

Glorious Gospel Publication



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The King's Table



Part 2

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Ps 103:1-5

At His table we are sustained and yet far more. We are abundantly satisfied and supernaturally strengthened. Feasting there we may become healthy, wealthy, and wise. As we walk with Him our spirit is quickened. Waiting on Him strength is renewed. He weakens our strength, by the way. So that we may mount up in His strength to run and not be weary, walk and not faint. Oh, let us not be so foolish, and stay away from our Lord’s table! Never let lameness keep us away. Also staying away can cause spiritual lameness.

I enjoyed Hannah’s song of praise when the Lord had made her fruitful, giving her Samuel! Consider a portion of it. “The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and he hath set the

world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints...” – I Samuel 2:7-9a.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, gave forth with praise after Jesus birth. She also tells some of the joy of the King’s table. “He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree, He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.” Lk. 1:52-53

The Lord resists the proud, so it is wise for us to humble ourselves under His almighty hand that He may exalt us in due season. He is the one to say to us “Friend, come up higher.” Why go against God? We will soon find that He is not a moveable object, nor are we a irresistible force. The rich are the self-sufficient who think that they have need of nothing. I Thank God He has promised that **those who hunger after righteousness shall be filled.**

We Come By Choice

“Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain Village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her**” – Lk. 10:38-42.

It is not a bad thing for us to be busy in the will of the Lord, as we serve Him with a peaceful attitude. The bad thing is if it is allowed to keep us from the feet of Jesus, worshipping Him and feeding on His wonderful Word. For it is there we are nourished that we may be able to discern both good and evil. So we each are making the choice.

An Appointed Place At His Table

Jesus' disciples had been striving among themselves, as to whom would be the greatest. Jesus told them, "Let him be as him that doth serve." Then He also told them that He was among them as He that serveth. He told them: **"Ye are they which hath continued with me in my temptations, And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and set on thrones Judging the twelve tribes of Israel"** – Lk. 22:26-30.

Jesus, our great and merciful High Priest, has performed the greatest, most beneficial service for humanity unto the Father's highest glory. Therefore He shall **forever** be the greatest!

Today He still has those who are "continuing with Him, in His temptations" that are taking His cup, suffering with Him. Praise God! He who appoints to or bestows greatness, is the greater. He who was obedient unto death, God has exalted to the highest, not only in this world but also in that which is to come. But while those overcomers of that day will be judging twelve tribes – the full overcomers of this

day will be reigning with Christ, setting with Him **at His table**, judging the whole world.

So never forget – we have been invited by Him who is to reign as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Our Lord, our Lover says **“Come and dine!”**

J. D.

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Come and Dine

*“Come and dine,” the Master calleth, “Come and dine.”
You may feast at Jesus’ table all the time;
He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine,
To the hungry calleth now, “Come and dine.”*

*Jesus has a table spread where the saints of God are fed,
He invites His chosen people, “Come and dine;”
With His manna he doth feed and supplies our every need:
O ‘tis sweet to sup with Jesus all the time!*

*The disciples came to land, thus obeying Christ’s
command,
For the Master called to them, “O come and dine;”
There they found their hearts’ desire, bread and fish upon
the fire;
Thus he satisfies the hungry every time.*

*Soon the Lamb will take His bride to be ever at His side,
All the host of heaven will assembled be;
O ‘twill be a glorious sight, all the saints in spotless white;
And with Jesus they will feast eternally .*

– Selected

THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark



“Give glory to the Lord your God, before He cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and while you look for light, He turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness. If you will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore and run down with tears because the LORD’S flock is carried away captive.” Jeremiah 13:16-17

The above Scriptures are spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah to Judah as they were about to be carried away into captivity to Babylon. However, today, many of God’s people have turned from the truth of God’s Word. We wonder how it could be? Many people who once knew and proclaimed the depths of the Truth have now turned aside. It makes our hearts sad. Time is so short. Signs in the earth proclaim loudly that Christ could come at any time. There is no time to fool away the precious moments we now have to give out this precious Word of God. This departure from the Truth is a definite sign of the soon coming of Jesus. “Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and to doctrines of demons. Speaking lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron” – I Tim 4:1,2.

In Apostle Paul’s day apostasy had already raised its ugly head. He speaks of those who were teaching error such as: “divisions among the believers, preaching to follow men (I

Cor. 1:10-17),” “ False teachers transforming themselves into angels of light to deceive the saints with lies (II Cor. 11:13-15),” “Preaching another gospel [that of works to obtain or to retain salvation] (Gal. 1:6-9),” “Beware of man who spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ (Col. 2:4,8,16-19),” “Brethren, ye are not of the darkness but the children of the day...don’t sleep as do others...for God has not appointed us to wrath, (I Thess. 5:5:5-9),” “that the day of Christ is past already...a falling away, (II Thess. 2:1-3),” “Holding faith and a good conscience, which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck of such is Hymenaeus and Alexander...(I Tim. 1:19-20),” “Hold fast the form of sound words...all they which are in Asia be turned away from me (II Tim. 1:13-15),” “Perilous times shall come, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (II Tim. 3:1-10),” “the resurrection is passed already (II Tim. 3:18),” “Demas has forsaken me having loved this present world, (I Tim. 6:9-11),” “Holding fast the faithful Word...convince the gainsayers, (Titus 1:9-14),” “Avoid foolish questions and genealogies, and contentions, and sayings about the law for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject, (Titus 3:9-11).” There are no doubt other citations we could look at.

Error has increased by tremendous proportions until the present time. Several T.V. preachers are teaching that after we are saved, since we are called sons of God, that we have the same power God has and can call ourselves, “Little Gods.” Even brazenly stating that we can even travel up to heaven any time where God the Father is. Others teach that we as believers can expect God to materially bless us, so that we become wealthy. This doctrine is erroneous, not

fitting with the teachings of the Word. It would only be possible in the U.S.A. or other affluent country. To the poor of Bangladesh or some other third world country, it could never be possible. The most important proof that this teaching is false is the Word of God itself for the Gospel is universal - applying equally to all the people of the world.

These false teachers say if you have enough faith you will always be well, you will always have plenty of money and you will never suffer trials or persecution. But what does the Bible say. In John 16:33, Jesus says, "These things I have spoken unto you that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Apostle Paul instructs in II Tim. 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Paul also warned about desiring the riches of this world in I Tim. 6:3-12 & 17-19. If God blesses an individual with wealth, then, He must desire that person can be trusted to use it for the glory of God, but we are admonished not to seek after it, but after the Lord. All these things "shall perish with the using." Jesus admonished to lay up your treasure in heaven, where nothing can destroy or steal it. "Having food and raiment, let us therewith be content" - I Tim. 6:8.

TREMENDOUS PRESSURE AS THE U.S. STRUGGLES TO GAIN IT'S EQUILIBRIUM – These troublesome times are all signs that the Lord's coming is at the door. The words of Jesus, "Let not your hearts be troubled," apply to this situation as well as others. We can become so bothered by all this stuff going on that we can lose our peace. The persons that don't know Jesus or how to trust in God must really be challenged just to maintain a sound mind. Many saints of God are letting worry overcome them. This is the

time to rest upon the promises of God. Is He the Sovereign or not? Some in our meeting who work for the government have no income now. I know it is hard to keep faith that God will help us in all our trials.

Over and over we think of Apostle Paul's message of trusting God implicitly. He writes "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). In Genesis we see Joseph speaking this same truth, after his brothers had treated him so horribly. He could have just had all of them tortured or killed, but he knew a secret that many other saints of God have learned down through the ages, and that is God is in control. He is Sovereign, which means He can do anything He wishes at any time. He is the all powerful ruler. But, there's one thing that we are assured of, and that is that our Sovereign Lord also is LOVE. He always works for our good. If we can only grasp that, we have gained a very real victory. As Joseph said, "For God has sent me before to preserve life" (Gen. 45:5.7) and again in Genesis 50:20, "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." So, beloved saints look to Jesus in this hour of great need. God knows and understands all about the problems of this old world and is working for our good in all the circumstances that come our way.

DRAMATIC CHANGES THAT MAY BRING PERSECUTION IN THE U.S. – Political Correctness is a term that almost everybody is familiar with. The Constitution of the United States guarantees our liberty, or freedom. But, many restrictions have been brought upon us. Many prophecy teachers believe that many more of our liberties will be imposed upon as time goes by. In the magazine TOWNHALL (Sept. Issue), writer Elizabeth

Meinecke writes of the Persecution of Christians in America. She writes about how Nazi Germany and leader Hitler gradually reduced the Christian Churches until they were no more. We can see a parallel attack happening in America today. Here is a list of the incremental changes and restrictions that occurred over a short period of time in Germany, when Hitler took over:

*Prayer removed from public schools - In 1962 public prayers were removed for U.S. schools.

*Festivals - identified as Christian holidays were reclassified with secular names - Just as this was accomplished in Germany, so, it is now accomplished in the U.S.

*Movements to classify sermons on public radio as being hate speech as now accomplished in Canada.

*Germany supported Darwinism Evolution to justify the purging of the species. In many schools and universities in the U.S. **Creation** is not allowed to be introduced as an option.

*Christian cross symbols were torn down from churches and anywhere they were displayed and were replaced with swastikas. In U.S. today the ten commandments, nativity scenes and crosses can not be displayed in public places so as not to offend anyone.

*Finally, Christian Pastors and other believers were arrested and imprisoned, often tortured and slain for the Gospel. Many believe that persecution is on the horizon.

In 2009 Homeland Security identified Evangelical Christianity and Catholicism as examples of religious extremism. The Pentagon has launched a crackdown on Christian activity in the military. They feared they might offend Muslims and atheists. We may see more persecution of Christians in the U.S. as time goes by, but it will especially escalate during the tribulation when the Antichrist will have zero tolerance and many will be beheaded for Christ. One world government and one world religion and one world rulership of the Beast out of the Sea (Rev. 13) whom we call the Antichrist will be here on the earth. Satan will have a heyday, but it will be a short one! God will intervene and Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords will come in power and glory and put things aright.

At the present time there is atrocious persecution of Christians in foreign lands. We especially hear of the plight of Christians in Nigeria, where they are being slain and tortured and their churches are being burned down. Other reports tell of more persecution in most of the Moslem countries. "Does Jesus care? I know He cares." He will punish those who persecute His saints with everlasting fire.

Do you believe that the end of all things is at hand? It is what the Bible teaches. Jesus warned that we need to watch and pray. He said, "Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man, for in an hour that you think not the Son of Man comes" - Luke 21:36. Trust Him! He will work in you to prepare you for His coming to catch His bride away.



Access

In the days of kings, it was common for access to be very restricted. It was very difficult to gain an audience with the king. Just coming into the king without permission, could result in death. Access to the king was a great privilege. Esther needed to gain access to the king, and she understood that it could mean death for her if the king did not grant her an audience when she entered his court.

In the Old Testament, under the covenant of the law, coming into God's presence in the Holy of Holies would result in death, unless it was the High Priest with atoning blood. Access was a great privilege.

God has always desired for man to have access to Him. In The garden we find God having close communion with man until the fall. Sinful man cannot enter God's presence; not because God is mean and difficult, but because He is Holy. Only that which is holy can enter His presence. This is why access to God's presence is still such a great privilege, and yet, it is a privilege we have been granted. "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." Ephesians 3:12.

In Hebrews 10:19, 22, we read about a way that was opened up for us into God's presence through the blood of Jesus. To understand this, we need to go back to that High Priest in the Old Testament. There was a veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the tabernacle. That veil kept man from coming into the place where God had chosen to place His presence on this earth for that time. All of this was done

to show us the incredible demands of holiness required to enter God's presence.

When Jesus died on the cross, that physical veil was torn in two. Again, this was done to demonstrate that God had now met the requirement in the Holy blood of His Son Jesus. Now, we have access directly into God's presence because the blood of Jesus makes us holy. What a great privilege is ours.

Some may mistake the phrase "boldly" to mean that we just come and take what we want. It is not with rudeness, but with respect and reverence that we come into God's presence. As God's people, we need a true revelation of the value of this access we have been granted. It begins with understanding the cost: the blood of Jesus. No higher price has been paid for anything. What a shame to devalue this privilege by ignoring it or by taking it for granted. What a shame to devalue this access by trying to limit it to only certain people. Every person who is saved by the blood of Jesus, has this same privilege of access.

Paul encourages us to take advantage of our access. We are encouraged to draw near. God is desiring a close communion with us, not some far away shouting across the yard. We have been returned to that close communion of the garden where we can walk and talk with our God.

"Full assurance of faith" means that we no longer have to worry about making it out of the presence of God alive. We are fully assured that the price has been paid, and access has been granted to us through Jesus' blood.

Gordon Crook

EDITORIAL

“TONGUES ARE FOR A SIGN”

“And these signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues” – Mk. 16:17.

“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...” – I Cor. 14:22.

What is a sign? Is it not a token, a pledge of something more? It is certainly an indication of a higher power. The value of a sign may be seen especially in what it indicates. To the unbeliever, God has given the sign to indicate His presence in the believer. The Holy Spirit is a seal of power. What can this mean to the believer? First consider the doubting or unbelieving believer, one who is saved yet not filled. Tongues, or speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit in an unknown tongue, is to them a sign of something more that God has for them. Can the doubting child of God Scripturally say, “I will just skip over this God-given experience, because I have faith?” May they say, “I trust God that I have been filled with the Holy Spirit, so I will reject this God-given sign?” God gave this sign as a proof and assurance that the Holy Spirit is indeed indwelling His filled saints. It is a fact that Jesus said these signs would follow or accompany. Therefore, it is very clear, that when we fully believe and are filled, that the speaking in an unknown tongue will be the initial evidence. There are many other things that evidence the Holy Spirit’s Presence as we walk in the Spirit. There are gifts and fruit to be manifest. The Holy Spirit enriches our lives, He reproduces the life of Christ in us, bringing about growth. He stirs our hearts aflame, deepens our love for Jesus, and changes us from glory to glory.

J. D.

RUTH

Debra Isenbletter

Ruth 1:22 – *“So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley Harvest.”*

The word “returned” is mentioned twice in this verse, emphasizing who returns and from where she returned. **Who returned?** Ruth and Naomi: *“So Naomi returned and Ruth...”* Ruth had never been to Bethlehem, yet it says she too “returned,” she is already counted as a child of God, in her heart she feels that this is her home. She is not going to Bethlehem but returning to Bethlehem.

The key word in this chapter, a thread that runs all through it is this theme. The word “return” is used 6 times (V. 6,7,8,11,15,16). The word “turn back” is used 2 times. (V. 11,12). The word “returned” is used 2 times (V. 22). The first verse begins with “went to” – they left home. **From where did they come?** – From Moab: *“which returned out of the country of Moab.”*

In this we see a coming out of and we see a coming unto: “to Bethlehem.” Out of Moab and into Bethlehem. Out of darkness into light. Out of rebellion into obedience. Out of poverty into riches. The last verse begins and ends with *“returned”* – they returned home. This is the first step in obedience for both these women. Ruth not only did not “turn back” to Moab, but she chose to “return” with Naomi to

Bethlehem. Both journeyed faithfully, both have returned faithfully – the journey is over and the story begins!

At what time of the year did they arrive? *“And they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.”* This is not a coincidence; this is in God’s timing, God’s planning and God’s provision. They arrived at the “beginning” of barley harvest, at the beginning of spring, this was probably April. Barley was sown in the autumn (October-November) after the early rains. It was the first crop ready by the time of Passover. It ripens a month earlier than the wheat. It was grown chiefly for food for horses, camels and asses (2 Kings 4:28). It was the food of the poor (Ruth 2:17). It was five barley loaves that Jesus fed the 5,000 with (John 6:9). In the Old Testament barley is mentioned as “barley meal” (Num. 5:15); “barley bread” (Judges 7:13); “barley cakes” (Ezek. 4:12). In the Jealousy Offering mentioned in Numbers, it was barley meal that was used. (Num. 5:15).

Ruth and Naomi arrived in the spring, at the time of harvest; it would have been a time of joy and praise to God for His goodness. It was a time of new life and new beginning. How wonderfully symbolic! Their arrival at this time points to **a new beginning for both women!** They are both coming back to a place of provision and praise, Bethlehem (house of bread) and Judah (praise). They will see the provision and hear the praise and partake of both.

Sister Bodie writes: “The harvest is **prophetic** and **typical** also of the **end of the age** (Mt. 13:39), when the wheat is gathered into the garner and the tares are burned. In Ruth and

Naomi, we have the wheat – **the children of the Kingdom**, being made ready for their King. And notice it is the “*barney harvest*,” which was **the first grain to ripen** (Ex. 9:31-32). **The full harvest comes later.** This pictures the earliest moment of the return of the remnant of Israel.

But we can also apply this to our lives – When we to the Lord come back to Him, we come to a place of new beginning, a place of provision, a place of rejoicing, It is a wonderful place to be in!
to be continued

*God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter
And He will make it plain.*

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
On blessings on your head.*

Crossing Over to My Home

By Rebecca Asbury

I'd walked so very far, as country children do
With one more road to cross,
One hill to top, to put my home in view.
When a kindly traveler stopped and asked me if I was all
right,
And offered me a ride, for it was soon approaching
night.
I cast a glance behind me, thought how far I'd roamed,
And answered, "I'm just crossing over to my home."

"There's really nothing you can do for me.
No other place that I would rather be
Than where, by now, they are expecting me—
Though from here it's hard to see—
I'm crossing over to my home."

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for those
Who put their trust in me."
What must it be for grandeur, I suppose!
At times it seems so distant for all it's my bequest
And there are those insistent another way is best:
What walls of human wisdom the world would interpose,
And never bring me closer to my home!

"There's really nothing they can do for me.
With empty creed or vain philosophy,
The many guides that are directing me,
Offer but futility
When crossing over to my home."

God's Love For The World

Part 1 of 5

by Carson Richards

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Everyone that knows anything about the Bible has heard that great verse. It is so inclusive, and shows a great Creator with a multiplicity of creatures called the world, separated from Him in every way, and he expresses His attitude toward them. **It is love.**

To be sure, then, there is no attraction of this mass to God, of itself. Read the fourteenth Psalm. Therein God checked out the world and found ignorance, indifference, uncleanness, and cruelty toward His people. It is an unlikely picture to draw out love, is it not?

So, this gives us an insight into true divine love, it reveals this principle of imputation. That is giving something to a creature that wasn't there originally. Hear Second Corinthians 5:19 - “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” That kind of love must be visionary; it sees not only what something is, but what it can be. There is a divine plan and final satisfaction out of it all. As with the artist, architect, or even engineer among men, who see not the unappealing start, but the final product, so must be the Master in His love-view of mankind.

Let us see why it is this way. I John 4:8 - “He that loveth not, knoweth not God for **God is love.**” So first of all, He loves mankind, because it is God’s own nature. Nature cannot be effectively concealed, and it must come forth. Man sins because he is a sinner. God loves because He is God and love is His very essence.

“**So loved**” is important, to. Mt. 26:42 - “He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.” Then His love for man was “so,” in a well-directed channel. It was the fixed will of God; it was a pre-determined choice. Our ideas of love often go haywire, for they have no fixed mode of display. Love is an emotion, true, but it can have some sense to it also.

“**He gave**” – I John 3:18, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” As God instructs us, so He does. As in natural life, the real test of devotion is action, something done, God certainly did this. He gave something, Someone. Oh, how He gave!

The gift was His only complete Son. That is, complete in all of God’s attributes with no taint of character, or possibility of it. Apparently this Son was the only one in all the universe qualified as a love-gift for fallen man. John 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” The Son was God’s pride and joy. We read in the Proverbs of His being daily God’s delight.

Remember the dignity of the announcement of His impending birth. God sent perhaps His greatest angel to the

virgin Mary. Note the fanfare at the birth, “a multitude of the heavenly host.” They praised God and declared great favor in heaven for men on earth – the world-all because of this favorite Son. Several times in His earthly ministry God called Him, His **“beloved Son.”** He even increased that favor as a man. He filled the bill completely.

This was a transcending relationship that we cannot delve into. This precious One to the Father was truly given. Look at John 1:29 - “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” He was given to death totally.

Let us see from the Lord’s supper how complete it was. Luke 22:19-20, “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” So it was all of His natural life offered. Rom. 8:3, “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”

He was a full offering for sin. It was all of His natural life offered. He truly was a sacrifice. The man of Galilee is a beautiful sight. We gaze upon it in the Word often, and are inspired by it, but it cannot save us. He was given to the cross, and He sacrificed Himself and was consumed. He died for the world, and the prevailing thought of the world is, that he is still dead, but out of it all comes the offer of a new life to the man in the world.

Now, lest we get too maudlin, humanly speaking; that is, we get carried away with this snivelling universalism that creeps out periodically, that all creatures will finally be saved; let's bring in Mark 16:15-16. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." As our text says, **"whosoever believeth in Him."** Therefore it is according to the human will, the individual choice of Him who hears of this love of God displayed in the cross of Jesus Christ. What a solemn decision it is! No wonder the other crowd, Satan and his hosts try, and many times succeed, in diverting the attention of the human soul to many other "important" things than this most crucial of all decisions. God has His way of causing His love to run through His children toward the world. We trust Him to not give them a negative testimony. We cannot be like them, but contrarily we should not impose on ourselves artificial differences from them.

We find how far the love really does go man-ward by the "should not perish" part. One of the basic meanings of the Greek Word translated "perish" is "Apollumi" or "marred." It is a degrading of what man was meant to be, and in varying degrees. There is scriptural evidence that man may descend on the rejecting side of the cross, as well as ascend on the accepting side. This perishing is not a snuffed out condition. As man goes out there into God's judgment sphere, beyond this love enclosure, he becomes a monstrosity. He is nothing like what God intended him to be. God's love would prevent this horror. He had done His **love-work**. Jesus said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

God's desire for this creature is life, everlasting life. Note Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." God's love was in His mind in eternity past (as we say), His love made the way for man that had fallen to have a good life forever. He had this desire, and He saw it through in due time. His provision was that His son, should die for all of the men in the world for all time. None, were excluded. A person can only exclude himself by not believing it. Yes, love is so great, so complete, so inclusive, yet it is **"whosoever will."** Somehow, sometime, the human soul makes up its mind and it is forever. Praise God for the beautiful thing, called **"love,"** that God has for the world!

Psalm 31:19,24

*Oh how great is thy goodness,
which thou hast laid up
for them that fear thee;
which thou hast wrought
for them that trust in thee
before the sons of men!
Be of good courage, and he
shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord.*

A WORK OF FAITH

Kathryn Devers

A work of faith and labor of love have always been acceptable unto God. Many are described unto us in the scripture, but for such accomplishments, He needs yielded instruments, to whom He can speak and through whom He can work.

An outstanding example is recorded in the book of Nehemiah. He is a noteworthy character of faith used greatly of the Lord to accomplish a marvelous work. The book concerns a small remnant of Israel, who had returned to their homeland after Babylonian captivity. The walls about the beloved city of Jerusalem had been broken down previously and in chapter one, we are told of the deep concern and great burden of Nehemiah's heart, expressed by weeping, mourning certain days, fasting and praying to the God of heaven.

Thus God has an instrument through whom He can work and does. He takes a step forward in making request of the king to rebuild the walls, which was granted him. The wisdom of God is displayed in him from the beginning. He and a few men went by night to Jerusalem to view the situation, not telling any one "what God had put in his heart to do." This is note worthy, often others do not understand the dealings of God, which could create great problems. There is a proper time to make known what "thus saith the Lord." Upon his return he told the people of God's hand upon him and the

king's words spoken to him. This inspired faith in their hearts and now they are ready for the work.

Much opposition is met as the project began, which is very common. Satan is the chief adversary, working through human instruments always seeking to defeat God's purpose. "Faith is the victory." Three men laughed them to scorn, despising and accusing them. Nehemiah displays a true overcomers attitude. God gave him wisdom to meet the foe with a staggering blow in whatever direction he came. He withstood those enemies in all boldness, declaring "God would prosper them, they would arise and build, while they would have no portion, right nor memorial in Jerusalem." The wicked are never privileged to share the blessings of the righteous. "The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. The Lord will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged" – Psalm 37:32-33.

Jerusalem means "double peace." The wicked have no place in this city spiritually. "There is no peace saith my God to the wicked." It takes a born again experience to enjoy the blessings of this city. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" – Rom. 5:1.

Through spiritual growth we may be privileged to enjoy Philippians 4:6,7. "Be careful (or anxious) for nothing but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

As the work progresses, they are faced with ridicule, conspiracy, craft, discouragement, but God brought all the counsel of evil to nought. The devil never gives up, having a bag full of tricks, but God knows how to out wit him, He is the Lord of battles and has never lost one. How wonderful to trust in Him, proving His faithfulness! Praise Him!

Note the true quality and good metal in this man's life, undaunted faith, a non-conformist, trust-worthy, loyal, determined and courageous. It was a good fight of faith from the beginning to the end, and the wall was finished in 52 days – Neh. 6:15. “And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of God.” – V. 16 – utter defeat.

Gamaliel's words concerning the apostles are very fitting for any work of faith, “And now I say unto you. Refrain from these men and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God” - Acts 5:38-39. Every work of faith, whatever the nature, whether building an ark, establishing an assembly or feeding a flock pass through like experiences but the same God, who has fought the battle for all those recorded in the Scripture is just the same today. Faith is all that counts with Him and will show for its self. It pays to trust Him, follow His leadings and an eternal reward will be the result. “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name” – Heb. 6:10.