these words of Jesus, The Word of God: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*

There is no unfinished business with our Savior. He has already taken care of everything, all the way to the end. Jesus did not start something without the intention of finishing it. He is the past, (which was,) the present, (which is,) and He is the future, (which is to come.) Hebrews 13:8 states: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever." From the beginning to the end, Jesus Christ the Almighty, The Word of God is the same as He was yesterday, He is the same today, and He will continue to be the same forever. Psa. 90:2 *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."* Alpha and Omega, A to Z, the beginning and the ending, all mean everlasting to everlasting. Jesus Christ is the same from the first letter of Genesis to the last letter of Revelation. His promises are "yea and amen." His word is true, His word is pure; has been from the beginning, and will be from everlasting to everlasting. Since He is The Word of God, the author and finisher of our faith, then don't you think that He, being the same yesterday, today, and forever, which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ, Who also will keep us until the end? After all He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last, the author and finisher of our faith, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Are you

looking for His soon coming? Will that be the end? Or just the beginning of being forever with Him from everlasting to everlasting?

*“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever”.* Isa. 40:8

### **“HOW CAN I THANK YOU?”**

JESUS, How I love you --  
Because You first loved me,  
Brought me out of darkness  
Set my spirit free;

Washed me clean, erased my past,  
Gave my tired heart, peace at last.  
All by grace, through your love  
Came this new life, from above.

You shed your precious blood for me,  
Though in myself, no good I see,  
All your promises you keep.  
Now at night I rest and sleep,

Dreaming of that coming day  
When you will call your own away.  
To thank you, words can't even start.  
So, dear Lord, here's my yielded heart;  
It's all that I can do - -  
To show how much I love you!

- Dorothy Rangel

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Someone asked the question just how to get the most help from the Bible. The answer was that a Christian should read the Bible as a bride searches her mother-in-law's cook-book! Why? Because she is searching for something that will truly please her husband.

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