

The VINE & BRANCHES



The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, inc.

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Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

In Season, Out of Season

We recently concluded our Thanksgiving Day festivities here in the United States, a wonderful part of our American heritage. Of course, celebrations of thanksgiving began long before the Pilgrims settled colonial New England. Throughout the ages, God's people have been exhorted to give thanks unto God.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:
(Psalm 92:1)

We magnify Him with thanksgiving.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. (Psalm 69:30)

Thanksgiving is the key that opens the gates to God's holy presence.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
(Psalm 100:4)

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.
(Psalm 95:2)

For a truth, it is the absence of thanksgiving that is the first indication of a heart departed from God.

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. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... (Romans 1:21-22)

For this reason God's people are commanded (and not requested!) to give thanks in every thing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

You may ask, how can we maintain a thankful heart while living in a world that the Bible itself describes as

"crooked and perverse"(Phil. 2:15)? How can we be thankful when, like Lot, we are vexed daily by the utter madness of the world around us? "For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds" (2 Pet. 2:8). The answer is found in maintaining the perspective of eternity, "for we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corin. 5:7).

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

The eternal victory of Christ cannot be seen with carnal eyes. It cannot be grasped by the mind of the flesh.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
(1 Corinthians 2:9)

The secret to thankfulness is enlightenment. To be truly thankful, your eyes must be opened to and your heart filled with the hope and joyful expectation of the glory that awaits us in Christ.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
(Ephesians 1:18)

It is the eternal realities, the "evidence of things not seen" (Heb.11:1) that enliven us and give us reason to be joyful even amid the trials and tribulations of life. For this reason, we can give thanks in every thing.

Now, we enter into that time of year known as the Christmas season. By the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father, you and I are allowed to celebrate the birth of our Saviour openly and without fear of retribution. I pray this is not something you take for granted. Do you imagine it has always been, and will always be this way? One need only open a book of history to realize that religious freedom has

always come at a high cost. The Bible makes it plain for all who have eyes to see that our situation is going to get worse before it gets better.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2 Timothy 3:1)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (1 Timothy 4:3-4)

The bastardizing of the Christmas holiday into a orgy of fables and mindless consumption is evidence of a society that has rejected the message of Jesus Christ. It is a terrible irony that here in America, it is the day after Thanksgiving that is the commencement of the so-called Shopping Season. People rush to spend money they don't really have to buy things people don't really need. They fill their shopping carts with meaningless trifles that will be forgotten long before the last pine needle falls from the Christmas tree.

They are blind, but by the grace of God, you and I can see. Therefore, during this Christmas season, let us not permit the madness of society to deter us from celebrating the birth of Christ. There is perhaps no other time of year that so magnifies the words Paul first wrote to the Church at Philippi: "What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice" (Phil. 1:18). Let us rejoice that in every star on every Christmas tree and in every nativity scene on display, Christ is preached.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. (Luke 1:68-75)

This is the season of Thanksgiving, and the season for remembering Christ's birth. Yet for spiritually vital Christians, these are more than annual events. These are our daily realities. Let us be instant, in season and out of season, to be thankful for the victory that is assuredly ours in Christ.

Rev. Tim Sullivan



Looking Unto Jesus

by Rev. Todd Pekel
Thessaloniki, Greece

As you well know, this is the time of the year when most people, at least for a little while, are "looking unto Jesus." My question to them and to you who read this is quite simple. When you look unto Jesus, which Jesus do you see? Is it the "baby" Jesus, depicted in swaddling clothes and lying helplessly in those manger scenes that dot the landscape? Or is it the longhaired, sandal-wearing, revolutionary who wants everyone to make love and not war? Is it the mythical and seemingly powerless Jesus of men's tradition who *used* to do miracles but really can't be bothered with them anymore? Which Jesus is to be firmly set in *our* eyes as we look unto Him? Let's read the following Scripture carefully.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb.12:2)

"Jesus...the author and finisher of our faith." This is the Jesus we are to be looking unto. Not "baby" Jesus, not traditional Jesus, not Jesus the philosopher or Jesus the radical, but Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. It's no coincidence that this verse of Scripture follows on the heels of "the great cloud of witnesses" mentioned in verse one of this chapter. It is recorded in the previous chapter of Hebrews that Moses endured while looking unto someone. Who was it that he was looking unto?

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. (Heb.11:24-27)

Moses endured, "as seeing Him who is invisible." While we respect the great things our forefathers in the faith did, we can't help but marvel when we look unto the Lord Jesus and see the things He accomplished for us. "Who for the joy that was set before Him...endured the cross."

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in

your minds. (Hebrews 12:3)

Consider Him, indeed! This Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith, endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself. Think about it. I'm sure He knew He was innocent. I'm sure Jesus knew that he didn't *deserve* to be there on that tree while at the same time knowing that everyone around Him *certainly did* deserve to be there. Contradiction? There's never been any greater. There has simply been no greater contradiction endured by anyone, anywhere, at anytime...ever! Only Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. (Hebrews 12:4)

He endured...“despising the shame,” He endured. Oh how He must have despised the shame! Think of a time or a situation when you were unjustly accused. A time when you knew you were innocent, just *knew* it, yet others around you condemned you as guilty. Did you despise the injustice done unto you? Did you endure the contradiction against yourself? Now multiply that times infinity to begin to get an idea of how much our Lord must have despised the shame He suffered so unjustly.

This Jesus, who endured such contradiction and shame, did so *not* to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved!

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:17)

Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith,” endured the cross while despising the shame, “for the joy which was set before Him.” This Jesus, is set down at the right hand of God.

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. (1 Peter 3:22)

When Stephen was “looking unto Jesus,” which Jesus did He see? Did he see a newborn “baby” Jesus? Was it the radical, philosophical Jesus? No. When Stephen was looking unto Jesus... he saw nothing less than the glory of God!

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55,56)

Stephen saw nothing less than the glory of God as he was looking unto Jesus, and rightly so, because Jesus is the very *image* of the invisible God.

Who [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature: (Colossians 1:15)

In fact, as we are looking unto Jesus, we should see what Moses, Stephen and all of our brothers and sisters in the faith have seen throughout the ages. That is, we should see Him, “who is invisible,” the Almighty God.

Who [Jesus] being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Hebrews 1:3)

As is recorded in John's gospel, Philip one day asked Jesus to “shew us the Father.” Jesus' words are recorded for all who have been given eyes to see.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:6-9)

“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father,” said Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. As we look unto Jesus during this holiday season, let us not see the traditions of men, radical philosophers, or babes in mangers. As we are looking unto Jesus, let us be given eyes to see “Him who is invisible.” Let us see what our forefathers in the faith have seen as they looked unto Jesus. In short, let us see nothing less than the express image and glory of God Almighty Himself.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:10-14



**Where is He that We May
Worship Him?**

Rev. Dimitris Pelidis
Thassos, Greece

Christmas is rapidly approaching and with it the anticipation and excitement of the holiday season. It is a time of great exhilaration and joy, a time of rest and a time of reflection. It is a time to not only celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ but also to seek Him and worship Him who is our Lord and King.

Despite His kingship, when He came to this world some 2000 years ago there were only a few unlikely visitors in the welcoming committee who came to worship and adore Him. Representing the Jews was a group of shepherds and on behalf of the Gentiles came the wise men from the east, otherwise known as the Magi.

The biblical account of the wise men is both intriguing and enlightening. The single passage which refers to them sheds beautiful light concerning the heart of true worship which they exhibited.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother,

and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. (Matthew 2:1-12)

It is peculiar that it was not the wise men of Israel with all their knowledge of the scriptures who got news of Christ's birth but these wise foreigners from the east. One would expect the scholars of Israel to be better informed of the time and whereabouts of their own King's coming. However, it was to these complete strangers that God chose to disclose the secret of His Son's birth and He didn't do so through the usual avenue of the scriptures but by illuminating the sky with His Son's star.

This goes to show that it is not so much our national, cultural or even religious heritage that guarantees access into the inner chambers of God but it is our reverence to Him and our thirst for truth. Being well-versed in the scriptures will not do you any good if you are not seeking Him humbly with all your heart. Only then will God reveal His Son in your heart.

The meek will he guide in judgement : and the meek will he teach his way. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him: For He shall show them His covenant. (Psalm 25:9,14)

The way God chooses to reveal His truth is His sovereign prerogative. Ours is the business of humility and readiness of heart to receive His divine messages in whatever form they are delivered.

There were many shepherds watching their flock that night and many stargazers who were peering into the sky. Why did it have to be those specific shepherds and those certain stargazers who got the big news? I would venture to say that they were the ones who had the right heart to receive such splendid news. This is amply proven by the course of action they followed once they received word from heaven. You see, it is one thing to get the Word of the Lord and it is quite another to act upon it, once you get it. These men were not mere theorists. They were men of honor, men of action, men of purpose. What they saw through their "telescopes" was not just another star. They saw Him who is named in the Bible *the star out of Jacob* (Numbers 24:17), *the bright and morning star* (Revelation 22:16), the one who is *the brightness of the glory and the express*

image of God (Hebrews 1:3). They beheld Christ's star and its beauty dazzled them forever. It spoke volumes from God's heart to theirs. This was no ordinary king who was born to the Jews. Driven by God they hastily climbed down their observatory and took the long rugged road to Jerusalem to find him and worship him. They weren't deterred in any way by the great distance they had to cover allegedly originating from Persia. All that mattered was to meet Him. There is definitely a wealth of wisdom to be gained from them. Once Christ is revealed to you, be willing to leave everything behind in order to meet Him and worship Him. Be ready to take the long road of faith no matter how tough it may be. Always remember that it is God who guides your path and leads the way.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye
(Psalm 32:8)

The Magi outshone the wise men of Israel. While the scribes and Pharisees lost the way to the manger they were on the right track. They were determined to reach their blessed destination. When they came to Jerusalem the one thing they wanted to know was "WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN KING OF THE JEWS? FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST AND ARE COME TO WORSHIP HIM."

Just imagine for a moment how disconcerting this question must have been to Herod coming from the lips of a delegation of these strange oriental men. They even claimed they had seen His star in the east. What is worse is that they had come to do Him homage. How would the head of state of any country feel? Threatened? Was there a conspiracy being plotted against him? Was he the last to get wind of it? Well, as Matthew 2:3 reads, it was not only Herod who was deeply troubled "but all Jerusalem with Him."

Herod immediately sends for all the chief priests and scribes of the people and demands of them to tell them where Christ should be born. Being well versed in the scriptures they point to the direction of Bethlehem and rightly so. How ironic though, that they don't feel the slightest urge to go up to Bethlehem and see for themselves if this is truly the promised Messiah. They could quote the right chapter and verse and give right directions but it was the Magi who end up in Bethlehem paying tribute to the King of the Jews and not the Jewish leaders themselves. They prove to be the earnest seek-

ers of Christ while the Jews aren't. As the Scripture testifies, "For it is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men but of God" (Rom. 2:28-29). Similarly all those of us who trust in our knowledge of the Bible and are not earnest seekers of the person of Christ are not genuine Christians. Actions determine our relationship with Him. Can we echo the testimony of Job 42:5? Have we heard of Him by the hearing of the ear only, or has our eye seen Him also? If Christ is no more than hearsay and not a revelation to your heart then you have not yet really met him.

The Magi both saw His star and the Christ child Himself.

When they had heard of the king, they departed; and lo the star which they saw in the east went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod they departed into their own country another way.
(Matthew 2:9-12)

The star led their way to where Christ was and when they saw it they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Such is the joy of all those who allow their steps to be ordered by God, who reach their final destination which is none other than Christ Himself. And when they come into His presence then they too fall down in reverence before Him and worship Him offering their best gifts to Him.

The example of the Magi shines on. Seek Him diligently, follow Him closely and worship Him fervently in the spirit offering your gift to Him. Have a very merry Christmas!

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Workers Together With Him News Report

By Rev. Tim Sullivan

As the year 2002 comes to a conclusion, I am filled with thanksgiving to God Who allowed me to be a part in all that was accomplished for His kingdom this year. I am also grateful for all of you who gave of yourselves to help in this particular work of God.

I was a little surprised (and disturbed) to realize that this is only the *third* edition of the Vine & Branches newsletter published this year. The day is approaching when I may need to pass on my responsibilities as Editor of this newsletter to another. I am reminded of Jethro's counsel to Moses, "this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone" (Exo. 18:23). That being said, I would like to thank Evan Pyle and Jerelyn Pearson for their inestimable help in proofreading these newsletters before they go to print, as well as all you who send in your written contributions.

This has been a busy year for me, and the months that passed since the August edition were busy in particular. As always, that which was accomplished would be impossible without the blessing of the Most High, and the help of many fellowservants in the Gospel.

As society and lifestyles around the world continue to change, I've tried to adapt my teaching presentations to better serve the people of God. The most radical change has been to revise the week-long Weapons Of Our Warfare class into two weekend seminars, "That The Church May Receive Edifying" and "The Exceeding Greatness of His Power." As you can imagine, this change took more than simply cutting the class in half but required a major revision, as I sought to not only preserve the thoroughness of the teaching but ensure adequate practical instruction (training sessions) in the gifts of the Spirit as well.

From August 2-4, I presented "That The Church May Receive Edifying" in Lansing, Michigan. I returned to Lansing November 8-10 to teach "The Exceeding Greatness of His Power." This congregation in Lansing was the first to hear the Weapons of our Warfare message presented entirely in the weekend format. Both events were very exciting for me, and I'd like to thank Jim and Shawnee Vickery not only for inviting me to come teach, but also making such marvelous preparations for all the

participants.

From August 28-31, I was in South Harrow, London teaching "The Exceeding Greatness of His Power." This was the first time I taught in the new meeting hall of Workers Together With Him, UK, which is overseen by Rev. Jerome Lucas. Jerome and his coworkers are doing a wonderful work in South Harrow. Their weekly Sunday meetings serve not only a growing adult fellowship but a large number of children as well. I'd particularly like to commend Aine Lucas, Sue Connor and Lorraine Bradley for all the work they are doing to ensure that these young people grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The first children's class on "The Weapons Of Our Warfare" was presented in Cornwall, England from October 20-27. This class, which was born at the request of Mary Calpin of Holland, was monumental in many ways. One again I was required to completely revise my presentation. The wide range of ages made my work particularly challenging (so much so that, in the future, I will teach two separate classes, one for younger children and the other for teens. The first teen class is scheduled for this June in Virginia, USA). I would like to express my appreciation to my class assistants, Sue Connor of London and Joella Beard of Alaska, for their great help in making this class a success. I'd would also like to thank my daughter Jessica for her contribution to the class, artwork that was very helpful for my teachings.

While I was busy teaching the children, the adults were enjoying their own special fellowship. Jerome oversaw a week of wonderful teachings and sharings by many of the adults who were attendance, which included his wife Aine, as well as Rev. Todd Pikel of Greece, Rev. Ray Beard of Alaska, Carl and Vivienne Roberts of Wales, and Dermot Byrne of Ireland. Everyday I would hear wonderful reports of the deliverance that was being ministered during those meetings. As much as I would have enjoyed being there, it was also a fantastic witness that Workers Together With Him is not the work of one person but many.

During the month of September I was actually home in Brownsville. Rudolf Illavský came over from Vienna, Austria to visit and to work on some projects. He redesigned our web page (www.workerstogetherwithhim.org) and together we did some more work on his forthcoming book. With the help of some additional voice-overs, I finished up the editing of our video tour of Greece, presented in English by Todd Pikel and in German by Rudi. (This dvd is available from our bookstore, and can be

played on any dvd player that can play the dvd-r format.)

In the office, my wife Nelly continues to work on the Spanish translation of *The Weapons Of Our Warfare* book. Her work has been eased immensely by Mr. Hilario Martinez of Matamoros, Mexico who took my class in 2001 and now helps Nelly not only in proofreading the Spanish manuscript but also in reconciling the differences between the various Spanish translations of the Bible and the King James Version.

Beatrice Mantock of Switzerland is very near completion of the German translation of *The Weapons Of Our Warfare*. This book will be published in Europe and will be of great assistance to the work there. I anticipate the day when I no longer need to work with interpreters but instead this material can be presented in places like Germany, Switzerland and Austria by native speakers. This, I believe, is the way to further the Gospel in countries around the world in the way that God designed. Don't misunderstand me. I am thrilled to have been allowed of God to preach His Word in the many places I have been, and I pray that God will continue to open doors of utterance before me. However, I know that part of my task is to help establish churches, such as is being accomplished in *Workers Together With Him*, UK. When I go to England, any donations we receive at the end of my classes remain in England to help with the work there. Rev. Lucas, along with his Board of Directors, is responsible to God (and not me) for how the work proceeds there. I am only one voice amongst the multitude of counsellors.

It is written, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Teaching faithful men who shall be able to teach others is God's way to ensure that His people do not fall into the trappings of the cults that build their work upon a man and not on the Rock, Jesus Christ.

I want to express my thanks to all you who take part in this work by your prayers, tithes and freewill offerings. It is only with your help that I am able to do what I do, to present the Gospel without charge that I am a burden to no one.

And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

(2 Corinthians 11:9)

God bless you, and thank you once again. I hope to see you in my travels in the new year!

The WTWH Bookstore

Books by Rev. Tim Sullivan:

The Weapons of our Warfare

Forty-four chapters of Biblical teaching on the Weapons of Our Warfare, the nine spiritual gifts given by God to the Church today. (432 pages, published 2001) Suggested donation \$20.00.

Walking On The King's Highway

Including: *A Time of War; The Prosperity of the Lord's Servant; Discretion Shall Preserve Thee; The Generation of Jesus Christ; Disappointed in God; Holistic Christianity* and *Walking on the King's Highway*. (110 pages, published 1999) Suggested donation: \$10.00

Auf Der Strasse Des Königs Gehen

The German edition of *Walking On The King's Highway* translated by Beatrice Mantock. (84 pages, published 2000. Available in Europe only). Suggested donation \$10.00

If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall

Lessons on: *Faith; Virtue; Knowledge; Temperance; Patience; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness and Charity*. (120 pages, published 1998) Suggested donation \$10.00

By The Grace of God I Am What I Am

Featuring: *Precepts and Premises; A Fountain of Life; The Evidence of Things Not Seen; But Ye Say* and *By the Grace of God I Am What I Am*. (100 pages, published 1996). Suggested donation \$10.00

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The House Of God by Rev. Todd Pikel:

Chapters entitled: *Christ the Spiritual Rock, Christ the Foundation, Christ the Chief-Cornerstone, Christ the Head, Christ the Temple* and *Christ the Door*. (58 pages, published 2000). Suggested donation \$10.00

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In The Footsteps of Paul:

A video tour of the places Paul visited as he answered the Macedonian Call, recorded during three of Rev. Sullivan's trips to Greece. This tour is hosted in English by Rev. Todd Pikel and in German by Rudolf Illavský. Digitally recorded in DVD-R format. (Not compatible with all dvd players). Suggested donation \$15.00.

Donations received are used for the continued work of this ministry. Please make checks payable to Workers Together With Him.



**Be Strong In The Grace That Is In
Christ Jesus**

By David Mantock
Stettlen, Switzerland

What a privilege it is to be called into the life as a Christian. Indeed, the Word of God says that before we were saved, we were in fact dead:

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins... (Ephesians 2:1)

God, in His great love towards us, gave all that He had to give. He gave His one and only Son. Yes, we were purchased with a great price.

... to feed the church of God, which he hath PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD [emphasis added]. (Acts 20:28b)

We were purchased with the blood of our Lord and Saviour. Now, of course we deserved to be saved, didn't we? We were always kind to people, sometimes we were funny, we always worked hard, we even went to church, or maybe it was our good looks. Or maybe like me, you were named after a saint - surely that would clinch the deal. Well, maybe not. God leaves us in no doubt as to how and why we are saved. The how is in the following verse:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9)

The why is so amazing:

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, BY GRACE ye are saved... [emphasis added] (Ephesians 2:5)

So there we have it, it wasn't our good looks, good works, good humour or anything of ourselves. It was the totally undeserved favour of God, or to put it more simply: the grace of God.

When God opened your eyes (again through grace), didn't you just burn with desire to somehow repay him for your new, better than ever "royal life"?

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter 2:9)

However, we are human and we are weak and feeble, and let us be honest: we are often ungrateful too. Show-

ing forth praises is not always top of our agenda.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but THE FLESH IS WEAK. [emphasis added] (Matthew 26:41)

We are not always full of the same intensity and energy that we had when we first heard the good news and were saved.

So here we are, caught in the middle as it were; add to this our daily responsibilities of work and taking care of our loved ones, and our life of service to God seems challenging at best and overwhelming at worst. How do we cope? Thanks to the grace of God the answer is simple:

Thou therefore, my son, BE STRONG IN THE GRACE that is in Christ Jesus [emphasis added]. (2 Timothy 2:1)

Now, we learn from the Apostle Paul's letters to Timothy, that Timothy faced the challenge of a life of service unto the Lord. Here we have a young man...

Let no man despise thy youth... (1 Timothy 4:12a)

...who had the privilege to be an example to the Church and to lead and teach them.

... but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12b)

These things command and teach. (1 Timothy 4:11)

I can identify with Timothy, especially as I am facing the new challenge of serving God in Switzerland, which for me, being born in England, is a foreign land. I do not speak German, French or Italian which are just three of the four languages that are spoken here (Rumantsch being the other one, and I don't speak that either!). I can imagine that at times Timothy felt that there was a barrier between him and his goal of serving God's people effectively. How comforting it must have been for him to receive Paul's letters. Paul who was his mentor and who had led him into the faith. I just have the language barrier to deal with, but I too take great comfort from those letters. There are some very specific instructions regarding church matters and in particular being a servant to God's people. The verse that really stands out though and the one that I hold dear to my heart and that I am trying to live by is this one:

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:1)

Whatever our situation, God wants us to be strong in His grace towards us, the grace that was made possible by the sacrifice of His one and only most perfect Son.

We did not deserve this, we could not earn it or pay for it in any way. For us to go forward in the things of the Lord we have to remember that we can only do His work due to His grace which gives us the strength that we need.

Jesus spoke of the possibilities that are available to us as Christians:

And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. (Luke 18:27)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (John 14:12)

We serve a God who is almighty, and as I said afore, the life of a Christian is a privileged one. Although we endure hardness for Christ's sake, it is in truth a life in the sun.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.



**For That Thy Name is Near
Thy Wondrous Works Declare**

by Beatrice Mantock
Stettlen, Switzerland

When asked by Moses what His, God's name was, God answered: "I AM THAT I AM." So He that is, the living and true God, is near, even if at times we can't feel it. But when we see His wondrous works, when we look at them, they declare His presence.

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare. (Psalm 75:1)

His wondrous works are described in His Word, and they are also wrought in our personal life, that we may know that God Almighty is near.

Throughout His magnificent Word, it is also made plain that God wants us to remember His wondrous works:

I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thy way, O God,

is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.

(Psalm 77:11-14)

Not only are we told to remember them, but we should also meditate and talk of them, and this is what I would like to do. I would like to tell you about one of the greatest wonders God has done in my life. It happened in 1998, during a Christian summer camp on the island of Thasos, Greece. For many years, my life had been a mess, because I was utterly deceived. I was convinced that a Christian could lead any lifestyle, as long as he or she spoke about the Bible to everybody. Among other things, I had been a severe smoker for more than ten years. When confronted by other people, my excuse was that the spiritual things were far more important, and that I wanted to be focused on them first, then maybe later, someday, I would think about giving up smoking.

A few months before the camp in Greece, I already started to feel that some things in my life were wrong. I felt guilty, weak, lost and confused, and I felt that I had to renew my relationship with my Heavenly Father. No doubt God was preparing me for what was about to happen.

So, I went to Greece with huge expectations. The fellowship was sweet, the teachings inspired, and God truly was in charge of that event. I saw how people were ministered to by their brothers and sisters in Christ, as they were laying hands on them, and soon I wanted to be ministered to myself. It was easy, because I was ready to receive, I truly believed that I would be delivered - from what, I didn't know yet. Praise God for arming His people with such powerful spiritual weaponry, the gifts of the spirit! And praise God for the brother in Christ who ministered to me that day - I will always be deeply indebted to him. As he laid his hands on me, he detected more than one evil spirit, then he bound them and cast them out of my body. It was amazing, as I could actually feel a fight going on in my body, but because of the superiority of God's power, it only lasted a few seconds.

In the evening of the same day, I felt like withdrawing from the crowd in order to meditate on the astounding events, so I went to the room where I was staying and sat down on the little balcony. As I had just bought 3 or 4 of those big packets they sell in Greece (I think one holds 40 cigarettes), I lit up a cigarette - but I couldn't smoke it. Maybe you have tried smoking yourself, or you remember the experience of the first cigarettes you ever smoked: it tastes horrible, and your whole body offers resistance. This is how that cigarette tasted. Also, I felt

like waking up to reality, and I said to myself: What am I doing here? Is it so great to suck on this glowing stick, should I sacrifice my health for it? Clearly, the answer was NO.

At first, I couldn't believe what was happening, but then I realized that it had to do with those evil spirits leaving my body. One of them, with a specific name, was responsible for the bondage I had been in for so many years. In fact, on account of its very name and nature, it dawned on me that he was trying to kill me, because I used to have bad pains in my legs and veins; I even got treated with injections once. Of course I ignored the doctor's advice to give up smoking, since I was blind and in bondage. But by God's grace and power I was set free, and I joyfully threw away the many packets of cigarettes I had bought. It was all so real and overwhelming - I felt like being face to face with God. That miracle truly showed me that HE IS, and that He is very near.

Now the first 3 to 4 months after that, I had no problem with my new life as a non-smoker, but as it goes, nobody is safe from being tempted. And so, during the following four months, I did smoke from time to time, but it was different now: It always tasted rather bad; I felt that it wasn't an addiction anymore; and I had a very bad conscience! I knew that I was mocking God. So I pulled myself together, didn't smoke anymore, and I haven't smoked for more than three years now.

To say that I am never tempted would be a lie. I am, but I have learned that we have the power to resist temptation. It may not always be easy, but why should it be? The obedient Christian life isn't a life of comfort and ease. After all, God says about our body:

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and *ye are not your own* (emphasis added)? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

What remains to be said is this:

I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. (Daniel 4:2-3)



The Death Sentence

by Rev. Evan Pyle
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

I am writing this article to address those times that we Christians grow weary in our walks and are feeling "dry" spiritually. It is a problem I face regularly. I know that if I fall into a pattern of willful sin my love will grow cold (Matthew 24:12) and the solution to this is obvious: repentance and change. But what of those other times when that nagging dullness seems to creep over me for no apparent reason?

For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: (2 Corinthians 1:8,9)

It seems Paul and his companions experienced such trouble in their walk that they even despaired of life. Yet, they had something that caused them to trust not in themselves in those dark times, but in God. That something is identified as the "sentence of death". What kind of "death sentence" could cause one to quit trusting in oneself and instead trust the Living God?

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (2 Corinthians 4:10)

As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; (2 Corinthians 6:9)

How are we to make sense of this and what does it mean to our Christian walk? Before we are saved we are on a literal death row because of sin and our corrupt nature.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Ephesians 2:1)

We are now saved, but how are we any different from the description of these two verses? Don't we still sin? Haven't we therefore earned death, and continue to earn death? But how is it we haven't died and are no longer on the death row of eternity? I'm sure you will say that this is Christ's work of grace for us that has saved us

from such a death and you are right.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:10, 21)

Through Jesus' work we have been granted a new blessed kind of death, a death that is cause for praise and rejoicing...death to sin. And along with this death we are raised to a new life, a brand new kind of life that doesn't resemble the old.

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:2-4)

I have counseled with believers many times who dismiss certain repeating patterns in their lives as "that's just the way I am...I've always been that way." If we see what the Lord is saying in these verses, we know that this is a lie. Why? Because that "same old used-to-be," referred to in the Bible as the "old man," has died. If your old man has died, how can you claim to remain in bondage under him? If he is dead, you are free.

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. (Romans 6:6,7)

Our work is to consider these things to be true. To act as if the old man really is dead. To act as if I am a new creature in Christ. To walk like I am no longer under bondage to "this is just how I am" and instead live my life yielding to God and His Will.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:11)

When we seek to please God, or "get right" with Him by our own will and feeble efforts, we are stubbornly hanging on to that life that is dead. The harder we try the "behinder" we get. The harder we try, the more death creeps over us. Our joy evaporates and we wonder where our close relationship with the Lord has gone. But when we die to that old life that is dead we bring forth fruit of the life of Christ. When others see us they no longer see us trying to be a good Christian. Instead, when they see us, they see Christ Himself. By faith we live Jesus' life

and we experience an aliveness and a joy that can only come from above.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)



How To Read The Bible

by Christine Pyle
(age 15)

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Having trouble reading the Bible? Be encouraged! The treasures of God's word can be opened to the eyes of any person who diligently seeks the truth. In preparation, sit or kneel with a Bible in hand. Before beginning anything, however, it is important to realize that nothing any person says can be a complete and infallible guide to Bible study; only God Himself can open His book to His children in truth. Therefore, ask God's guidance and wisdom in the reading of His word. Also, Ask Him what passage to read out of the Bible's vast store of wise words. Perhaps, using a concordance, open the Scriptures to the desired place, or to a Bible study assignment. Next, thank God for His word and again ask for understanding. Then begin reading, preferably aloud. Meditate on each verse, but also look for the full meaning of the passage. While reading, continue to pray and commune with God. As one humbly opens himself to God, the Holy Spirit instructs his heart about God and the will of God. Then, deepened understanding and clearer vision to see God's love and grace should evoke emotions of thanksgiving and humility. When this occurs, give voice to awakened love for God in praise of Him! Joy and opened spiritual ears many times result when a person gives himself to worship of the King. Also, confessing sins and repenting before God frees the believer to adore the Lord more and give himself fully. Finally, continue in earnest prayer, humble meditation, and loving praise. Thus, the person who diligently seeks God's truth in His word will certainly find it.

Workers Together With Him

Upcoming Events

January 25-26, 2003: *If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall*
Hosted by Scott and Suzanne Abercrombie
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For additional information, or to request a class in your area, please write or call our office.

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