

Glorious Gospel Publication



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MAKING SURE

Part III



"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath **given** unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful...But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Pet. 2-11

ENDOWED TO BE ENDURED: the word "given" here carries the thought of being furnished with an estate. But are there any coming into it? "The exceeding great and precious promises" and "all things that pertain to life and godliness" are given that we might be made partakers in full measure of the divine nature. Therefore we are challenged to go after by the

diligence of faith's appropriation, to lay claim to these stabilizing characteristics and their glorious benefits. We are strongly urged to come into the realization of this estate by adhering to the following instructions. These (vs. 5-7), are facets of the Holy Spirit's work in us. These traits of the divine nature are essential characteristics of bridehood which develop in an experimental knowledge of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. "...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue..." I have often referred to these: **virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity**, as spiritual building blocks on a sure foundation, as elements of successful Christian living. They may also be seen as layers of grace.

In making sure, our faith is supplemented with **virtue**. To para phrase: In your life of faith lay claim to an ample supply of Christ-life excellence. This, of course, must be realized in a **knowledge** of Him. He is teaching us of growth in intimate awareness. This is far deeper than theory, for it is enjoyed when study is coupled with experience. We do well to follow Paul in such wise investment. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless...I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" – Phil. 3:7-8.

To our Apostle Paul this knowledge was worth everything, may it also be true with us. **Temperance** may teach us of Spirit-enabled discipline. Some have translated this as "self-control," but let us not be misled into thinking that temperance means more than

wholehearted submission to the Holy Spirit's control daily, moment by moment. **Patience** is generally thought of as, "steadfast endurance under hardship," but I am impressed that this trait is a development that comes from spiritual insight. We may enjoy the God-given ability to see beyond current pressures, and yet face them in view of present resources and future benefits. As Paul wrote; "we glory in tribulations ... **knowing** that tribulation worketh patience..." Rom. 5:3. And "knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" – James 1:3,12.

Godliness: some have translated this "piety" or "godlikeness." We are told to be holy for He is holy, and to be merciful for our Father in heaven is merciful. Divine likeness only develops in us by the working of His almighty power. I feel certain that this word well expresses the attitude or spirit of reverence and deference to God in all matters. The Scriptures plainly teach us of the rich and sure reward of being partakers of godliness. "Godliness with contentment is great gain" – I Tim. 6:5. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" – I Tim. 4:8. Therefore we are told to "exercise" ourselves "rather unto godliness" – I Tim. 4:7.

Brotherly kindness (Phileo) the love (Agape) of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost and as we yield to the Holy Spirit we find that "agape" and phileo" flow in the same veins. As we revere and defer to God in all things, also brotherly kindness is produced

in us. Consider Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2. **Charity** (Agape) which is shed abroad also grows, develops in us as we come to know the love of Christ in everyday circumstances - Heb. 13:1. "If these things (Christ-life qualities) be in you..." The Greek word for "in" expresses that which is under one as a foundation or basis. These are **in** us by regeneration and presence and power of the Holy Spirit. "**And abundant**" manifesting a growth in the Spirit's fulness and control. Thus securing and preserving us from being barren or unfruitful.

A child of God that "hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" is prone to going back to living like he did before he was saved. "Wherefore the rather" than being blind, forgetful, barren and unfruitful; lacking in all these things, let us give diligence in making sure. In these God has provided that we get and use our "hinds' feet," being sure-footed. By these "ye shall never fall" (stumble). We need not run uncertainly as we "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling." By partaking fully of these characteristics of the divine nature, our steps are secured. In "giving diligence" to seek realization and fulfillment of these exceeding great and precious promises, we are brought into the enjoyment of winning a sure reward (II Jn. 8). Thus we also are claiming an "**abundant entrance.**" This is another clear and ample indication that the eternal estate will not be classless, "every man in his own order" (I Cor. 15:23). Let us be sure, be very sure.

Jack Davis



THE LAST DAYS

Anita Clark, Pastor
Carbondale, Kansas



"Rejoice evermore, Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things: hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" I Thess. 5:16-22.

The Apostle Paul gave these admonitions following the glorious passage of Chapter 4:13-18, concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, followed by chapter 5:1-28 admonishing the believers to be ready and yielded to the Lord and obedient to the Word of God in order to be ready for that coming.

In verse twenty-one he admonished them to "... hold fast that which is good." The amplified version of this verse reads, "But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast." The words "hold fast" in the Greek mean "keep in memory, retain, stay."

We don't hold fast by gritting our teeth, or making resolutions by our own strength to continue in the ways of the Lord. We cannot in our flesh gain victory over anything. Failure will be the result every time. We

only can "hold fast" to the things of the Lord by helpless reliance on Him. Praise God - He is faithful!

In II Timothy 1:5-6, Paul wrote to Timothy encouraging him to "remember" his upbringing - "unfeigned faith" or genuine, sincere faith which was his legacy from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. He admonished Timothy to "stir up the gift of God which is in thee." In verse 13, he encourages him, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." The word "form" is a word in the Greek which speaks of "a pattern." The writings of Apostle Paul gives us a "pattern" of the truths we are to believe and stand for during this Church Age, also called The Age of Grace. These are the words that we must stand for, that we must keep in memory, retain and stay with.

In verse fifteen, Paul says, "... all they which are in Asia be turned away from me..." As we read through Paul's writings we find many times where he admonished the saints of God to "stand," which is a very close thought to our "holding fast." For example - I Corinthians 16:13, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit [act] like men, be strong." Gal. 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage [the Law]." Ephesians 6:11 "...stand against the wiles of the devil."

Paul says in Hebrews 4:14, "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus Christ the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Our "profession" is what we profess to be.

You say you are a Christian – walk in it! HOLDFAST – seize it, possess it! Those to whom this letter was written were suffering terrible tribulation. They had to stand up for their faith in Jesus Christ. It was important to admonish them to “hold fast.” Often times as we suffer trials, that almost seem too hard to bare, we may just feel like giving up, but Paul goes ahead to say in verse 15-16, “For we have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

In Revelation 3:3, the Lord Jesus, speaking to the Church in Sardis, warns them, “Remember therefore how thou received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee, as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” “Hold Fast” here in this place means in the Greek, “to guard from loss or injury by keeping the eye upon.” Evidently, they were not heeding the Word they had heard, not watching and waiting for the Lord to return, and so the admonition, to “repent.” This means, “to change the mind, think differently, or reconsider.”

Many believers today are asleep, not realizing that Christ could come at anytime. Christ will come upon them as a thief because they are not “holding fast.” He tells them that if they do not watch for His coming they will not be ready. A thief comes usually at night when people are asleep. He comes and steals the precious things, while some are unaware. Jesus spoke

in Matthew 24:43 – That if the good man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into (paraphrased). In I Thessalonians 5:2 Paul says, “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” And Peter said in I Peter 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.”

The Philadelphia Church in Revelation 3:7-13 had caught the vision. They represent the overcomers of the Church Age, who will be the bride of Christ. Note in verse 12. “And I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God...” Compare Revelation 21:2 with this, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband,” and Revelation 19:7&9, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife hath made herself ready. And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...”

In Revelation 3:10, Jesus speaks to these Philadelphia believers, “Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation [tribulation], which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” No warning to this group of believers to “repent” and wake up and watch. They are keeping the Word of God with patience, waiting and watching for Christ to come. No chance that Christ will come as a thief to

them, they are ready to be translated as we read in I Thess. 4:13-18. In verse 11 of Revelation 3 the Lord tells them, "Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

In conclusion, remember what Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." He is faithful! Keep on holding fast!



HOLD THE FORT

***See the glorious banner waving!
Hear the trumpet blow!
In our Leader's Name we'll triumph
Over every foe.***

***Fierce and long the battle rages,
But our help is near;
Onward comes our great Commander,
Cheer, my comrades, cheer.***

***"Hole the fort, for I am coming,"
Jesus signals still;
Wave the answer back to heaven,
"By Thy grace we will."***

– P. P. B.

A Good Report

TESTIMONY – Carolyn Brown
Springfield, Missouri

“Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven”
Psalm 119:89

We have been studying through Psalm 119 on Sunday mornings before prayer, taking it one octet at a time and just rejoicing in the treasures we have found. After each meeting I type up my notes and get a second blessing as meditation upon the portion we studied brings even more to mind. I have been storing these notes in a file named “Psa. 119 all verses.” Each week I just add onto the previous Sunday’s notes in this file.

This week instead of adding on to the existing file I just typed up the notes and saved them to that file which deleted all the previous notes. I do back up these notes to a flash drive but in doing so this week I also wiped out all the notes on the flash drive. We just finished Verse 96 so I have just lost a wealth of notes on the psalm.

I quickly tried to see if there was any way I could recover the loss and when it became apparent that I could not it came to mind that I must suffer the loss of all things to win Christ as my Bridegroom. And then I realized there is a great lesson here for me based upon this very study. God’s Word is forever settled in heaven! I don’t need to fret if I lose **my** notes. His

Word is never lost being settled in His omniscient everlastingness. I have the Holy Spirit to help me interpret the verses and He can bring to mind things that He taught me earlier. And there are more things He can teach me here than even I had learned earlier, new fresh things. Praise God for the Word forever settled in heaven and made practical in our earthly lives!



God's Word

Generation follows generation – yet it lives.

Nations rise and fall – yet it lives.

***Kings, dictators, presidents come and go –
yet it lives.***

Doubted, suspected, criticized – yet it lives.

Condemned by atheists – yet it lives.

Its inspiration denied – yet it lives.

It lives – as a lamp to our feet.

It lives – as a light to our path.

It lives – as guide and inspiration for all.

It lives – as food for the hungry.

It lives – as water for the thirsty.

It lives – as rest for the weary.

It lives – as light for the heathen.

It lives – as salvation for the sinner.

It Lives – as grace for the Christian.

To know it is to love it.

To love it is to accept it.

To accept it means life eternal.

– Selected

Knowledge And Wisdom

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

This is such a simple verse, yet it holds such an important message. A message that is mostly rejected and ridiculed today in our world. After all, we are the most intelligent high achieving generation ever. There is nothing that can be held from us if we put our minds to it.

Only an uneducated simple minded person would believe this verse in Proverbs. After all, those people that believe what the Bible says cannot be very educated. Believing the Bible will set science back a few hundred years. This is what the world would have us to believe. After all, what need have we of God, if we can accomplish so much on our own.

This is the great lie of Satan in this age. You will endure ridicule and scorn if you claim to believe what God says in His Word. However, I would like to encourage you to consider this verse in Proverbs, and consider the great truth that lies therein.

You must begin to know who God is before you can begin to have this awesome reverence for Him. You must lay hold of God's Word by faith. He is the self-existent one. Do you know anyone else that can claim to exist by their own doing? He made all that is. Do you know anyone else that can claim to have made everything that there is?

Man has been able to make things that boggle the mind. However, everything they make comes from something that already exists in this earth, something put here by God. Everything man knows, is limited and very temporary. What we learn from God's Word is of eternal importance.

Every one has to learn things in school, such as math and reading and writing. Without these things, how would I read my Bible, and how would I write this article. It is not what we learn so much as it is what we do with it that matters. Not that the education of this world is useless, just that we must be careful not to be lulled into believing that the wisdom of this world is equal to the wisdom of God.

God deserves our respect and reverence. When we come to that place of 'fearing' (have great reverence for) the Lord, then we are beginning to gain true knowledge. Satan will use anything to distract us from God, even the great debates of the greatly educated of this world. None of the great accomplishments of man will be worth anything in the end. All of their intellectual philosophy will be done away.

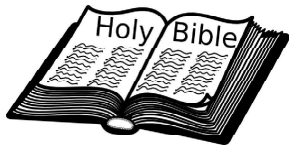
I truly am not against education or intelligence, as long as we remember that it has its place in God's plan for our lives, and is not an end unto itself. Those that reject God's Word and replace it with the intelligence of this world, are referred to in the last part of the verse in Proverbs.

Let us be wise and get started into true knowledge and wisdom.

Gordon Crook

RUTH

Bible Study



Pastor Debra Isenbletter
Springfield, Missouri

In chapter 4 we see the Authority and Ability of Boaz. We see what Boaz said to the elders and to the other kinsman: "he said" (4:1); "and said" (4:2); "and he said" (4:3); "Then said Boaz" (4:5); "And Boaz said" (4:9). **When Boaz speaks, everyone listens and all obey.** His words will show both his willingness and his ability to redeem Ruth (the Kinsman Redeeming). We see the fullness of redemption in the actions of Boaz.

"The **key theme** is **redemption**. The words "redeem (4:4,6 – 8 times)," "buy (4:4,5,8 – 4 times); "bought" (4:9 – 1 time)," and "purchased"(4:10- 1 time) are used at least **14 times**. There can be no redemption without the paying of a price. From our point of view, salvation is free to "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord" (Acts 2:21); but from God's point of view, redemption is a very costly thing."

Here are some wonderful titles and divisions for Ruth 4 and each individual as they meditate on this chapter can come up with a wonderful way to summarize the message there. The possibilities are endless as the Spirit of God stirs our hearts and opens up our eyes!

1. A Satisfied Heart
2. Ruth Rewarded
3. Satisfaction: Ruth's Wedding
 - The Bridegroom (4:1-10)

- The Bride (4:11-12)
- The Baby (4:13-22)
- 4. Ruth's Reward
 - A Husband (4:1-12)
 - A Son (4:13-17)
 - A Lineage (4:18-122)
- 5. Security (My title)

Ruth 4:1 – “Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.”

The first thing we see is what Boaz did and where he went: “Then went Boaz up to the gate.” He “went up” to the gate. This means “to ascend,” to “rise up:” “to spring up:” “to stir up.” It can also mean “at the break of day.” What a wonderful picture of the eagerness of Boaz, the activity of Boaz and the elevation of Boaz! What a wonderful picture of Christ.

The “gate” was the door to the city, a public place, a place where people went in and out as they entered or left the city. It was a place to debate issues or meet for discussion. Lot met and greeted the angels at the gate of Sodom (Gen. 19:1), he was probably there in a political capacity, that of a ruler or judge. David's son Absalom met people at the gate early in the day to flatter and influence them and tell them how much better he would be as a ruler than his father. (2 Sam 15:2-3). The gate was a place where legal matters were settled, where you could bring your grievances.

The gate was the place that the “elders” sat (Prov. 31:23; Deut. 21:19) and the place they took as “judges” and “officials” (Deut. 16:18). The gate was the place that the “princes” came to, and sat down and demanded the prophet Jeremiah’s death (Jer. 26:10-11). The gate was the place the “king” would sit to listen to the grievances of the people (2 Sam 19:8), it was there that the Ethiopian came before the king to plead publicly for the life of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 38:7-8). The gate was the place the prophets came to speak and prophesy (1 Kings 22:10; Jer. 17:19), there all the people would hear their message. When describing the 12 gates of Jerusalem and those that need repair, one of the gates, the tenth gate, has a name; “Miphkad” which aptly describes what was done there. There are several meanings for “Miphkad”: it means “apportionment (division and distribution)” (JB Jackson); it means “assignment” (Strong’s); it means “to review” or “mandate” (Strong’s Encyclopedia); and it means “inspection” (Unger Dictionary). All good descriptions. Below is what Sister Bodie says about the gate, a wonderful description!

Mary Bodie: “It is the *gate* devoted to righteous judgment. It was called **Miphkad** – “the place of review.” Satan may do his work in the dark, but not Boaz; for whether type, or all-glorious antitype, **he calls all to witness to His power to redeem: “*For this thing was not done in a corner*”** Acts 26:26. The word gate seems to give character to all that was accomplished. **It was done openly** that all might know the happy consequences regarding Ruth’s inheritance.”

The gate was an important place, an essential place, a necessary place; it was the first place Boaz came to, Boaz will make it a place of **Examination**, a place of **Decision** and a place of **Judgment**. Here at the gate, Ruth's need and Boaz's desire are made public, and her future is decided!

So what did Boaz do? He sat down there. The word "sat" is the same word as "sit still" (3:18). What Ruth does is "sit still" (in quiet and abiding)" and what Boaz does is "sit down (as a judge)." They are both sitting but both are doing two different things, there are two different activities going on: **Rest** (Ruth) and **Action** (Boaz). At the gate Boaz will wait for someone, the other kinsman to walk by: Boaz knows this man, knows who he is, recognizes him as he walks by and somehow he knows he will be coming to the gate that day. It could be that this man was also in a position of authority, that he may have gone to the gate to sit as an "elder" or "judge" to hear the complaints of the people.

How did Boaz greet this man? He greeted him with the word "*Ho*," which is an exclamation with a variety of meanings, it was used to catch your attention, so you would listen to what follows (Isa. 55:1). It can be translated "Oh!" (Isa. 47:6); "Alas" (1 Kings 13:30); "Ah!" (Isa. 1:4) or "Woe" (Isa. 31:1). Then after this word that may have stopped this man and caught his attention, Boaz greets him, **but not by name**, he just says: "such a one!" Boaz knew his name, but we are not told, it is concealed. We know he was afraid to lose his inheritance and his fear and failure to redeem will wipe out his name from our

memory. Sister Bodie brings out a wonderful type in this man of no name, this "near kinsman" called "such a one," **he is a type of the Law** unable to redeem and we will see that type fulfilled later on in this chapter.

Finally, we see the compelling power of Boaz, the authority of Boaz that this man cannot resist. Boaz tells him to "turn aside" and to "sit down here," and what does he do? He obeys: "And he turned aside and sat down." He knows that something important is about to happen, some decision is about to be made.

Continued next issue

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LEAVE IT WITH HIM

***Yes, leave it with Him; the lilies all do,
They grow in the rain, and they grow in the dew,
They grow in the darkness, all hid in the night,
They grow in the sunshine, revealed by the light
Still they grow.***

***The grasses are clothed and the ravens are fed,
But you who are loved and guarded and led,
Will He clothe you, and feed you, and give you His
care!
Then, leave it with Him; He has, everywhere,
Ample store.***

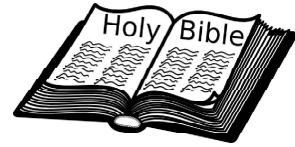
***Yes, leave it with Him; your more dear to His heart,
Than the lilies that bloom or the flowers that start,
Whatever you need, if you ask it in prayer,
You can leave it with Him, for you are His care-
You, you know.***

– Selected

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Verta Giddings
Sand Lake, Michigan

Bible Study



Chapter 5:17-42 -The Second Persecution

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ had become a real threat to the Jewish leaders. They didn't want to believe that Jesus had raised from the dead and had given power to those who preached about Him. They wouldn't accept the fact that through Jesus' name mighty healings had taken place. The only way they could come up with to stop all that, was to put these men in prison – 5:18. The Lord didn't let them stay in prison. He sent an angel by night to open the prison doors. The angel brought them forth and told them to go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life – V. 20.

No threat of man was enough to keep them from doing the will of the Lord. The High Priest called the council together, and a lot of others, and sent to the prison to bring the apostles before them to be tried. When they returned with the news that the prison was safely shut, and even the keepers were standing where they were supposed to be, but there were no prisoners, it made the High Priest, the Captain of the temple, and the Chief Priests all pretty nervous. They wondered how far this would grow – Vs. 21-24. Then they found out that the men were standing in the temple teaching the people – V. 25.

Of course they went and brought them before the council, and they were asked, "Didn't we command you not to teach in this (Jesus) name?" They said that the apostles had filled Jerusalem with their doctrine (teaching) and intended to bring Jesus' blood on the people. Did even all this make the apostles back down? No, they became very bold. Peter and others of the apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than man" – V. 29. Again Peter took this opportunity to give a gospel message about the Lord Jesus, and again he spoke of His resurrection. He said they were witnesses of these things and so was the Holy Ghost. They were cut to the heart with Peter's message, and decided to kill the apostles. It wasn't enough they had killed the Lord Jesus, now they wanted to kill His followers who stood up for Him and taught of Him.

God had a man on the scene who had real wisdom. He was a Pharisee and was a member of the council. His advice was that there had been two "troublemakers" before and those men influenced many people, but both of them died, so nothing came of it. This man's name was Gamaliel, a great teacher of the Law. He advised that if this work (the work of teaching about Jesus) were false, it would come to nothing, but if true, they couldn't overthrow it. He said they might be fighting against God. The result of all this was that they beat them and commanded them not to speak any more in the name of Jesus. Then they let them go. None of this stopped them from their love for Jesus nor work for Him. They just went away rejoicing and kept right on teaching daily in the temple

and in every house. The Lord wants us to keep right on witnessing for Jesus everywhere we go. We will also rejoice if we suffer when we testify for our Lord. It will be well worth it.

Chapters 6-7 – next issue



WITNESS

Witnessing is not just something a Christian says, but what a Christian is!

Of course words are important – but they are no substitute for Christ-like demeanor. Pious language cannot camouflage profane practice.

Indeed, words constitute an indictment against the man whose actions contradict what he professes.

The world will listen if the life manifests Christian character . . . the world will scoff at the emptiness of words, however pious, if the witness of the life is wanting.

Conditioned to demonstration, modern man awaits the confirmation of the claims by the consistent conduct of the claimant.

Let every serious-minded Christian who would be an effective witness for Christ live as though he had to earn the right to be heard.

– R. C. H.

Think on These Things

Martha Wainright
Gladstone, Missouri

"Whatsoever things are pure..." – Phil. 4:8.

For sometime now I have tried to think of something in the world that is pure. But alas, I can't think of anything! I phoned a very knowledgeable acquaintance of mine, the owner of Day's Medical laboratories in K. C. Mo., and ask him to name some pure substance. After a time of contemplating this, he said he couldn't think of a thing that is really pure. Can you? This is really something to think about. It seems that anything that comes to mind is either a mixture or has been defiled in some way.

Let's consider the definition of the word pure. Webster's Dictionary definition is: unmixed; clear; clean; free from foreign matter. We can understand that, can't we? We often see the word pure in print, and it is often used in everyday conversation. But we are at a loss to find anything we can purely apply this definition to.

Now, let's look at S. E. Vine's definition, found in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words. Pure: pure from defilement, not contaminated (from the same root as holy). There is the key – holy. This puts a new light on the subject.

Throughout the Bible the word pure is used. Sometimes in relation to a substance such as the materials used in the tabernacle: pure olive oil, pure myrrh, pure candle stick, etc. Perhaps these items were pure then, They wouldn't be today, with our 20th century pollution. The offerer of these were to use the purest substances available. I believe God counted them completely pure because they represented the Holy, undefiled Son of God in one way or another. Isn't this a glorious picture of us? We have a Holy nature (the Spirit or Christ), but in practice, since we still have an old nature also, we are not perfect (or pure). However, through faith in Christ, God sees us as pure. Just as the obedient (to God's instructions), were counted holy in the Old Testament records. Abraham is one example - Romans 4:20-22. Imputed righteousness is a gift, "not of works lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8-9.

"Every word of God is pure" Prov. 30:5. There it is, that is what we have been looking for. What is pure? The Word of God. We are cleansed by the Word (Jn. 15:3), and the Word of God satisfies (Jn. 4:13-14). No food or water that we partake of is perfectly pure, but thank God for what we have, as it sustains our mortal body. The Word of God enables us to yield to our new nature, the Holy Spirit endues us with power and the work of Calvary is ultimately "to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight" Col. 1:22. We are not only provisionally pure, but we also learn to walk in holiness.

It's disgusting how much we are affected by the defilement of this world. We know that our spiritual nature cannot be touched by this defilement, but as to experience, that is not so. Our everyday existence is affected by worldly surroundings and the spirit of this "evil age," and this in turn can influence us from without (our actions), and within (our thoughts).

How refreshing to drink from the pure springs of the Word of God and be cleansed. It is no wonder that we feel defiled by the world. The children of God are in the world, but not of it. Our instruction is to "reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 6:11. When we are translated from the power of darkness to the kingdom of light, we cannot feel at home in the world – Col. 1:13.

"The world hateth you" – Jn. 15:19. We can be congenial as long as our Heavenly Father leaves us here, but we don't really "fit in." Most of us work many hours for our provisions (corruptible) to live here, but our inheritance is "incorruptible, and undefiled" – I Peter 1:4.

There we have it, a knowledge and revelation of what is pure. We think about Jesus, the Word of God, made manifest. We think about the written Word of God and allow these words to penetrate to our inner most being. The Word of God "kisses" us. Our communion with the Lord is pure. He is saying to us, "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled – Song of Solomon 6:2. "Drink, yes, drink abundantly – S. of S. 5:1.

Scientists will never develop nor discover anything pure. This is one of God's "secrets" and He alone is the Revealer of His secrets. But, praise the Lord, the Holy Spirit has been given to guide us into truth, and this is true, that, "Whatsoever is pure," is "Whatsoever is Holy." THINK ON THESE THINGS.



Missionary News from the Clouds

Another year has gone by! It has been over a year since David had a stroke (July 1, 2015). He is paralyzed on his right side and has trouble with his speech. He is still in Las Palmas nursing home. Rachel and I (JoAnn) go to see him every day.

In November we celebrated our 63rd wedding anniversary. Dec. 10th David celebrated his 86th birthday.

The candy rolls were taken to Brownsville this year so they can reach more people in the other end of the Mexican border. They are going to take candy rolls to our church in Mexico. The people are still meeting there.

Sincerely,
The Clouds