

The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, inc.

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

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

It has been a busy two months since I last wrote you and I hope this bit of news will bring you up to date with our work.

The Weapons of our Warfare classes held in Tathra, Australia in March and Cornwall, England in April were wonderful successes to the glory of God. It can only be by the hand of our loving and gracious God that we see the kind of deliverance that we see in these classes. I would particularly like to thank John Goulis of Australia and Jerome Lucas of England for all the work they did to help orchestrate these events. God bless you both.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of Workers Together With Him, USA, was held in Houston, Texas in March. Having a Board of Directors is a legal requirement for not-for-profit organizations. Boards are needed to ensure that the organization stays within its designated purpose.

When I set about to invite certain men to serve with me on this Board, I was looking for men who met the qualifications of eldership listed in I Timothy.

I Timothy 3: 2-7:

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

There was one more qualification I was looking for, something very personal to me. I was looking for men who knew by experience how devastating it is to the people of

God when their elders serve them dishonorably. Therefore, I wanted to surround myself with "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness (Exodus 18:21)." I wanted to work with men of integrity, men who were not for sale, men who knew that this Board of Directors was not a fan club. I think I have found such men and I am very proud to serve with them. In alphabetical order, they are Scott Abercrombie, Jeffrey Bass, Raymond Beard, Marty Durbin, Todd Pekel, and Evan Pyle.

At this time, information is being gathered concerning opening charters of Workers Together With Him in other countries as well.

On May 7, 2000, I had the privilege of ordaining our brother Todd W. Pekel to the work of the Christian ministry, in accordance to the Word of God. Todd's ministry is a vital part of the work of Workers Together With Him.

Several more classes on The Weapons of our Warfare have been scheduled, and my teaching calendar for the rest of the year is almost full. Thank you for your prayers and support that helps make this work possible. If you would like to host a class in your area, please let us know.

In this issue of The Vine & Branches are several articles sure to bless you. There is another "Positive News Flash" by Marty Durbin, the conclusion of Evan Pyle's study on "Worship" and Todd's continuing series, "Yesterday, Today and Forever." In this issue we have the first of what I think will be a very exciting feature, "Seeing God At Work." There are some very precious testimonies from some of the graduates of my recent class in Cornwall. Finally, there is my article as well. I hope you enjoy them all. God bless you!

Rev. Tim Sullivan



That I May Make the Gospel of Christ Without Charge

by Rev. Tim Sullivan

How is a work of God to be financed? The answer to this important question is found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. In the ninth chapter, Paul responded to certain accusations being aimed at him, accusations about the validity and propriety of his ministry.

I Corinthians 9: 1-2:

Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

The work at Corinth alone was irrefutable proof of the validity of Paul's ministry. Paul was the one sent by God to deliver the message.

I Corinthians 9: 3-6:

Mine answer to them that do examine me is this, Have we not power to eat and to drink? Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

Now, if Paul *had* been guilty of gluttony, of alcoholism or lasciviousness; if he *had* been greedy of gain, he would certainly have deserved the censure of the people, let alone of God! But Paul was beyond reproach in all these matters. He was blameless. Neither did Paul and Barnabas invent work in order to avoid getting a "real" job. They were called to labor in the fields of the Lord. Would God do less for His workers than the farmer for the oxen of the field?

I Corinthians 9: 7-11:

Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

Unfortunately, the believers in Corinth were too

carnal to receive this message. Paul didn't hide this fact from them either. His judgment of them was in truth.

I Corinthians 3: 1:

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Paul knew that as far as these Corinthians were concerned, this message was falling on deaf ears. He determined he would not take one penny from them, lest they make further accusation against him.

I Corinthians 9: 12:

If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

Nevertheless, Paul continued to instruct them in the true way of the Lord.

I Corinthians 9: 13-14:

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

In two verses, Paul bridged the Old Testament with the New. Just as the Levites of old lived of the things of the Temple, "even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." It could not be more simple.

It was the collective duty of *all* Israel to serve God. Not only the Levites, but the entire nation of Israel was to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests.

Exodus 19: 5-6:

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

The Levites had the *specific* duty of serving the Temple. Their sustenance came from the tithes of their brethren, the other tribes of Israel. Everyone shared in the work *and* the reward.

I find it amusing when certain organizations come out with their grandiose statements against tithing. "That's Old Testament law! There is no Temple today!" Six months later, they have to start promoting some sort of "club membership" just to keep the electricity on. Of course they have to invent some way to finance their little club! God is not going to bless an organization that teaches people to forsake Him!

Malachi 3: 13-15:

Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit

is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

By the way, is there any truth to this idea that there is no Temple today? The Temple in the Old Testament was the *picture* of the Church today!

Ephesians 2: 21-22:

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy **temple** in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Those who teach that there is no profit to keep the ordinances of God will answer to Him for their stout words. Such teachers are not only responsibly for teaching God's people to rob Him, they also rob the people of the rewards, both temporal and eternal, of tithing.

The temporal reward of tithing is the curse that is broken and the blessing that is bestowed.

Malachi 3: 8-9:

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Because of Adam's disobedience to God, the earth was cursed. God said "Cursed is the ground for thy sake"(Genesis 3:17). The *only* way this curse is broken is by obedience to God. When you tithe, God Himself rebukes the destroyer.

Malachi 3: 10-11:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And **I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes**, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

The immediate benefit of tithing is wonderful. But this is only a piece of the whole picture. Tithing reaps eternal rewards that far outweigh the temporal benefits. By your tithe, you share fully in the reward for the work you supported.

I Samuel 30: 24:

... as his part (*his reward*) is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

Matthew 10: 41:

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

When Saul went before Samuel the prophet, he did not want to meet him empty-handed.

I Samuel 9: 7:

Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go,

what shall we bring the man? ... there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?

The Biblical picture of gifts given to a man of God represent the eternal crowns we will one day place upon the head of our King at His Throne.

Revelations 4: 10-11:

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

We are rewarded on high for our labor in the Lord. This includes the work we support. That is the reason a minister of God promotes tithing – for the profit of the people of God and not for his own profit. Paul said it would be better for him to die than for any to think that he had written these things for his own benefit.

I Corinthians 9: 15:

But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

We all know this truth has been sorely misused, even as tithes have been misused. Paul warned of those who "serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."(Romans 16:18). The truth, however, is above controversy. Imagine the shame of standing before the Lord with nothing to offer Him but your sheepish grin. When we appear before the Lord, we do not want to be empty-handed.

I John 2: 28:

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

As a minister of God, a son of Levi, I am commanded to take tithes. It goes without saying that my ministry is only as good as my obedience to God.

Hebrews 7: 5:

And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

God has promised to supply all our need.

Philippians 4: 19:

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

He does not, however, promise to supply everything we *think* we need.

James 4: 3:

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

If my needs are *not* being supplied, then it is only

because my needs are not of God. God bears no obligation to finance *my* endeavors. He will, however, finance the work *He* commissions. God will not withhold His hand of blessing from those who are doing *His* work. One way or another, their need will be supplied.

Can you see the freedom in this? Everything hinges upon obedience to God! So long as I minister the Word according to truth (which includes teaching the truth regarding the tithe) God will supply what I need to do His work.

The work of God is not held ransom by unbelief or selfishness. No one can tie God's hands behind His back. At the same time, all the money in the world will not keep a rebellious ship from sinking.

Acts 5: 38-39:

And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

With God as my witness, I do not teach about tithing because I want to raise money. I teach because it is the truth. It is my duty to preach the Gospel.

I Corinthians 9: 16-18:

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

What is my reward then? Verily that, **when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge**, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

The mandate from God is clear.

Matthew 10:8B:

Freely ye have received, freely give.

When God's people work together for the furtherance of the Gospel according to the precepts of His Word, everyone benefits. The curse is broken and the blessing is bestowed. The work of the ministry is financed honestly and without coercion. The Gospel of Christ is preached without charge and everyone shares in the reward. The work of God prospers.

Honestly, what price can be assigned to truth?

Proverbs 23: 23:

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

If I am going to bother running this race at all, I am going to run that I may obtain. I want to obtain incorruptible crowns, so that when I see Jesus face to face, I can place them upon His head, a gift to honor my King.

I Corinthians 9: 23-25:

And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

The way of God is always far superior to the ways of men. Let us walk in subjection to His will, serving Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Hebrews 12: 28B:

Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:



Yesterday, Today & For Ever

Christ the Veil

By Rev. Todd Pikel

Christ was pictured throughout the Old Testament in shadow or type. Seeing Christ as He is represented in the Old Testament will greatly enhance our enjoyment and understanding of the entire Bible.

God commanded Moses to build a tabernacle in the Wilderness "according to all that I shew thee."

Exodus 25: 8-9:

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Why "according to all that I shew thee"? Because the Tabernacle pictured Christ in every detail and was a figure "for the time then present."

Hebrews 9: 8-9A:

The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

Which was a figure for the time then present,

"For the time then present" is definitely referring to the time when the first Tabernacle, the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, was yet standing. As stated above, "the way into *the holiest of all* was not yet made manifest." "The Holy Ghost this signifying," the shadow of Christ the veil.

Hebrews 10: 1A:

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things

Even in the days of Moses however, what was plain was that the access or entrance into the *holiest of all*

was only through the veil. The veil represented Christ. Hebrews 10: 20:

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

As the priest made his way into the Tabernacle, he passed through the gate entering into the outer court. Then passing by the Brazen Alter where the sacrifices were made and the Brazen Laver where he washed himself, he entered the door into the first part of the Tabernacle. This area contained the Table of Shewbread and the Candlestick, all pictures of Christ. However, while standing in the Tabernacle and "the holy place," one thing still separated him from "the most holy place," which was the presence of God. That one thing, the last thing that he came to, was the veil. The veil, in reality, separated man from God.

Exodus 26: 33:

And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and **the most holy**.

In "the time then present" the high priest was allowed to enter *the most holy* or *the holiest of all*, once a year. This being done after a yearly sacrifice for sin, this too was a figure of Christ.

Hebrews 9: 24, 25:

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in **the presence of God** for us:

Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into **the holy place** every year with blood of others;

Ironically, the very veil that was their salvation was the thing that blinded the minds of the Israelites. They did not accept that Jesus was the Messiah. Their minds were blinded.

II Corinthians 3: 14-16

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth **the same vail** untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away

The time then present was YESTERDAY. Notice above that it's the *same* veil. Jesus Christ *the same*, yesterday, and today and forever.

John 1: 17

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

So the law was given by Moses. When Moses returned from the mount with the words of the covenant, the children of Israel could not look at him for the glory of his raiment. In the veil we have our picture of Christ.

Exodus 30: 28-35:

And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded.

And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

It's interesting to note that when Moses spoke with the Lord he took off the veil from before his face. In other words he could see clearly. There was nothing that separated him from the presence of God. Moses didn't put his trust in the picture, but rather accepted and believed the reality. He entered the presence of God, *the most holy place*, through the only means possible. He entered in through Christ the Veil.

John 10: 9:

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Acts 4: 12:

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved

On the day of Christ's crucifixion, there is another truth regarding the veil and the fulfillment of it being "done away in Christ." Remember the high priest could enter *the holiest of all* but once a year and even symbolically the veil had to be rent in two as curtains being drawn apart.

The very moment when Christ's life left Him, the veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. This was accomplished at the exact time of the evening sacrifice, instantly and permanently opening and showing the way into *the holiest of all*.

Matthew 27: 51:

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Mark 15:38:

And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom

Hebrews 9:3:

And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called **the holiest of all**.

We see the fulfillment of this truth in the reality of Christ the Veil. His broken body and shed blood providing the means for our entrance to the presence of God.

Ephesians 2:17-18:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

For through him we both [Jew and Gentile] have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Thus we see Christ TODAY. Through Him we have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

We can only, let me say that again, *only* have access by one Spirit unto the Father *through Him*.

John 14:6B:

...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:9B:

...by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus Christ said that no man can come unto the Father but by (or through) Him. Through Him we have entrance into *the holiest of all*, the presence of God.

Hebrews 9:12B:

...but **by his own blood** he entered in **once** into **the holy place**, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 10:12,14,19:

But this man, after he had offered **one** sacrifice for sins **for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God;

For by **one offering** he hath perfected **for ever** them that are sanctified.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into **the holiest by the blood of Jesus**.

Christ was offered once and for all. That is, FOREVER! His body has been broken. His blood has been shed. The way into the holiest of all, the presence of God is through Him. The Veil has been permanently rent.

Hebrews 10:24-25:

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Yes, the day is approaching when all who have entered **the holiest of all** through the veil of Jesus Christ will be gathered.

Hebrews 6:18,19,20A:

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and **which entereth into that within the veil**;

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus,

The veil is the same Yesterday, Today & Forever.

It was pictured with Moses. It was made and hung in the Tabernacle separating man from the presence of God. It traveled with Israel wherever they went as a constant reminder to the people. It was a part of the temple. It was torn from top to bottom at the exact moment of Christ's death showing the world that the way to the Father is only through HIM, Christ the Veil.

Hebrews 13:8:

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.



This is not the easiest subject in the Bible for me to write about, knowing that I myself have a hard time being content. But this is what God's Word says.

Hebrews 13:5:

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content with such things as ye have**: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

For one reason or another, I have moved around a lot in my life, and I have lived in many different cities since the time I was in third grade. Sometimes I feel like the song "I was born in the back seat of a Greyhound bus rolling down Highway 41." My life has led me to many places, the winters living in one place with my mother, and the summers living in another place with my father. Some winters I spent way down in old Mexico, which was another great experience.

God's Word really helps me to be content living where I am, because I still tend to think the grass may be greener on the other side of the hill. But I have learned that it is what God wants for us that really matters. A lot of Christians are not content with their life. It may be they are not content with their car, or their house, or

their family, or one of many other things.

We all need to stay focused on what God wants us to do, and not just what we want. The apostle Paul learned this, as he wrote in Philippians:

Philippians 4: 1:

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

It is so great just to be content, no matter what is happening in our lives. These next verses are fantastic.

Philippians 4: 12-13:

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Another great thing Paul had done in his walk with God that we should do as well is forgetting his past.

Philippians 3: 13-14:

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

That is just what we should do, forget the past, and reach for the things of God. We should be spending as much time as we can doing the things of God. I know this not easy to do, because after all, we have to work, we have got to pay the bills, make dinner, and take the kids to the ball game. Life is so full of things we have to do, where is the time for God?

God has the answer.

Matthew 6: 33:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you

Right now at this very moment, I am putting God first. It is Monday morning. Maybe I should be at work. After all we have a lot of bills to pay you know. But instead I'm taking off work and seeking the Lord first. God has already come through for me, and blessed me by giving me clear thinking on what to write. Also, I have just received a phone call about a good day's pay I can do tomorrow, that will only take me a few hours.

Sitting down to this "Positive News Flash" was not easy, and I could think of many other things that I should have been doing. But once I got started, I became very content, and blessed about doing it. Praise God!

I know we all have a lot of things to do, but we should try to set time aside in each day of every week for God. He will bless us for it, and we can stack up

those eternal rewards. Here it is, the year '2000' already. There may not be a lot of time left.

Ephesians 5: 15-16:

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

As we seek to learn to be content, we will find that godliness with contentment is the greatest gain.

I Timothy 6: 6-8:

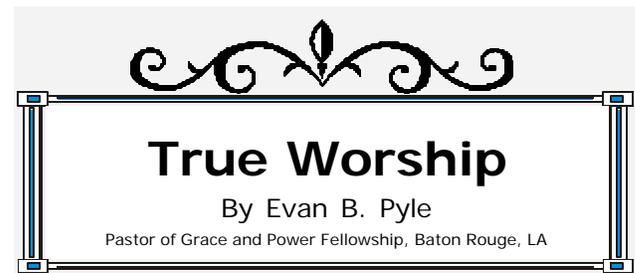
But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Hebrews 13: 5:

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.



We know that the Old Testament foreshadows that which is to come.

I Corinthians 10: 11:

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Colossians 2: 17:

Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.

We see in the account of Abraham and Isaac many elements of the sacrifice Jesus Christ came to make for the sins of all people: **God offered what was most precious to Him**, His only begotten Son, as a sacrifice. In this sense, Isaac foreshadows Jesus. But God intervened and provided a sacrificial ram as substitute for Isaac. Jesus is that sacrificial ram for us. There is more. *Abraham foreshadowed and modeled for us who follow in the steps of his faith, the type of worship that God yearns for from His people.* Abraham, in extreme submission, obeyed God, and in doing so proved God's perfect will. God had already stated His will when He said that in Isaac's seed would all nations be blessed. Abraham believed and obeyed. He knew that God would even raise Isaac if need be. When God provided the substitute, this *proved* God's will.

Romans 12: 1-2:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our Father asks us for *no less* than our all, a living sacrifice. We are to take all that God has given us, the best and most precious gifts, and offer them in submission to His perfect will. Worship is our whole lives offered to God in extreme submission and extravagant love. *Worship is our whole lives lived unto God.* The result of a worshipping (submitted) life is transformation. Worship is giving all we are to God.

When we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, it is holy and acceptable to God.

Psalms 29: 2:

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Another Old Testament “worshipper” was King Saul.

I Samuel 15: 30:

Then he said, I have sinned: [yet] honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord thy God.

This is an example of false worship, for the sake of appearances. Saul’s false worship was in response to the embarrassment of looking bad in front of his people. True worship is a heart response to God.

II Kings 17: 36:

But the Lord, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

Worship is to what or to whom we give ourselves. The priorities in my life and the decisions I make are all a reflection of my worship. Worship is the place in my life where I exhibit extreme submission and extravagant love...whether to my lusts, fears, resentments, emotions, my bodily needs, or the Lord God. We are to have **no other gods** before Him, for He is God and changes not. All other ground is changeable, shifting, sinking sand. Yes, man’s forms of worship are but vain: Isaiah 44: 16-17:

He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth [himself], and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

And the residue thereof he maketh a god, [even] his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth [it], and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou [art] my god.

Much Christian “worship” today is divorced from

Holy Scripture and is the device of man’s imagination and reasoning. He jumps, shouts, claps and sings himself into a frenzy. Or he meditates into a “heightened” emotional state. Just as the priests of Baal tried to elicit a response from their god through their much shouting, jumping, and frenzied antics; deluded Christians today are trying to get God to respond to their much shouting, jumping, and frenzied antics. He says, “I am warm, I have seen the fire, I feel good, so good!” And he does *everything but* offer all on the altar of sacrifice to his dear Heavenly Father in *response* to God’s goodness.

II Corinthians 10: 5:

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Rather than basing our worship on the relevancy of the times, we must base it on the timelessness of His Holy Word.

Jeremiah 7: 2:

Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all [ye of] Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the Lord.

Finally, let us consider Jesus’ direct teaching on worship, in His own words:

John 4: 20-24:

Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

Jesus eliminated the place (neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem), the race of people (true worshippers), and physical form (in spirit and in truth) as criteria for worshipping God. The only acceptable form is **in spirit and in truth**. God knows the thoughts and intents of the heart of man. He is seeking “such” to worship Him. He accepts no less, and offers no other standard, than a living sacrifice.

John 9: 38:

And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

When the saints of God gather to publicly worship, there is not a prescribed biblical format that calls for certain types of singing or instrumentation in order to worship properly. In fact, singing is not required to worship. The biblical requirement is a heart attitude of

worship; one of a *living sacrifice of all that we are* to God. Christians who truly worship in their daily living will worship gloriously when in the fellowship of the saints. Worship is not a subject to argue; but a life to *live*, consecrated to Him.



This is a new feature in The Vine & Branches. "Seeing God at Work" is about recognizing the hand of God in everyday situations, at your job or in your home. These testimonies will remind us all of God's daily involvement in our lives. If you have a story you would like to share with our readers, please send it in! The first testimony comes from Daniel Bucher, now living in Switzerland.

In March, Tim asked me if I would be happy to write an article for "Seeing God at Work," and I guess this is my story. I was not too sure at first if I knew what to say, even though I see God working in many ways in my life. I guess that sometimes you forget. A lot comes to pass, but we do not always acknowledge it.

Philippians 2: 13:
For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

My family and I knew that this year would be a year of major changes. We were planning to move out of Sydney to a different state within Australia. Because I am a Chef, I knew it would not be that difficult to find another job. I opened my ears and started to look for possibilities.

Through a friend I heard that a position was opening in a beautiful town where my family and I would have been very happy to live. I called the person in charge of hiring, and I was told this was the perfect time to call, as he was leaving for Sydney in just two days to select some people. I met him and during the conversation we started to talk about a lot of other things then cooking. We got on so well that I left the interview I felt sure I had the job. He told me that the property was being sold, and as soon as they knew who the new owners were, he would give me a call.

Soon after this, my wife and I received a telephone call from a lady who had just brought her mum to the Emergency Hospital because of a heart attack. My wife and I ministered to this Lady and we were confident of her speedy recovery.

While I waited for a response from the interview, I continued applying for different jobs, but nothing was working out the way we needed it.

The mother of our friend was not getting better. We continued to pray for her. We knew that we ministered the best we could, and believed that God would take care of her.

I finally got the phone call I'd been waiting for concerning the job. "Sorry. We've found somebody else." I did not understand why. The next night, we got another call bearing bad news. The lady's mum was doing really poorly and the doctors had advised the family to make preparations for the funeral.

I was devastated. Everything was going wrong. Never mind about the job, but now this lady was about to die and I didn't know how to help. I went outside to be alone, and I talked and talked and talked with God. Believe me, it was not only sweet talk. I was angry, I was upset and very sad.

My wife and I went to the Hospital to visit the lady. Her entire family was in the waiting area. The doctor had advised them that she probably would not survive the night. We prayed and the words that came out were inspired words, words that meant so much to the family. I could not exactly understand what they meant, but these words went straight to the hearts of the family. These are words that only God can give.

That night I did not sleep well but I was somehow at peace. The next day, we received a call. The lady survived the night and had started to recover in a miraculous manner. She will be healed and can go home soon

Two weeks later, I got another call. I was offered ownership of a business back in Switzerland that would cost us nothing, no, not one cent. God opened a door so obvious I would have to be absolutely blind not to walk in. Now as I am preparing to leave Australia, I see that this is what God wants me to do. Everything has fallen into place without us doing all the work. I know it is not because of the business that I will own but for the work we can accomplish for God.

Believe me, I am not a specially gifted man. I am not a "reading the Bible every moment" type of person. But I know that God loves me, and that He will take care of my family and me. I am sure everyone has a story to tell about "Seeing God at Work." I hope this testimony will help somebody not to give up.

Juanita Salinas is a member of our congregation in Brownsville. This testimony was translated from Spanish by her daughter, Monica.

My name is Juanita Salinas, and I am 52 years old. I have worked for a public government agency for twenty years.

In September 1999, there was a salary revision announced for all employees. A process of evaluation was started with many difficulties in which to some employees a good salary was proposed and to others not. Finally on December 12, I received a letter with the announcement that my salary was to be, to my surprise, increased by 2 cents. My salary was \$9.85 an hour. Now it was going to be \$9.87. This was a final decision. The revision was now closed.

I went home with this letter, but I felt I had to do something in regards to this. I decided to make a vow with the Lord. The Lord started bringing to mind that I had to sow, but sow in a trustworthy and stable ministry. Immediately I thought of Tim and Nelly and their ministry. I told my daughter Monica to go to there with an offering to start sowing, with the promise to the Lord that it would be monthly for a year.

By mid-January 2000, all employees received their new salary, including mine for 2 cents. I knew that others had received very good raises. By the end of the month I received a notice that the department where I worked as a clerk was going to be divided, naming me as supervisor of that department. Starting from February 1st, my salary was now going to be \$10.46. Surprises kept coming and on February 14, there was a new announcement that my salary was to increase to \$12.46. At the time of writing this testimony (May 25, 2000) there is a revision pending in which my department will grow to include three more people under my supervision with the prospect of a greater salary. Our Lord is powerful and faithful and opening ways where there is none, confirming His Word, as in Joshua 1:8. Joshua 1:8:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

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Dear Tim,

God bless you. I wanted to write and thank you for the lessons you made plain to us, and the teachings you gave us in Cornwall.

I came to Cornwall for two reasons: 1) I wanted to be healed, and 2) I wanted to heal other people, or more to the point, I wanted to heal my children if they were sick. (As I work at a school of sick and dying children that was important to me).

I knew I was expecting a lot going to the class. I was pinning all my hopes that maybe this would be the thing that would change the course of my life. I was expecting that the reason I couldn't heal people, or was not able to heal was because of my believing and I was concerned I would have to go through more heartache trying to believe.

I sat through a week of teachings that changed my life. The value of the teaching has no price.

First, I will state that you make the class aware that we were to continue to look to God and trust Him and no other.

I had spent the last ten years of my life trying to put my life back together and healing it from hurt and confusion that I had received, not from natural man but from "men of God." The hurt and upset in my life was always there inside, although I didn't feel bitter, the confusion and the waste of years striving to follow God and unrest was always there.

Within the week God had healed my heart. That sounds so simple to say. You do not need a letter stating all the stuff I went through. If people read this letter it sounds so simple to say. God healed my heart, healed it so I don't feel confused, upset, scared, healed so at last I feel peace.

The class saved my life. What is the value of a life? Well to me it's all I have. Devil spirits were cast out of me that were set to steal, kill, destroy my life.

I sat through a week a teaching that was plain and easy for me to understand. I'm not a clever person. This one class did more for me than all the courses I've taken, and boy have I taken lots of courses. I have never had the desire I have now to pick up my Bible. I have

no fellowship in my hometown of Southampton yet, but my children and I have fellowship. My daughter Sarah-Louise, age ten, I'm teaching her what I learned. She when laying on of hands heals! She has clear revelation from God what to pray for. No one but God could make this possible.

My daughter said to me this morning walking to school, "Mum, before we went to Cornwall we really didn't believe God, did we? I mean, now since we came home we pray, mum, and its different, and we have fellowship and it's just different. We really believe Him, mum, don't we?"

I know its God that did this...

But, thank you for giving your life to God, so people like me could have their life back.

Elaine Waterhouse,
Hampshire, England

Dear Tim!

I was very blessed to sit through your class "The Weapons of our Warfare" the second time. The first time in Kaub 1999 was already very delightful, because of the simplicity and the accuracy the scriptures were being presented. The Lord has granted you even more knowledge and the way the message is being delivered make things very easy and clear to understand, so that we do not have to go through big studies and after we maybe have mastered it, apply the learned things. I'm not saying not to study the scriptures, I'm saying, that in the run of the class we see day by day, that it is the Lord who teaches us and gives instruction, which we heard preached so many times, but never really applied ore were aware of.

During the class, believers do not only learn how to use the gifts for healing etc., but the students themselves get healed and delivered from so many burdens, being laid on them many times because of wrong preached doctrine.

I want to thank you for all what you have done and may that message be spread around the globe, so that more of us will stand in this evil day, and fight the fight which is being assigned to us. May we all use the gifts of the Spirit to glorify our heavenly Father, going out, preaching the gospel not only in Word, but also in Power and demonstration of the Spirit.

I can only recommend this class to every human being with great respect.

The grace of God is fare more than what our human brain is able to understand. God bless you,

Rudolf Illavsky,
Vienna, Austria

Dear Tim, Nelly and family,

I would like to thank you for all the friendship you showed me during our time at Trewince. It was a wonderful time for me and my times with you greatly enhanced that.

Tim, I am so grateful for your teaching and patience when I didn't grasp things immediately. I learnt so much and cannot believe the abilities I have received through the gifts of the Spirit and your leading in how to use them. To go from a person with no knowledge of these gifts to being able to use them to speak in tongues, prophecy and heal. It just doesn't seem possible that such a change could take place in those few days, but it happened, by the Grace of God and it was the most wonderful thing to happen to me. Thank you.

My love to you all and God's Blessing be with you.

Margaret DuPlessy
Cornwall, England



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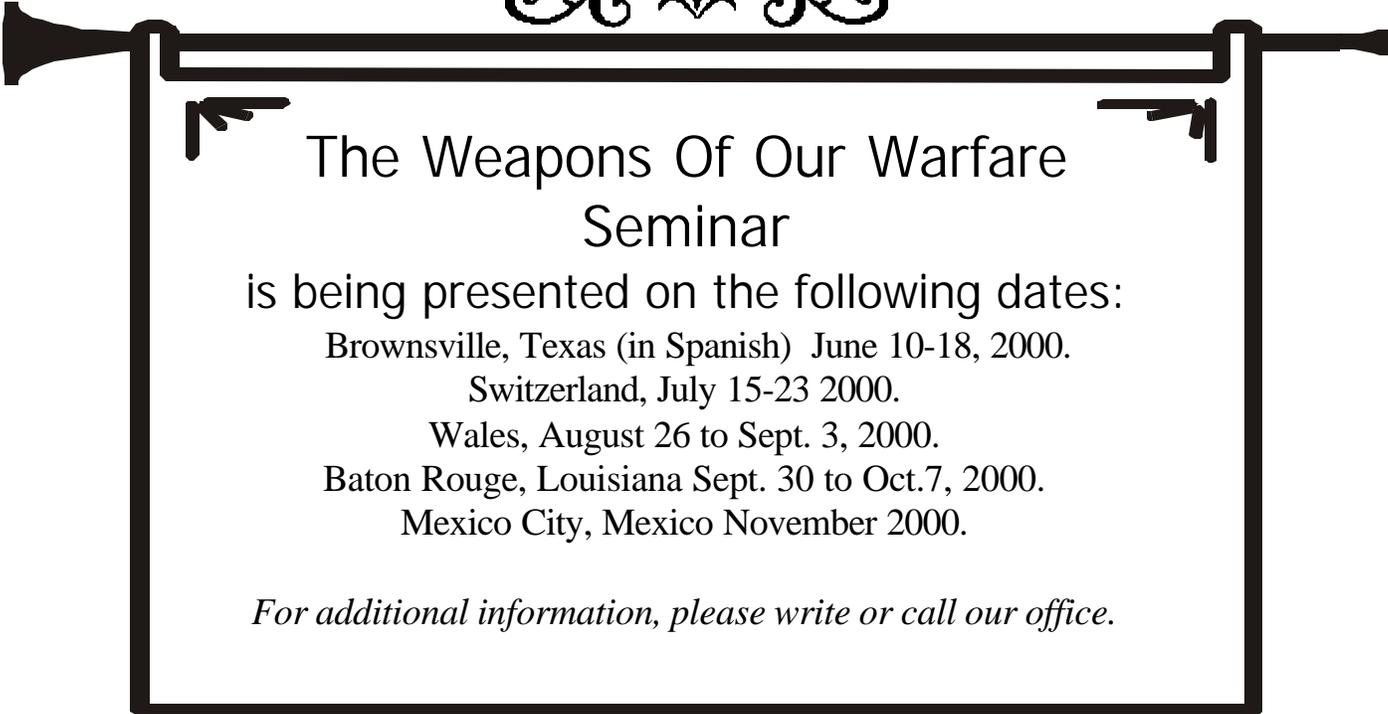
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The Weapons Of Our Warfare Seminar

is being presented on the following dates:

Brownsville, Texas (in Spanish) June 10-18, 2000.

Switzerland, July 15-23 2000.

Wales, August 26 to Sept. 3, 2000.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana Sept. 30 to Oct.7, 2000.

Mexico City, Mexico November 2000.

For additional information, please write or call our office.

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