

Glorious Gospel

**Jesus said,
I am the good Shepherd
which giveth His life
for the sheep.**

**They hear my voice and
follow me, I give unto
them eternal life, and
they shall never perish.**

John chapter 10



Glorious Gospel Publication is a printing
ministry of Grace Assembly Church,
796 N. St Paul, Wichita, KS
Phone: 316-302-6203
Email: ggospel5@juno.com
www.gloriousgospel.org

Correspondence to: 1622 N. Illinois, Wichita, KS 67203

Published Monthly, No Subscription Price

.....

Contents:

Testimony of Arthur Wilson 1

Glorifying God

Jack Davis 2

Draw Near

Gordon Crook 6

The Pearl of Great Price

Anita Clark 9

Fruit Bearing – Part 1

Vicky Moots 13

Godliness

Jack Davis 17

Hold Fast

Earlene Davis 21

The Encouraging Word – Martha Wainright 25

Why I Love Jesus

*This is why I love my Saviour
For He has pardoned my behaviour.
I was sunk in sin and shame,
But He came and took my blame.*

*The Apostle John gives me some light,
To thus express my sheer delight.
The reason now I came to see,
It is "because He First loved me."*

*Now He lives in Heaven above,
Still He manifests His love.
In praying for my safety here,
Until I land in yonder sphere.*

*I will serve Him while I can,
And love Him more than any man.
Then one day, His face I'll see,
Thus my love complete will be.*

*Testimony: Arthur Wilson
England*

GLORIFYING GOD

Jack Davis

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me...**Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:** and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God." Psalm 50:14-15,23.

Oh, what a wonderful privilege and lofty occupation God's people have! Our Father is indeed the God of glory, and our dear Lord Jesus Christ is also the Lord of glory. These are such in their own right and on their own merit, and any and all glory that God's people will definitely come into is on the merit and right given or derived from another. The Father and the Son will bring it about by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures teach us about glorifying God and our Lord and redeemer by acknowledging His acts, and attributes. We are clearly taught to ascribe the highest honor to Him. Synonyms given; magnify, extol, praise express rendering unto God that which belongs to God. The glory of God is a revelation and manifestation of all that He is and has. As the Father, He is the source of divine splendor, and Jesus Christ as the "Lord of Glory" will rule supremely in divine splendor. Read James 2:1; I Cor. 2:8; Phil. 2:11; and Psa. 24:7-10. To "glorify" in the Old Testament speaks of an enlightened opinion, to make heavy, glorious. In the New Testament it expresses to render or to esteem glorious.

Offered Praise And An Ordered Path

These two go hand in hand in glorifying God and the realization of the fullness of His great Salvation. A burning desire for His glory motivates us to walk in all the light we have. Mt. 5:16. As we thus Praise Him, He is always showing us more and more of His uttermost salvation.

Those that walk with the Lord are sometimes made to wonder why “days of trouble” are allowed of Him to come to us. Consider our text (V. 15). Troublesome days should produce an earnest “call” for divine intervention. “Lord help!” Oh, yes, rough times do have their purposes and benefits. Those passing through troublesome situations have realized a variety of blessings. Many aspects of this glorious salvation have been shown. Yet the highest reason is to Glorify God.

It seems amazing that our God would put Himself in such a position for such a purpose as this. What a God we trust! His availability to our call, at the disposal of our faith causes us to want to Give Him the Glory. He could demand our worship, why bother with such creatures as We? Whatever He wants for us, He would have it come willingly, earnestly, honestly, spontaneously, never forced. God is love, and He would have it be our pleasure to glorify Him. If we are willing He will put into our hearts, ever increasing capacity as well as giving us multiplied cause.

When Jesus came He glorified the Father in everything. God was glorified at His birth Luke 2:7-20, during His life by His ministry, 5:25-26; 7:16; 13:13; 17:15; 18:43, and in His death and resurrection, 23:47; 24:26,46-53. John often tells how the Father was glorified in Jesus – Jn. 17:4; 14:13; 13:31. The

Holy Spirit reveals the beauties, splendor, the excellence of Jesus, glorifying Him to our hearts and in our lives. It is written that Jesus glorified not Himself – Heb. 5:5. False Christendom is spoken of as “glorifying herself” – Rev. 18:7. She will be judged for it.

The scripture tell us of several being severely judged for this wrong attitude of not glorifying God. “O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; but in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified...Thou art weighted in the balances and thou art found wanting” Dan. 5:22-23 & 27. “And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is a voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory...” – Acts 12:21-23. Rom. 1:21-23, gives part of the course of the fallen human race; “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

“Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the Lord spake saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace” – Lev. 10:3. I am impressed that Aaron held his peace, God had just devoured his two sons with fire. They had not sanctified nor glorified God in their disobedience and Aaron knew that God was right, but it still must have been a hard thing for Aaron to experience. Later Moses and Aaron missed out on leading their people into the promise land because they failed to sanctify God

before the people – Read Num. 20:10-12; Deut. 32:49-52; and Psa. 106:32-33. How about God's people today? I Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:5-6.

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God" – Rom. 15:5-7. When we allow the God of patience to comfort us in spiritual unity, we are blessedly united in a oneness that glorifies Him. We are purchased to this purpose – I Cor. 6:19-20. Oh what a glorious privilege, that we may from our heart and mouth, in body and spirit, walk and talk, glorify Him. Jesus said, "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit" – Jn. 15:8.

Peter was given the privilege to express this ultimate purpose in speaking and serving. "...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ..." – I Pet. 4:11. If we be reproached for the name of Christ, on our part He is to be glorified (V. 14). If we suffer as a Christian instead of being a murder, thief, evildoer, or a busybody, let us glorify God on this behalf (V. 15-16).

If suffering determines the glory, if we are to measure the degree of glory to be obtained by the suffering, Who, in the universe could ever begin to endure any measure of suffering compared to what our dear Lord endured? The full overcomers that will make up that bridal company will forever bow the knee unto Him that is preeminate in all things, casting their crowns before His feet, singing thou art worthy, lifting His praise ever higher to the glory of God the Father. I want to be there, don't you?

A-men'

Draw Near

Gordon Crook, Pastor
Grace Assembly, Wichita, Kansas

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." James 4:8

God's desire has always been to have a personal relationship with mankind. He walked in the garden with Adam, and that fellowship was broken by Adam's sin. Ever since then, God has continued to desire that fellowship with man, and to that end He made a way for us to draw near. **"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Hebrews 10:19-25. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:13.**

Throughout man's history, God has continually called for those that would draw near to Him. Even though Jesus had not yet come, those who would come in faith, God would commune with them. There are many examples in

the Old Testament, such as Abraham of whom we read that he was "the friend of God." God spoke to Abraham as a friend would speak to another.

We also find Moses, of whom God says: **"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face," Deuteronomy 34:10. "My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" Numbers 12:7-8.**

Then, we find Elijah, hiding in a cave and very discouraged about his current situation **1 Kings 19**. When God speaks to him, it is in a still, small voice. In order to hear that, Elijah would need to draw near. Sometimes, God wants to talk to us in that still small voice, and He bids us to draw near so that we can hear Him.

What God is not looking for are those that will draw near in word only. It can be easy to say we are drawing near or try to make others think we are drawing near to God, but God knows our heart. He always seeks those that will draw near with a true heart. Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah in **Matthew 15:8: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."** The

earlier quote from Hebrews 10 encourages us to draw near with a true heart.

This is not just some “appeasement” of God, but it is a valuable relationship with the Creator of all things, the One who is above all and by Whom all things consist. This is good for us. I am constantly amazed that God has gone to all of this length to have fellowship with me. **“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:15.** The Psalmist knew this as well when he says: **“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.” Psalms 73:28.**

So, my encouragement to you is to not hesitate another moment. Take God up on His invitation to draw near. Near Him is the only place we will find true peace and comfort, and He wants to speak to you, specifically you. Don’t let the cares or discouragement of this world or your current circumstances keep you from being near Him where you can hear Him clearly. You will find that you get close to Him when you spend time in His Word, and time in prayer.



THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Anita Clark – Pastor
Grace Chapel, Carbondale, Kansas

The ultimate purpose of this Church Age is to prepare a group of redeemed human beings to be a Bride for Jesus Christ. The work of the Holy Spirit is going on today in the lives of believers who are yielding to the working of God. Apostle Paul speaks of this in Philippians 3:7-14. A careful study shows that Paul was not speaking of gaining salvation, when he writes, "I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung that I may win Christ." He is speaking of a work that will change him into a completely yielded child of God with a close place with the Lord Jesus. This brings the believer to a place of complete surrender to the Lord, where all is "counted loss" for Christ.

Let us consider the phrase , "...that I may win Christ." No where in the Bible does it teach that we win salvation by any good works. In fact the opposite is taught i.e. Titus 3:5 -"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He has saved us." Ephesians 2:8-9 says,"For by grace are ye saved by faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast." No where does the Scripture say we must strive to gain salvation to become a child of God. Paul sums up his desire in verse 14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

In other portions of Paul's writings He speaks of the race course likening to our spiritual day by day journey to achieve this place as the winner (I Corinthians 9:24-27).

The wonderful place we desire is to be yielded to Christ completely so that He can work in us by the Holy Spirit to prepare us to be the Bride of Christ. Paul speaks specifically about this in II Corinthians 11:1-3, "Would to God you would bear with me in my folly, and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with a Godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

God has made provision that every believer in Christ could be in that company. The sad thing is that not all will avail themselves of this glorious place. Satan deceives believers and lulls many to sleep. (I Thess. 4:13-5:8). The Lord warned that we are to watch and be ready for His soon appearing. In Revelation 19:1-10 we see a beautiful scene in heaven, when all the Church is gathered unto the Lord. Not all who are there are the Bride. Read the passage. In verses 7—8 we see the "great multitude" introducing the Bride, who had "made herself ready." The Lord Jesus came to earth to seek a virtuous Bride.

The purpose of this introduction about the Bride company is to talk further about a parable Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13:45-46 - "The Goodly Pearl." In verse 45 "the Merchant man " speaks of Christ who came to the world "seeking goodly pearls." God has made provision for each believer to be His "pearl of great price." The word "goodly" in Gk. Means "beautiful, good literally or morally virtuous." The Lord Jesus came to earth to seek a Virtuous Bride." Proverbs 31:10 says, "Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far

above rubies.” The word “virtuous” in the Hebrew language means “strength, valor, and moral character.” Jesus came down to call a people who would yield to Him completely and love Him supremely. He gave up all He had with the Father to find this pearl.

Verse 46 shows what Jesus Christ did. “He went.” “He sold all He had.” and “He bought it.” The text says He was “seeking goodly pearls.” This speaks to us that provision is made for every believer to be that beautiful pearl that Jesus is looking for right now in this Age of Grace. Here we find, “Who, when He found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that He had, and bought it.” II Corinthians 5:21 tells us, “For He hath made Him sin who knew no sin, for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” He condescended and gave up all that He had with the Father and became a human being in order to die and save us. That’s how greatly He esteemed the “Pearl of great price.” This pearl represents the Bride of Jesus Christ. Matthew 13:46 says, “Who, when He had found one pearl of great price.” Jesus is looking and finding the “virtuous one.” “the only one of her mother” —(Song of Solomon 6:9). mentioned in Proverbs 31:10, this one who captured His attention is “far above rubies.” Choose now to let the Lord work in you to be ready for this exalted place.

What causes the pearl to grow in the ugly old oyster? The Lord works from the inside out. As we yield He does His work in us. “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13. The Clam in the natural depth realizes an irritant bothering her. It is usually a parasite as an intruder, and not a grain of sand. This intruder into God’s plan is “sin.” If the parasite stays in the oyster, it will destroy

the oyster. God gave the Oyster a defence mechanism, a fluid to coat the irritant. Layer upon layer of the coating, called "nacre" is applied until a lustrous pearl is formed. This speaks to us that God is working a little at a time to change us into His image, and make us ready to be the Pearl of Great Price. We might liken the fluid (nacre) to the Holy Spirit who is constantly at work to make us into that beautiful pearl. This is an inward work, often unseen by others. God does the work as we yield to Him. Our will must be surrendered to Him or His work cannot be finished. Others may not see the work, (as hidden away in the oyster) but the Lord, the master Workman does, and has promised to finish the work He has begun. The only thing that hinders this is our will.

He did not look at the ugly shell, or the depths in which we dwell or the worm or parasite of the old nature. He saw the beauty of what we would be when He molded us and His Spirit coated us with the beautiful righteousness of Christ. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich." II Corinthians 8:9. Revelation 19:7 says., "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." Our job is to yield to His working in us. Matthew 13:46 says, "Who, when He had found one pearl of great price." Jesus is looking and finding the "virtuous one." This one has captured His attention. Choose now to let the Lord work in you to be ready for this exalted place.



Fruit Bearing

Part 1

Pastor Vicky Moots
Kingman, Kansas

Fruit bearing is an important topic in Scripture. In fact, the first commandment given in the Bible was to be fruitful, in Gen. 1:27-28. Prior to that, we read that God created the fruit tree to bear fruit. The physical creation gives us a picture of the spiritual, so as Christians, we are also to bear fruit.

John 15:1-8 is Jesus' discourse on the vine and the branches. Verse 8 says, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." These words were spoken on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was speaking specifically to His true disciples. They had just finished eating the Passover meal, and Judas had left during supper to proceed with his plans to betray Jesus (John 13:27-30), so he was not with them.

The most important thing to know about Jesus' discussion of the vine and the branches is that it is referring only to fruit bearing, not to salvation. He desired that after His death and resurrection all of His true disciples would bear fruit. If you are born again, then you can consider yourself one of His disciples, so He is also speaking to you.

Jesus often taught spiritual truths by using common earthly examples. In this case, He is using the example

of a fruit bearing vine, most likely a grape vine, which would be familiar to them.

In v. 1 He says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." What is a husbandman? It is a farmer or the one who takes care of the crop. In this example it would be the vine dresser, the one who prunes and cares for the vine and its branches in order to enable them to reach their maximum potential for fruit bearing.

That means that if God is the husbandman, then He is the one who will do the pruning. The vine's branches cannot prune themselves. Nor should they be carelessly pruned by someone who is not trained to do it properly, who might do more harm than good.

Verse 2: "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he [God] taketh away...". This is referring to a dead branch, because it is not capable of bearing fruit. It is physically attached to the vine but is not tapped in to its life source, and therefore has no life in it. A living branch will always produce some fruit, even if it is only a small amount.

Verse 6 goes along with verse 2 and is referring to the branch that was removed because it was dead. That branch was not actually a part of the vine. Verse 6 says, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered...". Judas was that dead branch. He was attached to the vine symbolically but had no life. He was a disciple in name only. Jesus called him and he followed Jesus around, but he did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He followed Jesus only for the money. He was used as a tool of Satan to betray Jesus, and was never a believer or a true disciple. In the pruning process, all dead branches must be cut off.

The dead branches are also all those who profess to be Christians but have never been born again. They may be members of a church but are not members of the body of Christ. The life of a vine must flow through its branches in order to provide life and the ability to bear fruit. We are not even a part of the vine until we accept Christ as Savior. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life" (I John 5:12).

A grapevine that is not properly pruned will not produce much fruit, or the fruit will be of smaller size and lesser quality. If left to grow on their own without being pruned, the branches will over grow and cover up the grape clusters, preventing them from receiving adequate sunlight and air flow which are needed for the grapes to mature. If the branches are cut back too harshly, then the fruit will become sunburned. The grapes need the proper amount of sunlight and air to mature to their fullest and sweetest. In addition, in order to prune properly, the pruning tool or knife must be very sharp so that it will make a nice clean cut and not damage the branches.

Jesus explains in v. 5 that He is the vine and we are the branches. And in v. 4 He says, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." Verse 5 then continues this thought: "...He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." What does it mean to abide in the Vine, to abide in the Lord? The word "abide" means to stand fast; to remain; to stay; to submit to." When we submit ourselves fully to the Lord, we stand fast on His Word. We submit to His

will in our lives, which means submitting to the pruning even if we don't like the cutting. But the final result is that we will be able to bear much fruit. The amount of fruit we will bear depends on the amount to which we are willing to submit ourselves into the hands of the Husbandman. We are to keep our minds stayed on the Lord, not on the things of the world.

Since the branches of a vine are a living out-growth of the main vine stem, and they receive their life from the vine itself, they have no life within themselves, and therefore would not be able to bear fruit without the vine. In order for a grapevine to bear good quality fruit it must be pruned on a regular basis which is also true for us spiritually.

In the spiritual sense, the sharp pruning tool that is used to do this is the Word of God. We read in Heb. 4:12 that "The word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword...". God does the cutting in our lives through His Word when we read it or hear it. It is able to penetrate to the depths of our hearts and purge out our dead works and the overgrowth of self in order that we can become fruitful.

The farther a branch grows outward away from the main vine stem, the less fruit it will produce, which is why pruning is necessary on a regular basis. This is true spiritually also. The closer we abide in the vine, the sweeter and better the fruit that we will bear.

Part 2 in June issue.



GODLINESS

Jack Davis

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” - II Tim. 3:1-5.

The grace of God teaches us to *deny* ungodliness, while we look for that “blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” - Titus 2:11-13. Paul told Timothy: “*Exercise* thyself rather unto godliness” - I Tim. 4:7. For “godliness with contentment is great gain (profitable)” - I Tim. 6:6.

Our Father has provided the way for us to become more and more like Him in nature and conduct by spiritual progress. Where only do we obtain the *power* to live godly lives, to live like God? It must be supernaturally produced. To begin, we are born of the *Spirit*, being made partakers of the Divine nature.

Our text tells us of the dangerous conditions of our day - holding to the *form* but *denying* the **power of godliness**. Jude recorded that there would be mockers in the last time, who would walk after their own ungodly lusts, who would cause divisions, sensual, having not the **Spirit**. Jude 18-19.

Godliness can never be obtained by religious form, no matter how reasonable and high sounding it may seem. It is only by that which is Divine, spiritual.

“Form,” speaks here of an outline, outward semblance, adherence to religious observance. When depending on it, religious form can become to us seemingly very indispensable, advantageous, and attractive with such beautiful pageantry; and having the appearance of devotion and the pretense of obedience. But it takes **the Spirit of the living God** to transform us from within.

DENYING THE POWER

“Denying,” used here is to contradict, reject, refuse. It is being done in theory and in experience. Holding to religious form is, in itself, denying the **Spirit’s power**; hence, turning away from **true godliness**. Formality is dangerous and detrimental to spiritual health.

By following religious form, the love of many is waxing cold, as it is allowed to lead attention away from prayer and praise, the Word, and worship from the heart; and especially, of **drinking in of the Spirit**. For it is by these that we *kindle* and *refuel* that flame of love.

So many professed believers have a name that they live and are dead. Some *assent* to and *acknowledge* Christian truths, which have no meaning nor effect in their lives. Others acknowledge “Bridal truths,” and many will earnestly try to put into *practice* what God’s powerful and precious Word demands; and yet, by self-effort, they are denying the only *power* by which these precious things are made a living reality. They not only do so but teach others to do the same, making such statements as, “We need to TRY to live according to the Gospel handed down to Timothy.”

We are told, “*Grieve not* the Holy Spirit” in Ephesians 4:30, and “*Quench not* the Spirit” in I Thessalonians 5:19. He is the *power* by which we are made godly, and His is the *wisdom* by which we live godly lives. It is as He *leads* us and *feeds* us, and as we *yield* in submission to Him, that He **produces in us the fruit of godliness.**

God has given us the **Spirit** “of *power*, and of *love*, and of a *sound mind*” - II Tim. 1:7. Jesus said, “Ye do err, not knowing the *scriptures*, nor the *power* of God” - Mt. 22:29. Both are so very essential to victorious living, keeping us from error in principle and in practice. Paul said that though Jesus “was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the **power of God;**” and that those that followed Him shall *also* “live with Him by the power of God” - II Cor. 13:4. Paul prayed that he might know the Lord in “the *power* of His resurrection” - Phil. 3:10. He said that if the same Spirit “that raised up Jesus from the dead *dwell* in you,” that He would “*quicken* your mortal bodies” - Rom. 8:11. Paul prayed that we be “strengthened with might by *His Spirit* in the inner man,” and that “According to His *glorious power*” - Eph. 3:16; Col. 1:11. Think especially how he prayed that we know “the ***exceeding greatness of His power to us ward*** who believe.” That is the same *power* that raised up Jesus “from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand...far above all principality and power” - Eph. 1:19-21.

THAT IS THE POWER OF GODLINESS

That is the Divine resource at our disposal. Oh, beloved, let us not deny such glorious victorious **POWER.** Oh, how we need the Holy Spirit to overcome, moment by moment and

day by day. We cannot do it on our own, no matter how great the formula. The sooner we find this out the better.

FROM SUCH TURN AWAY (AVOID)

This is not away from the persons, so much as the condition. We better not turn away from those in an attitude of contempt nor in indifference, but **pray much** for such as are described here. In turning away we avoid the errors and the attitude or condition of sleepy lukewarmness.

Yet we better not let our services or our lives drift into a *practiced* informality and disorderliness, which would lead away from beneficial spiritual order. The **Holy Spirit** leads in *order*, not into confusion.

In individual lives, godliness is manifested in an outward order, if the *Holy Spirit is allowed to do the inward work*.

HALLELUJAH!

—0—

MY DESIRE

*My desire to be like Jesus,
My desire to be like Him,
His spirit fills me
His love overwhelms me
In word and deed
To be like Him.*

Hold Fast

Earlene Davis

Rev. 3:11, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." This warning is given by our Lord Jesus Christ to the overcoming Philadelphia saints, who are running to win Christ. So far they are running successfully and He admonishes them, to **hold fast** that which thou hast, for His appearance is near. The overcomers of Philadelphia along with the overcomers of Smyrna will make up the Bride of Christ. They are fervent in their love for Christ and steadfast in watching for His coming. We by faith identify with this group, so we need to take this warning to heart.

In chapter 2:10, Christ says to Smyrna overcomers, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." So we see that faithfulness wins the crown, holding fast to the end, faithful unto death. Smyrna are the overcoming saints that go by the way of the grave. They will come up first in the resurrection. I Thess. 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first.**" Philadelphia overcomers will be then be called up.

Philadelphia saints speak of those which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord who will be translated. I Thess. 4:17, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Rev. 3:8, the Lord encourages the overcoming saints on, "I have set before thee an **open door,**" the door to heaven, translation's door. The best

reward, the **Prize** of the holy calling, Christ Himself is theirs if they "Hold fast."

To them it is promised, to be kept out of tribulation days. V. 10, "Because thou hast **kept** the word of my patience, I also will **keep** thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." They will be translated before tribulation (God's judgment of the world) begins.

V. 12, tells of rewards that are theirs. "Him that overcometh will I make a **pillar** in the temple of my God." A pillar usually stands as a solid massive support in a conspicuous place. They had been pillars of faith in their lives and then they will appear as a pillar in the temple of God. In Eph. 2:19-22, we read that the whole body of believers are growing into a holy temple in the Lord. So their place is prominent among them. It is added that they "shall go no more out," in other words, they will have that place **forever**.

"And I will write upon him the **name of my God**," that they belong to Him, His possession. And also "**the name of the city of my God**, which is **new Jerusalem** which cometh down out of heaven from my God." In Rev. 21:2, "John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as **a bride adorned for her husband**." Her adornment will be living stones (I Pet. 2:5).

"And I will write upon him **my new name**." Christ gives His wife His new name that He will have. He has never been a Bridegroom before. The Lamb's wife will bear the imprint or likeness of her husband (Rev. 19:7). Some saints shall share these high honors with the blessed Son of God.

A crown is certain to these wonderful overcomers, if they **continue** in the same way they have been going. The Ephesus saints of Chapter 2:1, started so good, known for their good works, but did not continue to hold fast. They left their first or chief love for Christ. They will miss God's best except they repent.

Apostle Paul espoused (or engaged) us to be married to Christ that He may be able to present us as a chaste virgin to Christ. But Paul feared lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, that our minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (II Cor. 11:1-3). So there is a danger of losing that place and crown. Jesus said in Mt. 24:24 that Satan would "deceive the very elect" if possible.

Some have been deceived thinking because they possess the knowledge that Christ will have a bride, that they are winners. But knowledge is not enough to qualify us. If the things of this life have first place with us, Satan has tricked us. For Christ must have **first place** with His bride.

Saints, we live in such a time that we may have **hope** of translation, entering that open door of heaven. Paul was greatly concerned for the saints. I Thess. 3:5, "For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour (among you) be in vain." So in Vs. 5-6, he warns that saints could be lulled to sleep spiritually, causing a state of indifference. How sad it would be, having the privilege of this revelation and then be deceived by Satan.

We don't want any part of the sorrows coming upon this world. We want to be in the throne room of heaven

beholding the enthronement of Christ (chapter 4, starting with V. 2). There is nothing worth more than winning Christ (Phil. 3:8).

Paul says, in II Tim. 3:14, "**Continue** thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of...". And in Eph. 6:10-11, "Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and **in the power of his might**." Put on the whole armour of God, counting on His sufficiency. His armour is another sermon for another time.

Don't let Satan sidetrack us. Satan can't take away our salvation, but he can rob us of God's best. Heb. 10:23, "Let us **hold fast** the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)."

Vs. 35-37, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath **great** recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

We have Christ's last word to us in Rev. 22:20, "**Surely I come quickly**."

God bless you!

**On the glory dawning morning,
We shall meet our Lord above,
For He's coming soon to lift us from below;
On His throne of wondrous splendor,
We shall praise Him whom we love,
Oh the glory up in heaven we shall know.
There to live with Jesus while the ages fly.**

H. G. Desha., Jr.

The Encouraging Word

"Why are you cast down, O my innerself? And why should you mourn over me and be disquieted. Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him; for I shall yet praise Him who is the help of my countenance, and my God." Psalm 42:11

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14

"The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous." Proverbs 15:29

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them." Psalm 34:7

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory because of your loving kindness, because of your truth!" Psalm 115:1

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your Name, O Most High proclaiming your Love in the morning and your Faithfulness at night." Psalm 92:1-2

Martha Wainright

