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# Glorious Gospel



**Jesus is  
The Light  
and Life  
of the  
world.  
Come  
unto Him  
and be  
saved.**



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# *God's Gift*

*He did not use a silvery box,  
Or paper green and red,  
God laid His Christmas gift to men  
Within a manger bed.*

*No silken cord was used to bind  
The gift sent from above.  
‘Twas wrapped in swaddling  
clothes and bound  
In cords of tender love.*

*There was no evergreen to which  
His precious gift was tied:  
Upon a bare tree on a hill  
His precious gift of God.*

*With mighty hand He lifted it  
From out the stony grave;  
Forevermore to every man  
A living gift He gave.*

*- Ruth Prentice*

# CHRISTIAN CHEER

Jack Davis

## **"BE OF GOOD CHEER"**

In the gospels, those that hear Jesus speak these words are encouraged to have boldness, take courage and be comforted, by what he has to tell them. This expression is used in the book of Acts to tell the hearers to cheer up, be cheerful, to put in good spirits. In each setting we read, "be of good Cheer" the opposite attitude is more likely to be expected in reaction to the stated conditions. Therefore we realize that which is called for must come from the supernatural. This different reaction does not come of a frivolous, foolish, fickle attitude, but from faith firmly fixed on scriptural fact.

## **HIS PEACE AND PROMISE TO PREVAIL**

**"Behold, the hour cometh, yea is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" – Jn. 16:32-33.**

"These things:" Seven times in this chapter Jesus uses this expression to foretell things of tribulation, trouble, turmoil, trying times to deep distress and great frustration. He told of coming sorrow, suffering, and separation. "But" in spite of these things in the face of them all, He did say, "in me...have peace." He has wonderfully prevailed, **Let Him cheer your heart.** He is not telling them to pretend it won't happen, nor that it doesn't hurt. He is net telling them to keep a stiff upper

lip. He understood how confused and disturbed they would be, (V.30). Yet based on His word, encouraged by His victory, and comforted by His promise they were to go on undaunted with a certainty and confidence in Him.

How about us? He overcame. He has won for us the victory. He has conquered the world's opposing forces and deprived them of their power to defeat us. Shall we not march on our way rejoicing in Rom. 8:28,37; Eph. 4:8-10; I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 2:14; Col. 2:14-15; and Rev. 3:19-22. He is winning victories in us. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things" – Rev. 21:7.

### **HIS POWER**

In Mathew nine we read of Jesus coming to His own city and they bring to Him a sick man that is paralyzed, and bedfast. Jesus seems to be impressed with their faith. He said unto him; **"Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."**

They (the scribes) were critical of Jesus and He answered the evil thoughts of their hearts saying; "Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say. Arise and walk." Later he said to the man; "Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house." The man did just that. "When the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, which had given such power unto men."

Oh how powerful is His WORD to speak faith to our hearts. He still encourages us to put our faith unto action. We are able to arise and walk spiritually when we know our sins are forgiven. Whether under condemnation for sin, or bedfast, He is able to make us able to do His will. He speaks the word of good cheer to forgive and to free us from whatever is holding us down, or hindering our walk.

## **HIS PERSON**

**"But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with the waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spoke to them, saying, **Be of good cheer**; it is I be not afraid" – Mt. 14:24-27.**

We each, in our days will come to storm tossed times and do face contrary winds. Shall we not be comforted with the presence of His person? I am sure they enjoyed having Him identify Himself at that moment. Oh, how it cheers our hearts to hear His Word. But what courage it gives us to see Jesus in the midst of the storm, and especially to know Him in such times. When Jesus and Peter got into the ship, after Jesus had lifted Peter out of the waters, we read, "the wind ceased." The storm had served its purpose. It had revealed the fact of fear and lack of faith. They also got a real up close, and personal illustration of the power of His presence. They worshiped Him in a greater awareness of who He was.

## **HIS PROMISE TO PRESERVE**

**"And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and take Him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle. And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, **be of good cheer**, Paul; for thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness at Rome" – Acts 23:10-11.**

Paul being faithful to testify of the hope of the resurrection got himself into much trouble between some vicious opponents of the truth. They decided to have a tug of war and use Paul for the rope. This was no game with them, they were serious. The captain evidently feared for Paul's life. It's possible that Paul despaired of life, at that moment. Paul experiencing bodily, the fury of religious animosity could be expected to be anything but cheerful. He certainly needed this word of comfort.

Have we ever been torn and troubled, and felt as if we were being pulled in pieces? Oh, yes we have and it is not all over yet. Although we know beyond any doubt that our Lord has fully provided that we finish our course with Joy. It won't be much longer, Just a little while. We, like our brother Paul can assuredly say, "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" – II Tim. 4:18.

### **PAUL'S PERSUASION**

In Acts 27 we read of Paul as a prisoner being placed on a ship destined for Rome. While at sea they encountered dangerous sailing conditions, even the tempestuous wind called Euroclydon. They were exceedingly tossed with the tempest. And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on them, all hope that they should be saved was then taken away" – Acts 27:20. Then Paul stood forth in the midst of them and said; **"Sirs...I exhort you to be of good cheer...**for there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve..." Paul was told not to fear for he was to be brought before Caesar, and that God had given to Paul all that sail with him. Then he told them again, **"be of**

**good cheer:** For I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me” – V.25.

Has the Lord told us anything? Has God’s Word been speaking to our hearts? Are we listening? When we believe what we hear from His Word, our hearts just can’t help[ but be cheered, even in seemingly impossible situations. In the storm, those on the ship had not been eating, but Paul encouraged them to partake of some nourishment. Paul was then an example before them all, and began to eat. **“Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat” – V.36.** I am impressed that Paul was able to share the Word of the Lord that cheered his heart, effectually. Do we not also have the sweet privilege, and grave responsibility to be mutually comforted and encouraged? **Consider Isa. 50:4-5.**



### **Master, the Tempest is Raging**

**The winds and the waves shall obey Thy will,  
Peace, be still, peace be still!  
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea,  
Or demons or men, or what ever it be,  
No waters can swallow the ship where lies  
The Master of ocean, and earth, and skies;  
They all shall sweetly obey Thy will,  
Peace, be still! Peace, be still!  
They all shall sweetly obey Thy will,  
Peace, peace, be still!**

**– H. R. Palmer**



# To Give Or To Receive

Gordon Crook, Pastor  
Grace Assembly, Wichita, Kansas

**“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**

**Acts 20:35**

As I write this, I am seeing a lot of pre-black Friday deals being advertised. Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving, when many will forget about being thankful, and become rude and pushy to get the best deals on things they want for Christmas. It is the official beginning of the Christmas retail period, when most stores make their largest gains of the year. We will buy and gift literally billions of dollars worth of things in the name of Christmas.

Some will be mad because they did not get something they wanted, or because they were overlooked when they felt they should have received something. Most are convinced that Christmas is about getting gifts, or maybe even about giving gifts. It is a shame that even many who call themselves Christians seem to forget that Christmas is about **God's** gift, not about people's gifts.

Maybe the true spirit of the season of getting lost in the hustle and bustle of following the world's lead and trying to out give someone else, or get more stuff for ourselves. May

we stop to consider what Christmas really means. It might be a good time to examine our own attitude. Are we more concerned with what we can get, or are we eager to give and help others. I believe that Jesus taught us to be willing to give. In **Acts 20:35**, Paul reminds that Jesus taught that it is better to give than to receive.

God chose to give to us what we do not deserve, as Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 9:15** “**Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.**” How wonderful it is to get a gift from someone at any time of the year, and to receive it in the spirit of thanksgiving. How much greater to receive **God’s** gift of His **Son** in a spirit of thanksgiving. It seems only appropriate that Thanksgiving and Christmas are so close together.

This was not just a great gift, it is the greatest gift; a gift that no one else could give, and we could never get for ourself. We must then recognize that if God was willing to part with the gift of His Son, what would He withhold from us. “**He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**” **Romans 8:32**. This is incredible, but true. “**Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**” **Romans 5:18**.

As we contemplate the greatness of the gift that God gave, we must certainly recognize that we can never give such a great gift. Because we have received such a great gift, we should have a greater willingness to give unto others, and

think less about ourselves. Selflessness is what we learn from our Lord Jesus. **“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:14.** However, it is in our old nature to think more about ourselves than others.

So, what can we give to the Lord? We can give ourselves to the Lord. This is what we see of the saints in Corinth; **“And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.” 2 Corinthians 8:5.** By all rights, we are already His, but He wants us to yield our lives willingly to Him. This yielded attitude, will apply to everything in our lives as we truly comprehend His gift of love to us. Everything we have and are is by His grace, and therefore, we should not lay personal claim to any of it.

Let us not be taken in by the attitude of the world whose main determination seems to be to get more and more. Instead, let us have an attitude of letting go of the earthly possessions, in favor of the heavenly treasures. Then, we will have something truly good to give to others. We can tell them of all that Jesus has done for us. We can share God’s love at this time of the year by telling others. What greater gift to give than the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

I hope you have a great CHRISTmas, and a happy new year, but I especially hope that you are looking eagerly for the coming of our Lord Jesus, and sharing Him with your friends.

# EIGHT STUPENDOUS, SUPERNATURAL SIGNS

Anita Clark – Pastor, Carbondale, KS

In Matthew we see more details of the death and resurrection of Jesus than in other Gospels, — from crucifixion to resurrection momentous days and mighty happenings. These were the most important of all the ages. Eight miracles with far reaching purposes set forth by God at this time. He marks these days with mighty happenings so that everyone who heard of and witnessed them, could know that these spectacular events were indeed of divine origin.

Natural creation of Gen. 1 and 2 came on the scene with little fanfare and disturbance. Greatest aspect of creation was when God “breathed in nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” Gen 2:7. However, when God brings the Spiritual Man on the scene, the head of the New Creation, He announced the fact with this emphatic series of events. God declaring “Christ His Son the Redeemer of all mankind.” Matt. 27:33-37; 27:45-46; 27:51(3 events), 27:52-53; 28:1-6.

Great men of the world both good and bad have come and gone. Creation did not respond to any of them as it did to the death of the Son of God. David, Abraham, Daniel, Moses, Elijah, Apostle Paul – Rulers like Julius Caesar, George Washington, Adolph Hitler – Scientists, musicians, sports heros, etc. With none of these were there great convulsions of creation as are described here concerning Christ. Only one Man has died whose death called forth these tremendous upheavals and convulsions of creation – Jesus Christ. All creation owned Him as

Lord and Creator. God advertised His death and resurrection. Man has tried to analyze Him with no success.

## **EIGHT SUPERNATURAL SIGNS -**

1. Matt. 27:45-46 **Dense darkness** from noon to 3 p.m. as He hung on the Cross. The Light of the world hung as our sin-offering. In compassion the sun refused to shine. Darkness more than eclipse or even sunset, - dense and black as man's sin. Represents darkness of separation from God for those who refuse to accept Christ. This darkness was instant darkness and then instant Light! Glory!!!! John 1:9 "That was the true Light" (Christ).

2. Matt. 27:51 "And the **veil in the temple was rent in twain** from top to the bottom" Access gained for man into the presence of a Holy God! Nothing separates!! Glorious truth. Supreme sacrifice! Once for all! Heb. 10:17—"Sins remembered no more!" "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" John 3:16 When Jesus cried "It is finished" God was satisfied.

3. "And the **earth did quake**" Such supernatural evidence!! This convulsion of nature felt throughout the entire region that day. The day of Jesus' death! The quake rocked back and forth, and trembled, and vibrated. Nature making open display, advertising death of THE MAN! Whole world will feel this quaking at His second coming with power and great glory. Vs.54 Those watching "feared greatly" Today the world still feels this pain, sorrow, terror and suffering. Woe and wailing are appointed for all who reject this Man. This source of light and life. 1 Cor. 3:11 tells us "For other foundation can no man lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

4. "And **the rocks rent**" The word "rent" means — "split, sever, break open, torn apart!! The ROCK of all ages had died!! Nature shows its disapproval and arouses in sympathy! "Upon this Rock will I build my Church. Christ will stand forever as the Stone, Elect and Precious to God and men who will believe.

5. "And the **graves were open**" Not all graves. To believers the power of death and the grave was annulled. "Where sin abounded grace did much more abound" Rom. 5:20.

6. "And the bodies of the **saints which slept arose** (after His resurrection)." Accuracy of Scripture noted. 1 Cor. 15:20 "Christ the firstfruits of them that slept." These saints (holy ones) went into the city and appeared (witnessed) to many!! They who rose were a foretaste or earnest of the resurrection when Jesus comes again!!

7. Matt. 28:2 "Behold, there was a **GREAT EARTHQUAKE!** for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it."

8. Matt. 28:5-6 "And **the angel answered and said** unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. **HE IS NOT HERE FOR HE IS RISEN**, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay." The Resurrection of Christ was the greatest and most astounding sign of all! A miracle of miracles!! Rom. 8:22-23. "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth ... waiting for the ... redemption of our body."



# *Mystery of the Bride*

## Part 5

Vicky Moots

Gen. 2:22 "And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

Perhaps by now you are wondering why God would choose such a small and seemingly insignificant part of the human body, such as a rib, to fashion a bride for Adam. Maybe it's simply because a rib could be removed and not even be missed by the rest of the body. In order to explore this further, I would like to discuss this from a medical standpoint, since this was a surgical procedure. Let us examine the various characteristics of the ribs and their purpose and position in the physical body, and then apply that information to the spiritual body, the church.

First of all, ribs are a hidden part of the body. They are covered with fat and muscle and are therefore not noticeable unless a person is malnourished. They don't even make any noise to attract attention to themselves. No one ever brags on how beautiful or how big their ribs are. They seem to be less important than the rest of the parts of the body. However, the work that they do continues day and night, and it is necessary for life. We could not live without our ribs.

Keep in mind, as we study the ribs, that the rib is a spiritual picture of the bride of Christ, and that all of this

has a spiritual meaning, which I will discuss as we go along. In the spiritual body, the bride is also unnoticed because she does not brag or boast concerning her beauty or her works. She desires that all the glory be given to Christ, so she quietly and humbly continues to do the work that she was called to do without any fanfare or desire for recognition. She does it as a labor of love for Him.

Our ribs form a cage, called the thoracic cage, around our heart, lungs and major blood vessels to protect them from harm. But that is not all they do. They are necessary in order for us to breathe.

There are twelve pairs of ribs, which vary in size and type of movement in order to allow equal expansion of both lungs at the same time. The number twelve in Scripture is God's governmental number: there were twelve tribes of Israel and twelve apostles.

All of the ribs are connected to the spine. The upper ten pairs are also connected in some fashion, by bone or cartilage, to the breastbone (sternum). The lower two are only connected to the spine. The number ten in the Bible speaks of responsibility according to ability, as in the Ten Commandments. The spine symbolizes our ability to stand. We must recognize that our ability to stand before a holy God is only in Christ. The breastbone speaks of affection, for we read that John, the beloved, leaned on Jesus' breast.

The ribs are also connected to each other by muscles so that they will all move together in harmony when we take a breath. Underneath each rib there is a groove which



contains a nerve, artery and vein (a trinity). In order to breathe, the brain signals the rib muscles to cause the chest wall to expand as the ribs move outward. At the same time, the diaphragm muscle, which is attached to the inside of the lower ribs, pushes downward. This creates a negative chest pressure which causes air to flow into the lungs.

This whole process is called "inspiration." In II Tim. 3:16 we read that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God..." This means literally that it is "God breathed." God breathes life into us through His Word as we read it, in the same manner in which He breathed life into Adam.

During inspiration, all of the ribs must move out at the same time, in one accord, together as a group. Spiritually that would speak of the Holy Spirit who gave the breath of life to the church on the Day of Pentecost, when they were all in one accord in the upper room.

Inspiration in the physical body is an active process that requires muscle contraction, or work. But then the brain sends a second signal which causes all those muscles to relax, and the air flows out of the lungs carrying the waste products with it. This is called expiration, or exhalation. It is a time of rest, because it does not require any muscular contraction.

This cycle of work and rest, inspiration and expiration, continues until we take our final breath, which ends in expiration. The ribs work together, consistently, persistently, always yielding, never tiring, even when the rest of the body is asleep, but they must also do an equal amount of rest.

What does this mean to us spiritually? I mentioned previously that the bride performs a labor of love for her Bridegroom. However, she also takes time to sit and rest at Jesus' feet and hear His Word, as did Mary in the story of Mary and Martha, in Luke 10:38-42. Jesus performed many good works, but even He took time out to rest and commune with His Father in order to be strengthened. The bride also is strengthened for her labor as she sits at His feet and studies His Word.



### ***Unsearchable Riches***

***O the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Wealth that can never be told;  
Riches exhaustless of mercy and grace,  
Precious, more precious than gold!***

***O the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Who shall their greatness declare!  
Jewels whose luster our lives may adorn,  
Pearls that the poorest may wear.***

***O the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Freely, how freely they flow;  
Making the souls of the faithful and true  
Happy wherever they go.***

***O the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Who would not gladly endure  
Trials, afflictions, and crosses on earth,  
Riches like these to secure!***

***– F. J. C.***

# CONSIDER JESUS

Gary Giddings, Sand Springs, OK

**Hebrews 3:1-2**, "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **consider** the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, **Christ Jesus**; Who was **faithful** to Him that appointed Him ..." As Christians, we are to **consider** Jesus, that is, "to perceive clearly, to understand fully" (Vine) the unique Son of God. This is no mere reasoning of the human intellect, but it is to yield ourselves to God who reveals Himself and opens our understanding to His reality.

Consider that Jesus was **faithful**, that is, "trustworthy" and "true" (Strong). Jesus completed the Father's will by going to Calvary's Cross and dying for our sins. Jesus could have called 12 legions of angels to rescue Him, but He didn't. Jesus was **faithful** to the plan that the Triune God made to save us from our sins (Acts 2:22-24, 36-38). After receiving Jesus into our heart as Savior, He comes to stay. We, too, can learn to be **faithful** to the Father because of the Spirit of Christ within us. As we allow Jesus to live through us, we can be **faithful**. **Phil. 2:5-8**, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **He humbled Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Before there was the earth and the universe, God existed in eternity past. But God wasn't lonely or needy: God is perfect and complete. God is a Trinity – **The Father**,

**The Son,** and **The Holy Spirit.** God is a Relational Being. When Jesus came to earth, His relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit didn't stop or end. As a man, Jesus DEPENDED on His relationship with the Father and Holy Spirit. Think of what Jesus did to take this humble place: He gave up His "rights" as God. He gave up being Omnipotent (All-Powerful), Omniscient (All-Knowing), and Omnipresent (Present Everywhere). Jesus entered time and space and took on a body of flesh and blood, why? He identified with us so that He could take our place and die for our sins. When we accept this gift of Salvation, we can identify with Jesus! Now, with the Spirit of Christ within, we can follow His example of doing the Father's will. Jesus IS the great example and pattern for us.

**Mark 10:42-45** "...Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but **whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:** And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Consider Jesus' example: we must learn to SERVE others. This is not just trying to please everyone, but we learn our role in the Kingdom of God and we use our gifts and talents to point others to Jesus. What is your gift or talent? Use it for Jesus' sake and for His kingdom.

Peter told those gathered in the house of Cornelius that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: **who went about doing good,** and

healing all that were oppressed of the devil; **for God was with Him**" (Acts 10:38). Jesus' humble obedience to the Father is our example. We also can do good in this world as we yield to God. **John 3:34**, "For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for **God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him.**" Jesus didn't begin His ministry until AFTER He was baptized in water by John the Baptist and filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus wasn't off trying to accomplish the prophecies of the Old Testament by Himself. He relied upon the Father and the Holy Spirit. **John 14:10** "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." **John 14:24** "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." Jesus said it was the Father speaking through Him! Jesus didn't rely on Himself, but gave Himself completely over to the Father.

**Luke 22:41-44**, "And He [Jesus] was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And **being in an agony He prayed more earnestly**: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Think of the GREAT stress that was upon Jesus. He was already agonizing over what was before Him, but He poured out His heart to the Father. There He gained the strength He needed to keep going with the PLAN to save us.

**Heb. 5:7-9**, "[Jesus] Who in the days of his flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him

from death, and was heard in that he **feared**; though He were a Son, yet learned he **obedience** by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him; The word **feared** means that Jesus showed "reverence" (Strong). From the Webster Dictionary, reverence is a "feeling or attitude of deep respect, love, and awe."

How was Jesus heard? Did He get to bypass the Cross? No. God the Father gave Him the power that He needed TO STAY ON TASK. Jesus could have called 12 legions of angels to rescue Him, but He didn't. It was His Love for us that propelled Him on to do the difficult thing. Jesus was **obedient**, even through the suffering. God doesn't obey or need to obey anyone, because God is God. But when Jesus stepped down from heaven and took on a body of flesh and blood, HE LEARNED TO OBEY THE FATHER.

**John 10:17-18**, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have **power** to lay it down, and I have **power** to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. Jesus was given **power**, that is, "authority, strength" (Strong) from the Father to be the Lamb of God to take away our sins! Jesus didn't rely on Himself but His relationship with the Father. When Jesus laid down His life, it could LOOK like failure and defeat. It could LOOK like God lost and the Devil won. But Jesus relied on the **power** that the Father gave Him to complete the plan of Redemption. We know by the Scriptures that Jesus won because He came out of the grave. He arose victorious over death and hell. We read that Jesus "spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of

them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15).  
"Wherefore God also hath **highly exalted Him**, and given Him a name which is above every name:" Phil. 2:9.

Jesus FIRST took the downward steps to identify with us and to redeem us. THEN God the Father **highly exalted Him**. Jesus humbled Himself and waited for the Father to exalt Him. Jesus didn't exalt Himself but pointed to the Father who does the exalting. God set us free to SERVE and to WORSHIP Him through Jesus our Savior. But what will we do with the freedom, the liberty that He gives us? We are tempted to live for "The Kingdom of Me." It is so easy to get caught up with what we want and what we like to do, because we are human. But it is our joy, our privilege to SERVE JESUS and to PLEASE Him. CONSIDER JESUS who laid down His life to save us from our own destructive ways. We were saved to KNOW and to ENJOY His presence. **Psa. 16:11**, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is **fulness of joy**; at thy right hand there are **pleasures for evermore**.

Jesus went through the pain and suffering of doing the Father's will and came out the other side victorious! Jesus is now experiencing **fulness of joy** and **pleasures forever more** because of His relationship with the Father. These promises are for us, too, who submit our will to God. May we let Jesus RULE & REIGN on the throne of our hearts so that we may RULE & REIGN with Him in His Millennial Reign on earth. This highest place is being offered to you today: will you accept it or reject it? It is up to you. Why do we settle for less when God offers us His best?



# FULL ASSURANCE ON THREE SHIPS

## Part 3

Jack Davis

### HOPE'S HEIRSHIP

"We desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience **inherit** the promises" – Heb. 6:11-12.

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory Divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward" Heb. 10:35. Oh, "the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him!" Thank God for His Holy Spirit who makes us **KNOW** what things are freely given to us of God. We, like Abraham, can be "strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform" – Rom. 4:20-21. We can **KNOW** that God is making all things work together for our good. "For we **KNOW** that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an House not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" – II Cor. 5:1. "We **KNOW** ... we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" I John 3:2.

**"THE FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE"** is a full conviction that our hope will be realized, a certainty that we will secure full possession of what God's Word has caused us to expect. In Acts 27:20-25,29-36 we see that "all hope



... was taken away." Oh, how Paul's writings prepare us for the storms and preserve us from many a storm. "Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me," Paul could say, "I am acquainted with the Author, and ought to **KNOW**." When we are not eating as we should, the assurance of our hope cannot be very full – Acts 20:32. Here he spoke assurance of the Word of God's grace that is powerful to do an effectual work, building and enriching.



## **The Nativity**

**Hark, the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;  
God and sinners reconciled."**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise;  
Join the triumphs of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."**

**See, He lay His glory by;  
Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth;  
Born to give them second birth.**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Son of Righteousness,  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.**

**Let us then with angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;  
God and sinners reconciled."**

**– Charles Wesley**

# Amazing Love, Grace & Hope

by  
Vicky Moots

Amazing love, how can it be?  
That He would die for you and me.  
He suffered pain and agony  
To set the vilest sinner free.  
Amazing grace He gave to me;  
My sins He cast into the sea,  
Remembered never more to be,  
That I may live eternally.  
He rose triumphant from the grave;  
Amazing hope to us He gave.  
He raised us up to bear His name,  
A spotless bride with Him to reign.



# The Encouraging Word

"The LORD is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens." Psalm 113:4

"My soul, wait in silence for God only. For my hope is from Him." Psalm 62:5

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to your name, O Most High." Psalm 92:1

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 136:1

"He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless." Isaiah 40:29

"Cause me to hear your loving kindness in the morning; for on you do I lean and in you do I trust. Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk. Unto you I lift up my soul." Psalm 143:8

"Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries all your concerns once and for all – on Him; For He cares for you." I Peter 5:7 Amp

"What, then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

Martha Wainright

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