



“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come

shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” Dan. 9:26-27

Daniel 9:27 has, in recent years, been proclaimed by many to be the fulfillment of the 70th week prophesied in Daniel 9:24. This, however, can in no wise be, for those 70 weeks “determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city...” are all weeks of blessing. The rest of this verse outlines seven major benefits for both the Jews and the city of Jerusalem. The first three were completed with the death of Jesus at Calvary, as He finished the transgression, made an end of sins, and made reconciliation for iniquity. The last four were accomplished after the resurrection when “everlasting righteousness” was brought in, the “vision” was sealed, along with “prophecy,” and the “most Holy” anointed. This last point began the 70th and final week on the Day of Pentecost, and was followed by seven glorious years of blessing that were simply a foretaste of the kingdom blessings, which Israel so desperately anticipated.

The bulk of The Church Age, is couched between verses 26 and 27 of our present text. This age actually begins in V. 26, 50 days after the resurrection of the Messiah Who had been “cut off, but not for himself,” three days earlier. The aforementioned 7 years of blessing wherein the believers had “all things common,” and multitudes were added to the Church daily; where signs and wonders abounded, and many were healed just by the shadow of the disciples walking by, came to

an abrupt halt with the stoning of Stephen. This final act of rejecting their **Resurrected Messiah**, brought forth the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. when “the people of the prince” led by Titus, plundered the holy city thus fulfilling Jesus’ prophecy of Matt. 24:2. Note here that “the prince,” that is the antichrist, did not appear at this time but rather the “people” of the prince, or the Romans, destroyed Jerusalem, and now Daniel 9:27 is shortly to be fulfilled, marking the close of this Church age. This infamous week begins when the “prince” himself, of verse V. 26, “shall confirm the covenant with many for one week, that is, 7 years or 2520 days. The “many,” refers to Israel as an overall nation, and tells us that there will be a small remnant which will not agree to that covenant, and will thus be preserved.

Numerous events occur at Jerusalem in the “midst of the week” one of which is that “the prince,” or the antichrist, “shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,” because he sets up his own image in the temple, thus making himself the only object of worship. This act is not to be confused with the taking away of the “daily sacrifice,” recorded in Daniel 12:11. That particular offering is discontinued, at the insistence of the false prophet, (Daniel 8) 1290 days prior to the middle or “midst” of the week. That means it is taken away 30 days BEFORE the first half, (1260 days) of this unprecedented week of judgment even begins.

Perhaps many, including myself, had assumed that the sacrifice taken away in the midst of the week was just a reference to the removal of all Jewish sacrifice. However recent developments regarding Jerusalem would indicate that religious practices, of the three major world religions today, would be eliminated by this decree of the antichrist.

Muslims already maintain a strong presence with the Dome of the Rock located in Jerusalem. The Jews, of course lay claim to The Temple Site, and the following headline appeared on the internet recently, which would surely put Christianity in place here: “The Papal Throne To Shift From Rome To Jerusalem.” We could not authenticate it with any other legitimate news agency, but in this day of confusion, that is not really surprising. Many have been frustrated by the

“spin” or distortion, and even elimination of certain news events which would prove politically embarrassing or detrimental to certain parties. It has, however been widely reported that Pope Benedict is most assuredly in favor of a Palestinian State located in Jerusalem, and that he has in some cases “shunned” Christians to placate the Muslim Community. It has also been reported that Christians, Jews, and Muslims have put forth a joint proposal to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Though “The Temple Institute,” which was said to be involved in this project, issued a disclaimer which “strongly protests the use of its name and that of Rabbi Chaim Richman in a series of fraudulent press releases and advertising claims that are now circulating on the internet,” they in no wise deny that such a proposal exists. Thus we would emphasize that the presence of these three religions is already very much manifest in the holy city, and given the history of Catholicism, she will most assuredly assert herself even further.

True born again believers are deeply grieved that the world equates Christianity with Catholicism, but that is most assuredly the case. It makes no difference to the secular world that Catholicism actually denies the very Christ they claim to support. Some would find such a statement appalling, but their liturgy boldly chants “hail Mary, Mother of God,” thus giving Mary a place of superiority over Christ Himself. Elizabeth acknowledged Jesus as her Lord, simply calling Mary “the mother of my Lord,” and Mary shouted “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.” Luke 2:43, 46. Mary attributed her salvation to God, but Catholicism, asserts that it comes through the Church, completely ignoring the scriptural edict: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name (Jesus) under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 Furthermore, her priests are advertised as having the ability to forgive sins (for a price more often than not) while Scripture proclaims “...Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” Luke 5:21 Catholics are told that praying to Mary, is effective because, “as Jesus’ mother, she has special access to Him,” thus effectively making her the intercessor. Yet, God’s Word loudly proclaims: “For there is one God, and one

mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” I Tim. 2:5 These are but a fundamental few of the massive indictments which God has against this ungodly system, yet the world still looks on her with wonder, and despite horrendous and widely circulated sex scandals, Rev. 17, along with massive history, reveals that Catholicism has been and will continue, to be strongly involved in the politics of this world.

That may prove to be a tremendous advantage to the current stalemate over a Palestinian State. According to CNN, “Following the breakdown of direct talks with Israel, Palestinians have begun seeking international recognition of an independent state from European nations. Officials from the Palestinian Authority told CNN Thursday that the governments of France, Britain, Sweden, and Denmark had formally been asked to recognize a Palestinian state based on borders that existed prior to the 1967 war between Israel and its Arab neighbors.” Whether or not this move “outside direct talks with Israel,” will create excessive pressure on Israeli leadership to comply with the world community is not known. We can only wonder if this new state might be prompted more through religious channels rather than political. Since the Pope has been so adamant in his remarks that the Palestinians should have their own state, will he be used to that end?

Daniel clearly tells us that the Jewish “daily sacrifice” will be taken away, but to do that it must first be “reinstated.” We have heard no record of such an offering at present and can only speculate as to whether or not this might be the proverbial “carrot” offered to bring Israel back to the bargaining table. The aforementioned peace talks came to an abrupt halt because Israel refused to stop building in East Jerusalem, despite great pressure, insults, snubs, and threats from the U.S. However, promised “religious freedoms,” including the daily sacrifice, might be construed as sufficient incentive for them to agree to even more compromises wherein Jerusalem is concerned. Regardless of the ultimate tactics used, it is very likely that Israel will eventually capitulate, and allow a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its Capital.

Taking away the daily sacrifice can be likened to the infamous “red button” that would set off the irreversible

nuclear reactions feared by many nations. Once it is implemented, both Israel and the world have reached a point of no return, for that single event will trigger the entire week of Daniel 9:27. From this point, other momentous events are measured in literal days, as to when they will take place. As noted earlier, one of those is the covenant with the antichrist, defined by Isaiah as “a covenant of death” (Isa. 28:15) which will be signed just 30 days after the Jews agree to dispense with this daily sacrifice. We would note here that Jesus will have already come for the Philadelphia Church. Over the course of years, some have looked upon these 30 days as a “grace period” for Christians. “When I see that the daily sacrifice is being offered and then removed, I will quickly get ready for the coming of Jesus.” That is an extremely dangerous path for any Christian to follow. Given the extreme dishonesty and willingness of the nations to break treaties today, it is plausible that the daily sacrifice could be reinstated and taken away, all in the same day. I am personally persuaded that the Bride of Christ will be in glory before this momentous sacrifice is stopped. Scripture plainly tells us that Jesus will come as a Thief, and a thief does not announce his impending time of arrival by such plain, and pinpoint harbingers. We are much aware of the times and seasons surrounding this long sought after blessing, and it behooves us to observe such signs and look steadily upward, longing to see Jesus. Our hearts must be submitted to Him NOW, regardless of what signs we may or may not see. It is our attitude of loving Him pre-eminently, which is at stake here. Paul said it well. “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love** his appearing.” II Tim. 4:8 John tells us that it is the hope itself that purifies us, thus making us ready for His glorious appearing. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” I John 3:3 Who we are, rather than what we do, prepares us for the glory of reigning with Christ.

Benefits Of The Sun

Dr. Vicky Moots

Someone asked me recently if I had been in the sun, and I thought “Well, it’s kind of obvious. I have a tan, right? So that means that I’ve been in the sun, right?” Maybe, maybe not. There are in fact “fake-bakes,” so it is not necessarily strange to be asked if you have been in the sun. The point is that just because you look like you have been in the sun does not necessarily mean that you have been. There are artificial ways to get a tan and so it is with the sunlight. Today I would speak on the benefits of the sun and spiritual tanning rather than fake tans.

Life cannot exist without sunlight. If you plant a tomato under a tree, it will not bear fruit. Likewise, the human body requires sunlight to live, and there are several things that happen when one spends time in the sun. If you have been there very long, it will soon be obvious to other people. If you are someone who tans you will get a tan. If you are not, you will burn. Either way, it will be apparent on the *outside* that you have been exposed to the sun.

There are also some things that happen on the inside of a physical body exposed to the sun. If you stay completely out of the sun, not only will you not get a tan, but you will also become depressed and weak, thus it is imperative to spend time in the sunlight. Note a few scriptures in regard to light and life, both physically and spiritually. “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 anything made that was made. *In Him was life and the life was the light of men.*” John 1:1- 4 So here it is: Jesus is the life, and He is the light. We have already seen that light is absolutely necessary for human life, physical life; and we will see how in a little while, but consider first verse 9. “That was the true light” (that was Jesus) “which lighteth every man that comes into the world.” Not everyone receives that light, but that light was shown into this world, which was dark, without form and void. Darkness

was upon the face of the deep, but God shined a light and He gave that glorious light of the Gospel to every man who will receive it. Without that light there is no life, but with that light then we have physical life and we have eternal life.

John also declares other scriptures regarding light. I think it interesting that most of the scriptures related to the light of the world are in John's gospel and in his letter to the Jews. Maybe it was because he leaned on Jesus' breast, at the last supper, intimately associated with the Light of the World. He knew that Light; he had received that Light, and further announces It in John 8:12. "Then spake Jesus unto him saying 'I am the light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.'" Jesus was the Light and He was, or is the Life. John 11:9-10 further declares: "Jesus answered Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day he stumbleth not because he sees the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night he stumbleth because there is no light in him." Spiritually speaking, this means, that Jesus is The Light, and the light of the Gospel had to be shined in our hearts for us to see. But light is necessary for Vitamin D, an extremely important vitamin that has been studied extensively recently. Our main source of vitamin D is actually from the sun, which forms it on the skin. A chemical reaction takes place on the skin, which produces the important hormone called Vitamin D in your body. Vitamin D again, is necessary for life. Every organ system in the body has Vitamin D receptors and it has been recently shown to decrease the risk of colon and breast cancer by 50%. It helps prevent Parkinson's and diabetes, reduces the risk of heart disease by about 30% and heart failure by about 30%. There was an interesting study conducted recently in the nursing home, showing some rather striking results. We used to think that Vitamin D was just necessary for strong bones, and we know that hip fractures and other osteopetrotic fractures are important causes of disability and people ending up in nursing homes. So they thought "Well, maybe if we supplemented Vitamin D to people in nursing homes we could cut down the risk of fractures." And they did, giving half the people 800 units of Vitamin D, in addition to whatever was in their vitamin

regimen and diet. The others just received their normal diets. The people who received the extra Vitamin D, not only reduced the fractures by half, they also reduced the falls! Interesting! I just read here in the Scriptures that if we walk in the light we are not going to stumble and we are not going to fall. This is true both in the physical and spiritual. Vitamin D caused the muscles to be stronger. It not only made stronger bones, so that if a fall occurred, the bones would not break, but it reduced the falls. Spiritually speaking, the more we walk in the light, the less likely will be the danger of falling, or weakness, or spiritual heart failure. That's just one of the many benefits of Vitamin D.

Sunlight also helps depression. Ephesians 5:8 asserts: "For ye were sometimes or at one time darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Walk in the light, and you will receive the Vitamin D of the "Son." Both the "S-o-n" and the "s-u-n" have life and will keep us from falling.

I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." Verse 5 once again tells us that Jesus is that Light. "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all;" *in Him is no darkness at all*. We need the light, and to have adequate Vitamin D, a person needs 10 to 15 minutes of unprotected sun exposure, without sunscreen, so that your body will produce sufficient amounts of Vitamin D. Likewise, the spiritual man requires Light, and Psalm 119 presents a beautiful commentary on it. Do you know how hard it is to get 10 to 15 minutes of time in the Word without interruptions? It's about as difficult as getting 10 to 15 minutes of unprotected sunlight. Satan will try to do anything to keep us from exposure to more "Son light." He does not want us to have the light into our hearts and lives, and will do everything he can to "protect us," from these perceived destructive rays.

People spend millions of dollars every year to protect themselves from the sun, and there is scripture addressing that too. There is the need of sunlight, but God also protects us

from overexposure, because that can be a hazard also. Psalm 119:105 “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” God’s Word is a lamp, and the Word is a light, and, of course, the Word was Jesus. “In the beginning was the Word...” Jesus is that Light, His Word is that Light. Jesus, The Word became flesh, so everywhere we read the “Word,” it could be easily translated “light” and vice versa. Likewise “Jesus” could be substituted for both light and light. I learned in Algebra that if “x” equals “y” then “y” equals “x;” you can substitute. That can also be done in the Scripture. The more light you receive the more you understand, because *the entrance of His Word gives light*. We can walk in the light because we have the Word as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

We also know that men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. (John 3:19) Thus people do not like to delve into the Word of God and have that light shine down into their lives to show up things that are not pleasing to Him. Some had rather have it dark. My house looks pretty good with the lights off, but when I turn them on I can see all of the dust and cobwebs; so it is with our lives.

Sunlight also helps depression. Sun enters into the brain through the eyes, into the pituitary gland, which raises the serotonin levels in your body, and helps depression. Depression can be induced by putting somebody in a dark place. There are areas of the country or in parts of the world where there is less sunlight, and people are more prone to depression. During the winter, the incidence of depression goes up. We call it “seasonal affective disorder,” when people become depressed from the short days, and lack of sunlight. We also spend our days under artificial lighting and get very little exposure to the real sun, so we can get depressed just from that. There is an epidemic of depression in the United States today, but I think that part of the reason is lack of exposure to the sun, both spiritual and physical. If we expose ourselves to the true “Sonlight” of the Word of God, He will give us the true “joy of thy salvation.” Psa. 51:12

People do not like to look into the light. Ecclesiastes 11:7 declares: “Truly the light is sweet and a pleasant thing it is

for the eyes to behold the sun.” This reinforces the fact that light helps depression, but we also see that men turn their faces away from the sun, trying to avoid the light of this world. Isaiah tells us that men will literally turn their faces away from the Son. “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him;” Isa. 53:3 People also try to avoid the sun in the physical. They will wear a bonnet, or sunscreen, or long sleeves, and really try to avoid the sun. So it is in the Christian world today where men do not want the light of the Gospel shining into their hearts. They too will do everything in their power, to avoid the “Sonlight.” They will still have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof, having, as it were a tanning-booth religion. In other words, they want to “appear” as having been in the “Son,” but have never been exposed to the light of God’s Word. They have a man-made artificial “Sonlight” so-called gospel in their churches, that never lifts up the Name of Jesus and does not glorify God. It glorifies and lifts up man; trying to make man look better. However, we cannot have life, without the True Light. The aforementioned artificial light does not produce the Vitamin D that we need.

Now, what about overexposure to the sunlight? David declares that “Our God is a sun, and He is a shield.” Why would He need to be both? Because of what happens with overexposure to the sun? Such overexposure will produce sunburn, and repeated sunburn can lead to skin cancer, and the exposure to the judgment of God, the midday sun, without any covering, will cause burning. We had a sermon about the grace of God this morning, and that will be our subject now. God shows up our sins through the light of the Gospel. He reveals to us, through His Word, that we have sinned, and are therefore, under condemnation, and the sentence of death. If all He did was expose our sins, we would find severe overexposure to the “Son,” which can cause burning. Underexposure to *the* Son, can also cause burning, (in hell) but God has made this physical body in a unique way. We have certain cells on our skin called “melanocytes.” They are the cells that give it color. Some people genetically have more to

begin with, and thus their skin is darker. Others are rather unlucky, and their skin is very, very light. Any exposure to the sun will cause burning. But even a light-skinned person, should get a least 10 minutes of sun exposure every day. The sun itself, will trigger those melanocytes to release the substance called melanin, which begins to turn the skin darker. That darkness of the skin, then acts as an umbrella to protect us. God made our bodies (I thought this was an interesting fact here) and there are 60,000 melanocytes (those are little cells that produce melanin) in every square inch of your skin; 60,000! God made a way to protect us from overexposure to the sun. "For the Lord God is a sun (because He's the light) and a shield. The Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11 Psalm 121:5-6 further states: "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 is indeed our shade; His grace is like the melanocytes on your skin, that which comes between us and the wrath of God. Such wrath is like unprotected sun shining down in the middle of the desert, with no relief. After a very short period of time, burning will ensue because there is covering. All men are naked before Him, so we truly have no covering of our own. Our righteousness is as filthy rags, with nothing between us and His burning wrath, except for Divine Grace, except for His Son.

The sunlight actually triggers the melanocytes to produce the melanin that protects the skin from overexposure to the sun. Men well know that excessive exposure to the sun can cause cancer. Melanoma is one of the deadliest forms of skin cancer, and a study of it and tanning booths, the alternative to the sun, found that the melanoma rate tripled for those people who used tanning booths compared to those people who were exposed to natural sunlight. Tripled the rate! Thus we must conclude that the sun - the real sun - not artificial lighting, or man-made lighting, actually protects you from cancer as long as it is not overexposure. God through His Infinite mercy, provided the Son of God Who was the Word, Who was the Light, Who also came to this world full of grace

and truth, to come between us and the wrath of God. We are now protected. The Lord God is our Sun, and He is our Shield.

Finally, we need to be sure that we have this daily exposure to the Son, The Word of God, which will give us the light of the Gospel, but II Cor. 4:4 issues this warning. "In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Satan will try to keep the light of the Gospel from shining upon our hearts. The entrance of God's Word gives light. The God Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness is the One who shined into our hearts to give us hope, and until that light shined we were all blind. Without sunlight, without the light in this world, every one of us would be blind. The opposite is also true. If you stare at the sun without any protection you will go blind. What happened when Saul of Tarsus was knocked down on the road to Damascus? He saw a great light and he was blinded by that intense light, because he had seen the sun. He was exposed to direct sunlight, and blinded.

Satan would keep us blinded, overwhelmed, when the light of the Gospel shines upon us, for he wants us not to be exposed to the Son. He would hide our faces from Him, causing us to look the other direction. However, we must look unto Jesus, see the Son, even as Saul ultimately did, and let His word penetrate deep into our hearts and souls creating a joy that He alone can give, even the desire to run to win Christ. We must have that daily exposure to the Word of God and have none of this fake-bake sun tan. We do not need tanning-booth religions. Right here, in the unadulterated Word of God, we have the true light of the Gospel, and I thank God for my physical tan and my spiritual tan.

(Ed. Note: This was an message excellent given by Dr. Moots at the 2010 Labor Day Convention. It was transcribed from an audio cassette and has been edited extensively to make it suitable for print.)

Our Experience

Reprint January 1910

Most of us, it may safely be said, dwell too largely in our own experiences. God has given us rich blessings. It almost seems that we are favored above all people. Or, we have many burdens, griefs which seem peculiarly our own. In the rapture of our joy the intensity of our pain, we lose sight of the fact that all through the ages, others have toiled and suffered, and fought the very battles we are fighting today; that they have been glad, too, with "joy unspeakable and full of glory," such, perhaps as we have never known.

Joy and pain, toil and care, are common to mankind. They are the bond which unites all nations and peoples. Without them we should be no better than the beasts of the fields – without understanding, without sympathy one for another. Those times of fierce conflict and restless questionings, when we seek in vain for that peace which "passeth all understanding: and grope blindly for the Light that shineth out of darkness, the bitter humiliations and grief which crush our spirit and leave a cruel sting long afterward, the great happiness which lifts us for the time above all else, and lingers with us like the melody of a half-forgotten song -- they are the links which bind us to one another and to the world. "There's ever a song somewhere," and somewhere, too, there is always a suffering heart. "The world is full of sorrow. Jesus said it would be so."

The mission of Jesus was to redeem the world from sin and suffering. The message proclaimed at His birth was "Peace on earth, good will to men." And all through the years, that message has been echoed down to us. It was for that He gave His life. It is for that, that we are to take up our cross daily, denying ourselves, in the paths wherein our lives have fallen. His love was one of service. He was full of compassion and went about doing good. His mercy was boundless; His love never failed. And He is our Great Example.

Our life is a trust. Let us not waste it in careless indifference or selfish absorption in our own interests. Let us

not draw into ourselves or confine our interests to a few who are especially dear to us, nor to experiences which have indeed been helpful to us, but widen them at every turn and make our lives rich with love and sympathy and the inspiration which comes from the contact with other hearts and lives. And above all let us not forget that hearts are the same the world over; and everywhere, and at all times, there have been men who walked with God.

H.O. Indianapolis

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**The Joy of Stillness**

**In stillness I can hear Him; midst throngs I'm made aware.  
He's ever present near me; ne'er a time He isn't there.  
Each season of my life, tho, lends a cross I've always known.  
When companion doth surround me, in truth I'm kept alone.**

**It matters not my being, that joy should fill my soul,  
Or flood-tides o'er take me, with sorrow, pain, and woe.  
Though love be round about me, with family and with friend,  
Alas, I'm but a pilgrim, sojourning till life's end**

**God purposed this; He knew t'was best, for me this way to take.  
I'm set apart; claimed by The King, 'tis all for Jesus sake.  
My path at times has lonely been, and often have I cried,  
And lo He whispers in my ear, 'tis all for thee, My bride.**

**The Master of the universe He is, and yet He's chosen me  
To reign with Him in Heaven's court, throughout eternity  
I'll run the race before me set; with patience to endure.  
My life, my heart, my faith like gold, by fire is made pure.**

Marilyn Higgins

\* If you were on trial for being a Christian would there be  
enough evidence to convict you?

\* In God's works we see His hand, but in His Word we see  
His face

# Choosing Positive or Negative

For all the negative things we have to say  
to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: "It's impossible"

God Says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired"

God says: I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

You say: "I can't go on"

God Says: My grace is sufficient (II Cor. 12:9 & Psalms 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out"

God Says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am Able (II Cor. 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (Romans 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I FORGIVE YOU (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage"

God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God Says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I don't have enough faith" God says: I've given  
everyone a measure of FAITH (Romans 12:3)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (I Cor. 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

Be encouraged knowing that God is with us always (Matthew  
28:20)

# REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

*. . . From the Editor*

“Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps. Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.” Num. 10:2,10

Two silver trumpets, a marvelous witness of God’s glorious redemption, were used for a number of purposes, one of which was to announce the beginning of months for Israel. We too feel like bringing forth those trumpets in praise and adoration for the tremendous blessings of The Lord that have been lavishly poured out upon Grace and Glory. January 2010 marked the beginning of 100 years for this little white winged messenger, which Bro. Copley began publishing in 1910. Many changes have transpired during that century, and indeed many have taken place just in this past year. We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Smith, only the third editor of Grace and Glory during that 100 year period, as he went home to be with The Lord in February. We have found, however, that God’s Word and work, still goes on, and we too have discovered His faithfulness in our behalf. Not only have faithful contributors continued to support this work, but two of the three properties in Mountain Grove were sold, thus making it possible to purchase another facility here in Belton to house both the print shop and the Bible School. We were able to pay cash for the building as well as all moving expenses, and thus Grace and Glory remains completely debt free. Over the past year, the paper has been printed by Precision Graphics in Mountain Grove, and we are so very grateful to Mike Barbe who has been a great friend to both Bro. Smith and ourselves. However, since all the printing equipment has been moved, and

is now in working order, our hearts rejoice that this month's issue of Grace and Glory has been printed, folded, collated, bound, and mailed from our new home here in the Kansas City area, not so very far from where it all began, back in 1910.

We stated last January that surely Bro. Copley never envisioned this work lasting for a hundred years, because he too lived with the glorious hope of Jesus' soon return. We are likewise filled with hope at that glorious prospect, and while we must admit that we are somewhat disappointed that we are not already in glory, we too must obey Jesus' admonition to "occupy till I come." Luke 19:13

So we do indeed sound the silver trumpet of God's Word as we embark on the 101<sup>st</sup> year of publishing Grace and Glory, but it is also a time to look back, with grateful hearts for those who have left us this marvelous message of Divine Grace. As noted, Bro. Smith went home in February, and just recently another faithful warrior has been taken from us. Bro. Jack Bannister entered the courts of glory on December 6, 2010. He has been a long time friend and associate of Grace and Glory, having been in charge of the print shop a number of years in the late 50's and early 60's. Brother Jack, as did his predecessor Bro. Smith, printed the paper on a huge Miehle newspaper press, which used hot lead slugs created on a linotype machine. This was before the era of offset printing and "cold type." Bro. Bannister was also a teacher in the Bible School, having been a close associate of Sis. Bodie, Bro. Smith, and Sis. Alice Mooneyhan. He and Sis. Lois founded Grace Chapel in Carbondale, Kansas in 1958, but after commuting between Kansas City and that pastorate for a number of years, finally vacated the posts with Grace and Glory around 1963. He will ever be remembered as a man who dearly loved the message of Divine Grace, which he too learned from the founders of Grace and Glory.

GH

## JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Paul N. Smith

*“NOW WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED, IT CAME TO PASS, THAT JESUS ALSO BEING BAPTIZED AND PRAYING, THE HEAVEN WAS OPENED AND THE HOLY GHOST DESCENDED IN A BODILY SHAPE LIKE A DOVE UPON HIM, AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN, WHICH SAID, THOU ART MY BELOVED SON; IN THEE I AM WELL PLEASED.” Luke 3:31,32.*

We always like to emphasize what Jesus has done for us through the work of redemption. But have you thought of the very important part the Holy Spirit had in Jesus' life? When the Son of God came to earth, it was in the form of man, with a body of limitations and needs. He was dependent upon God, His Father. Thus, it was necessary for Him to have the Holy Spirit working actively in and through Him. He could not have accomplished all that He did without the power of the Spirit. He could not have gone to the Cross apart from the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and the Holy Spirit were inseparable, and that is the way it should be.

We have recorded in John's Gospel that John the Baptist thought that it was not necessary for Jesus to be baptized, knowing who He was. Jesus replied that He must be baptized to “fulfill all righteousness.” Through His baptism, Jesus identified Himself with all humanity, He was declaring to all the world, “I have come to earth so that I can identify Myself with your needs, with all your sins, your miseries; so that I can lift you up out of death.”

This is the kind of Savior we needed, one who would identify with our needs. It is so easy to look upon someone in desperate need and think, “O poor fellow! I wish I could help you, but I cannot at this time.” That was the experience that the poor man had when he was set upon by thieves and left along the wayside wounded. A priest went by and passed him on the other side of the road. The Levite did the same. They could not relate to his needs; their compassion was too shallow to engulf the needy man. The Good Samaritan, came by, and he could and did help the man. Jesus was that Good Samaritan, who came to earth and found us by the wayside.

He took us when we were wounded and bleeding and He took us to safety, paying all of our debts.

Jesus' act of being baptized - going down into the water and coming up out of the water - pictures His death, burial, and resurrection. As He came forth from the waters, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the shape of a dove. This is symbolic, as a dove speaks of peace. Jesus became the "Prince of peace." by His work of redemption, He made peace between God and man. He will also reign in righteousness and bring peace to this troubled world.

As the dove lit upon Him, a Voice is heard from Heaven saying, "Thou art My Beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased." God set His approval upon His Son, Jesus. God not only meant that He approved of His Son as the One to do His work upon earth, but that He was emphasizing His delight that Jesus had received the Holy Spirit.

He was proud of His Son, and was happy to announce publicly this fact. It is the same with His children today. He approves of them when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. He witnesses through the Spirit that we are the sons of God. In other words, He is saying to those who receive the Holy Spirit, "You are My beloved son; in you I am well pleased."

The proof of God's approval of Jesus was seen as He walked daily in this world. He was controlled by the Holy Spirit. Let us note some ways in which this was true. "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness" Luke 4:1. Jesus' experience at Jordan was more than a symbolic dove lighting upon Him. Here it is evident that the Holy Spirit took control of Jesus' life, even as He will take control of all who yield to Him to do the Father's will. Mark, writing of this time, expresses it thus: "The Spirit driveth Him...."

Jesus did not go into the lonely desert of His own will. He was not thinking of getting away from it all, and seeking a quiet place where He could meditate. God had a definite purpose in Jesus going to the desert. The Holy Spirit was the contact between God and His Son. This was no place for a lonely retreat anyway. It was a dangerous place, an unfriendly place, inhabited by wild animals, and where there was no food available.

God had witnessed publicly that Jesus was His beloved Son, and that He was well pleased with His life; and

now He was going to prove to Satan that this was so. Jesus was there forty days without any food, waiting until the Spirit bid Him leave. What a wonderful example He is to us today! We, too, can be led of the Spirit in every phase of our lives. It is interesting to note that it is the Holy Spirit who will lead us into our times of testing. They are not just a happenstance; they are ordered of God.

At the end of the forty-day fast, the enemy came to Jesus to test Him. His first word was "IF". His tactics were the same when he tempted Eve so long before this. "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Just forty days before this Jesus heard these wonderful words from Heaven, "Thou art My Beloved Son." Those words must still have been singing in His heart, all during the forty-day ordeal. Satan was endeavoring to get Him to doubt who He was. "If You are the Son of God, why are You in such a place? Why are You in need? You claim to be the Creator come from Heaven; let me see Your power. Help Yourself, and change these stones into something for Your stomach." oh, Satan knows how to talk!

Jesus knew who He was, and He did not need to defend Himself to anyone - especially Satan. He never tried to prove to the Pharisees or Sadducees that He was the Son of God. He was; and He knew it. Every time Satan spoke to Jesus, he was met with a scripture - a saying of God. Jesus said, "It is written." The Holy Spirit brought these verses to Jesus' mind. Let's remember that Jesus was in a body of flesh, and He was now in a physically and mentally weakened condition. When Satan tormented Him with such thoughts, the Spirit of God would bring something out of God's Arsenal to fight him with.

It is the same with us. Jesus told His disciples that, after the Holy Spirit came, He would bring to their minds the things that Jesus had said to them. Paul, when writing to the Ephesians, spoke of the armor of God. He points out "the sword of the Spirit," which is "a saying of God." The Word is the Spirit's Sword with which He enables us to fight our spiritual battles. The Holy Spirit was enabling Jesus to fight that battle in the wilderness. If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to help Him, surely we do. We need to be filled with the Scriptures as Jesus was, and to be filled also with the Teacher of those Scriptures. In the time of need, in the midst of a trial,

the Holy Spirit will bring to our minds the exact Scripture we need as a weapon in our battle with the enemy.

Satan left Jesus, but just for a season. He never left Jesus alone while He was on earth. But the Man, Jesus, won the victory over Satan at that time. He came out of the wilderness in triumph. One would think that, after such a battle, Jesus would have been drained of all strength - that He would have felt spiritually "dry." This is not the experience of one who is in a battle. In these times, one's spiritual senses are being exercised. He draws upon the Lord for strength and wisdom. Our "dull, dry times" come when we are not in a battle, when things seem to be going along smoothly.

"And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit." He was not defeated. He came out of that experience more than a Conqueror. He came out filled with the Spirit. We cannot emphasize too much the importance of a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. He brought Jesus through that trial, stronger and more vigorous in spirit than before.

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written.." The Spirit, no doubt, led Him to the synagogue on that particular day for this most momentous announcement. It was by no accident that the book of Isaiah was given to Him to read from. The Spirit was leading all the way. It is unlikely that He had all of this planned, that He would choose Isaiah and read the verses from chapter sixty-one. As He opened the scroll, the Holy Spirit probably whispered, "Chapter sixty-one." The Scripture states, "HE FOUND the place where it was written" - Luke 4:17.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And He closed the book" - Luke 4:18-20. What a wonderful declaration! These verses outlined His ministry to mankind, and these things were His credentials.

He preached the Gospel to the poor. What a privilege it is to be poor in spirit! The Gospel is for you. The poor

become recipients of His immeasurable grace. If you are broken-hearted, Jesus can put your heart together again. In fact, He will do better than that; He will give you a new heart. He announced that there was deliverance to the captives of sin. I like to think that as He read these wonderful words, the realization of His ministry flooded over His being. He read these words with such depth of emotion, that the people knew this was a special occasion. Each word must have made an impression upon the people. At last He said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Almost fifteen years later, when Peter was visiting the house of Cornelius the Gentile, he spoke of the Spirit-filled ministry of Jesus. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him" - Acts 10:34-38.

The key to Jesus' successful ministry was that God anointed Him with the Holy Ghost. He poured the holy anointing oil over this Man, from the top of His head to the soles of His feet. The result was that He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed. God was with Him. This was a sign that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him. We, too, know that God is with us when we have been anointed with the Holy Spirit. We, too, may go about doing good in the will of God. The Holy Spirit who moves in God's people today, is the same Spirit who filled and anointed Jesus. We do not minimize Jesus' earthly ministry, but we must not think that He accomplished those wonderful feats because He was God. He, as Man, depended upon the will of His Father and the power of the Holy Spirit. There will never be another Jesus, another Christ; but there are Christians, other anointed ones, who can also let the Spirit move in them.

Every step that Jesus took was in the power of the Spirit. As He faced that fateful hour when He must suffer on the Cross, it was the Spirit who enabled Him to endure the

shame. "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 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 9:13,14.

It was "through the eternal Spirit" that Jesus was enabled to offer Himself as the holy Sacrifice for our sins. He "obtained eternal redemption" for us. The Spirit enabled Him to say, "Yes," to God's will in the Garden of Gethsemane; to face the murderous crowd, and to be put to "an open shame." The Spirit enabled Him to die upon the Cross of Calvary, it may be that the Spirit gave Him a vision of the glory that would be His, and the throng of many sons that He would bring to glory with Him. We read, "Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame" - Hebrews 12:2.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit were never separated. Jesus could not have preached, healed, worked miracles, and suffered for our sins, if the Spirit had not been His constant Companion. He is the Agent for all of God's work today. He is the Guide and Leader of those who would follow Jesus. He is our Teacher and the Revealer of God's Word and will.

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FILLS ME NOW

Oh the Spirit hovers o'er me,
Bathes my yielding heart and brow.
Fills me with His joyous presence;
Yes, He comes and fills me now.

He can fill me and control me,
Though I cannot tell Him how.
For I need Him, greatly need Him,
Oh, He comes and fills me now.

I am weakness, full of weakness;
At His sacred feet I bow,
As I rest upon His promise,
With His pow'r He fills me now.

Oh, such peace and joy and comfort;
How can Jesus this allow?
In another tongue I praise Him;
For He fills, and fills me now.

--E. H. Stokes

PAUL'S GOSPEL

IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON

A. S. Mooneyhan

Canticle Three Continued

4:15. *"A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters and streams from Lebanon."* In this threefold description, an abundance of refreshment is implied. This bountiful supply is not only for the Lord, but for others as well. This we learn from John 7:38-39: "He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spoke He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)." The Holy Spirit becomes within us this abundant supply of living waters. In order to please Christ perfectly, we are always seeking the good of others, seeking to bless others. This does not contradict the previous statements in verse twelve, concerning the enclosed garden and the sealed fountain. We express our love for Christ by loving one another. Christ Himself "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many" - Matt. 20:28. We, too, have a self-sacrificing life; and we are to pour out our lives in service and sacrifice to God, but it is on behalf of others.

4:16. *"Awake. O north wind, and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out."* Every farmer knows that the growth, maturity, and fruitfulness of his crops, are regulated by the seasons. After the flood, God spoke to Noah saying, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" - Genesis 8:22. The seasons in nature correspond with the various experiences which are necessary in the lives of God's people in order to produce fruitfulness. The north wind represents the

testing and trials which we must endure as necessary training. "Tribulation worketh patience."

This Gardener calls for the north wind and then the south. The south wind speaks of the comfort that we need in testing and trials, lest we become discouraged. God said He would not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear. Both the north and south winds are necessary to cause the garden to grow and nature and for the spices to flow out that they might be a sweet fragrance of Jesus Christ. So let us not be discouraged when temptations and trials come; they are necessary. That is the way the Christ-life is actually pressed out of us. If everything were beautiful and nice and easy all the time, the natural man would grow and flourish. But, when trials come and we are pressed beyond measure, then the Christ-life is manifested much more than when everything goes smoothly. Paul himself said, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen" - II Corinthians 4:17,18a. "Let my Beloved come into His garden, and eat His pleasant fruits." After the north wind and the south wind blow, then the fruit is ready to be eaten. Then she invites Him to come into His garden. She is the garden. The pleasant fruits are the fruit of the Spirit, the result of a yielded life.

5:1. *"I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends."* This verse impressed me greatly, when I was giving these lessons at a Bible Conference and fellowship meeting. It seemed exactly as though this verse was being fulfilled in our midst. The Lord had come into His garden and He was eating of the fruits. That is true, when we meet together in fellowship; Christ is there and enjoys the precious fruits of His garden. He gets more out of a spiritual fellowship which His people have, than they do. In this verse, He says, "I

am come into My garden.” All of these precious things whether they are myrrh (suffering), or whether they are joy, or whether they are victory, or whether they are temptation and trial, they are all unto Him. He sees, He knows, He gets a part out of every little phase of our lives. Nothing is unobserved by Him. The fellowship of the saints is to the Lord as food and drink. He feeds upon our love and worship. Not only does the Lord enjoy this garden and His eating of the fruits, but He says, “Eat, O friends.” He invites others to partake of His pleasant fruits. The friends who are invited to eat are, no doubt, the daughters of Jerusalem who are mentioned elsewhere in this book.

The last part of this verse says, “Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.” The Bride is speaking - “O Beloved.” She, too, is enjoying the fellowship meeting herself. But she says this silently, for she is saying it to Him alone. “O Beloved.” That is wonderful! The Lord is always present when we meet together in His Name.

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**I KNOW A NAME**

*I know a soul that is steeped in sin,  
That no man's art can cure;  
But I know a Name, a precious Name,  
That can make that soul all pure.*

*I know a life that is lost to God,  
Bound down by things of earth;  
But I know a Name, a precious Name,  
That can bring that soul new birth.*

*I know of lands that are sunk in shame,  
Of hearts that faint and tire;  
But I know a Name, a precious Name,  
That can set those lands on fire.*

*I know a Name, a precious Name,  
Its sound is a brand, its letters flame,  
I know a Name, a precious Name,  
That WILL set those lands on fire.*

-- Author unknown

## ***ROCK OF AGES***

*Author-Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778*

*Composer-Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872*

*Tune Name- "Toplady "*

*Meter-77.77.77*

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee  
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath, and make me pure.

Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know,  
These for sin could not atone – Thou must save, and Thou alone:  
In my hand no price I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I rise to worlds unknown And behold Thee on Thy throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers ... did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: And that Rock was Christ. I Cor. 10:1,4

This hymn has traditionally been ranked as one of the most popular hymns ever written. It is certainly one of the best-known in the English language. It has been described as a "hymn that meets the spiritual needs of all sorts and conditions of men from the derelict snatched from the gutter by the Salvation Army to Prime Minister Gladstone, at whose funeral it echoed through the dim spaces of Westminster Abbey."

Whereas most hymns have been written out of some deep personal need or experience, this hymn evidently was born in a spirit of passionate controversy. Augustus Toplady was converted to Christ as a young boy of sixteen years of age while visiting in Ireland. Of his conversion Toplady has written

“Strange that I, who had so long sat under the means of grace in England, should be brought right with God in an obscure part of Ireland, midst a handful of people met together in a barn, and by the ministry of one who could hardly spell his own name. Surely it was the Lord's doing and is marvelous.”

For a time Toplady was attracted to the ministry of John and Charles Wesley and the Methodists. As time went on, however, he became a strong follower of the "election" doctrines of John Calvin and was vehemently opposed to the Arminian views promoted by the Wesleys and their supporters. By means of public debates, pamphlets and sermons, Toplady and the Wesleys carried on theological warfare. The following are several of their recorded statements:

Toplady - I believe him (John Wesley) to be the most rancorous hater of the gospel system that ever appeared in this Island .... Wesley is guilty of Satanic shamelessness ... of uniting the sophistry of a Jesuit with the authority of a pope.

Wesley - I dare not speak of the deep things of God in the spirit of a prize fighter or a stage player, and I do not fight with chimney sweeps.

In 1776 Toplady published this hymn text in *The Gospel Magazine* as a climax to an article attempting to prove his argument that even as England could never pay her national debt, so man through his own efforts could never satisfy the eternal justice of a holy God. He entitled the hymn "A Living and Dying Prayer for the Holiest Believer in the World."

Some of the expressions in Toplady's hymn text are quite obviously satirical swipes at such Wesleyan teachings as the need for contrite and remorseful repentance and the Arminian concept of sanctification - the belief that it is possible for any believer to live without consciously sinning and thereby to find the promised "rest," the state of moral perfection as described in Hebrews 4:9. Note Toplady's rebuttal in the second stanza: Could my tears forever flow, could my zeal no languor know, these for sin could not atone-Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Dr. Louis J. Benson, a noted hymnologist, in *Studies of Familiar Hymns*, calls attention to the fact that Toplady actually plagiarized his text from a hymn Charles Wesley had written thirty years earlier in a collection, *Hymns on the Lord's Supper*. A paragraph of the preface from this collection reads as follows: "O Rock of Israel, Rock of Salvation, Rock struck for me, let those two streams of Blood and Water which once gushed out of Thy side, bring down Pardon and Holiness into

my soul. And let me thirst after them now, as if I stood upon the Mountain whence sprang this Water; and near the Cleft of that Rock, the Wounds of my Lord, whence gushed this Sacred Blood.”

Augustus Montague Toplady was born at Farnham, England, on November 4, 1740, the son of a Major Richard Toplady, who died in the service while his son was in infancy. Later young Toplady was graduated from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and was ordained in 1762 to the ministry of the Anglican Church. His various pastorates included the French Calvinist Chapel at Leicester Fields, London, where he was known as a powerful and zealous evangelical preacher. Because of his frail constitution he died of overwork and tuberculosis at the early age of thirty-eight. Though known as a controversial preacher in his crusade against Arminian theology, Toplady, was highly respected as a deeply spiritual, evangelical leader. His final statements just before his death are noteworthy: “My heart beats every day stronger and stronger for glory. Sickness is no affliction, pain no cause, death itself no dissolution.... My prayers are now all converted into praise.”

The tune for Toplady's text was composed in 1830 by a well-known American church musician, Thomas Hastings. Hastings was the first musician of sacred music to dedicate his life to the task of elevating and improving the music of the churches in this country. He once wrote, "The homage that we owe Almighty God calls for the noblest and most reverential tribute that music can render.”

Thomas Hastings was born on October 15, 1784, at Washington, Connecticut. Though his formal musical training was meager, and as an albino he was afflicted with eye problems throughout his life, yet he wrote no less than fifty volumes of church music, including 1000 hymn tunes and more than 600 original hymn texts as well as editing more than fifty music collections. In 1858 the University of the City of New York conferred the degree of Doctor of Music upon him in recognition of his accomplishments. Along with Lowell Mason, Thomas Hastings is generally credited with being the

person most instrumental in shaping the development of church music in the United States.

It is encouraging to realize that, despite the original belligerent intent behind this text, God in His providence has chosen to preserve this hymn for the past two hundred years so that congregations of believers of both Calvinistic and Arminian theological persuasion can sing this hymn with spiritual profit and blessing.

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WONDROUS GIFT!

Peace! Peace! The angels sang;
Good will to man! The heavens rang;
This the chorus at His birth:
Christ the King has come to earth.
Unto us a CHILD is given;
God's own Son is born from Heaven.

Peace! Peace! The joyful strain.
Naught of sorrow, sin nor pain.
Good will to man, they only tell,
As their voices rise and swell;
Heaven's -Joy has come to earth,
Born a babe of lowly birth.

Peace! Peace! The story this.
Angels sang of Grace and Bliss;
For on Mary's gentle breast,
Lay the GIFT of endless Rest.
And in Christ, "the Lord from Heaven,"
God's Eternal Peace is given.

ANON



1. Wake up!!

Decide to have a good day.
"Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

2. Dress Up!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks on outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart."

3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3.

4. Stand Up!!.

For what you believe in. Stand up for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good " Galatians 6:9,10

5. Look Up!!

To the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4: 13.

6. Reach Up!! ...

For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding, In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5,6.

7. Lift Up!! ...

"Do not worry about anything; instead pray about everything." Philippians 4:6. A positive thought - if God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart. What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday (Thursday) at Calvary. Face it, He loves you!

-Copied, in *The Church Advocate and Good Way*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

April 15-17 Gospel Fellowship Ladies Retreat
Grandview, Missouri.

Further information will be mailed shortly, but if you have
never attended the retreat, or if your address has changed,
please e-mail us at

GospelFellowshipLadiesRetreat@yahoo.com

You may also mail your request to
Grace & Glory
P.O. Box 831
Grandview, Missouri 64030
Attn. Ladies Retreat.

President's Day Weekend Convention
Living Waters Tabernacle 2011
February 18-20.

We covet your fellowship during this sweet time if the Lord
will.

Sermons, studies, and plenty of food will be provided
throughout the weekend.

If you need assistance with accommodations please call
Michelle Coe (303) 791-5567.

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### MOM'S TRANSLATION

There is a story about four clergymen who were discussing  
the merits of the various translations of the Bible. One liked the  
King James Version best because of its simple, beautiful English.

Another liked the American Revised Version best because it  
is more literal and comes nearer the original Hebrew and Greek.

Still another liked Moffatt's translation best because of its  
up-to-date vocabulary.

The fourth minister was silent. When asked to express his  
opinion, he replied, "I like my mother's translation best. She  
translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I  
ever saw."

