

The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, inc.

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Charter 01552809-01

Post Office Box 4217 Brownsville, Texas, USA 78523-4217

Office Telephone (956) 574-9475

E-Mail: workerstogether@aol.com

Web Site: www.workerstogetherwithhim.org



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

Greetings to you, one and all, in the precious name of the Saviour Jesus Christ,

This new year seems to have wheels, doesn't it? Things have been moving along nicely here at the office. This is the first time I've had three straight months in the office since we opened, and I am getting a lot of work done now in preparation for the work to come.

My book *The Weapons of our Warfare* is in its last stages of development. I realize that I have been saying this for a long time, and I fear my credibility is going down the drain! I confess I vastly underestimated the amount of rewriting that was necessary. The publishing house I contracted, Winepress Printing, does not simply print what you send them. They go through the book meticulously, checking for clarity and proper formatting. This has been a great help, but it has also been somewhat painful, as I learned just how ignorant I've been concerning the rules of publishing. For example, I had developed the habit of using **boldface** as a means of emphasis when quoting the scriptures. I'll cite this wonderful verse as an example:

Though the LORD be **high**, yet hath he respect unto the **lowly**: but the proud he knoweth afar off.
(Psalm 138:6)

Because I am quoting another source (here, the King James Bible) I cannot simply alter it as I see fit. If I want to add boldface to "high" and "lowly," I must add a notation acknowledging the change: "Though the LORD be **high** [emphasis added], yet hath he respect unto the **lowly** [emphasis added]: but the proud he knoweth afar off (Psalm 138:6)."

(Actually, my friend Shawnee Vickery tried to point this out to me several years ago when she edited my second book, with counsel I did not heed. Ironically, the aforementioned verse aptly describes what was at the root of my resistance. Sorry, Shawnee!)

Well, it is one thing to simply eliminate the boldface (or underlining or all-caps, whatever it is). But how does the reader know what portion of the verse you want to emphasize? The only solution is to do a better job of writing! So that is what I have been doing since I last wrote you, rewriting and revising.

The work is done, and now all that remains is to finalize the back cover and the book goes to print. As of now, it looks like the book will be ready in June.

There has been a change in schedule for some of the previously announced seminars. The February class in Matamoros, Mexico was rescheduled for March, when the pastor had to leave town on business. This worked out fine because I needed more time to work on the book. Without knowing any of these facts, the Mantocks asked that if the class originally scheduled for March in Haslemere, England could be rescheduled.

I think the book of James has something to say about all this scheduling and planning we do!

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. (James 4:15)

So, *if the Lord will*, the classes in Greece (April), London (May), Louisiana (June) and Austria (July) will be presented as scheduled.

Last month, Bro. Samuel Presa from Mexico City came to visit. He believes the doors are opening to present the seminar in other locations in Mexico and Central America, possibly this summer. We decided that instead of presenting *The Weapons of our Warfare* again when Nelly and I return to Mexico City this November, I will teach my seminar "If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall."

The Lord bless you and keep you. I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Vine & Branches*!

Rev. Tim Sullivan



"All Things Are Become New"

by Rev. Tim Sullivan

Around the world, New Year's Day is celebrated as a day of new beginnings. The trouble is, it may be a new year, but most often, people are still the same old people, making the same old resolutions-and the same old mistakes-year after year.

Even for the most sincere, January 1st can mark a *fresh* start, but not a *new* start. The only way to have a new start is to abolish the old.

When God established a new covenant with His people, He made the first covenant old.

In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.
(Hebrews 8:13)

God's new covenant with His people marked a brand new beginning.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 8:12)

This new covenant was made possible by a new and living way.

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.... (Hebrews 10:20)

By the death of Jesus on the cross, and our death in Him, we were delivered from the law of sin and death, making it possible for us to serve God in newness of spirit.

But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. (Romans 7:6)

This new and living way is open to the new man.

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.... (Ephesians 2:15)

The entrance to this new covenant is by true repentance and forgiveness of sin, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:31)

Without true repentance, and subsequent forgiveness from God, there can be no new start. Man's lack of repentance is precisely why he is doomed to travel the same roads year after year, making the same mistakes.

This psalm of David, written after his misdeed with Bath-sheba, shows the nature of true repentance.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.
(Psalm 51:1-3)

King David realized that, as terrible as his behavior had been towards Uriah and Bath-sheba, the One he had truly hurt was God Almighty, Who had entrusted him with so much.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. (Psalm 51:4)

David beseeched the Lord to cleanse him of his sins.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalms 51:7-10)

David knew that until he was cleansed, he could not stand in the Lord's presence, with the Lord's holy anointing.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. (Psalms 51:11-12)

There is true repentance and there is the "show" of repentance. David's repentance was without the arrogance so apparent in those who don't believe what they did was wrong in the first place, or who are only sorry they got caught. "Okay, okay, I admit I did it. *I am sorry*. There, does that make you happy? *I am sorry*. I said it. Now just hurry up and forgive me, because there are a lot of things I want You to do for me today." When David realized the magnitude of

his sin toward God, it broke his heart.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Psalms 51:16-17)

The sacrifices of God, as we read, are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. Anything less is not true repentance and does not lead to a new beginning. But for those who truly repent, a new beginning awaits.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalms 103:10-12)

As Christians, we can be renewed daily in Christ.

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

Regardless of the sins of the past, to the one who seeks God's mercies and forgiveness, a new life awaits.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.... (Daniel 9:9)

This truly can and will be a new year for us as we walk in newness of life.

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 6:4)

We can walk in this newness because of the God of life, Who alone is able to say, "Behold, I make all things new."

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. (Revelations 21:5a)

Come, let us walk in newness of life and newness of spirit. Amen.

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)



When we look at the work of our God as Creator, we are left speechless as to the splendor, beauty and magnificence of all that His hands have wrought. Indeed, sheer awe can be the only reaction to such a richly woven and diverse tapestry of life. When we know Him as our Heavenly Father, we become acquainted with His gentle love, His firm hand, and His limitless grace, which makes all of life possible. We learn of His mercies that are renewed each morning and the unique and individual care He has for those he has called to His family.

As a worker, a laborer, an husbandman in His vineyard, our God is without compare. He has no equal. His résumé is *more* than impressive, it is *perfect*.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.... (Jude 24)

Glory unto God. *Him that is able* to present us faultless before the presence of His glory for all eternity. He will cause us to live in His eternal presence, holy and without blemish, not having spot or wrinkle or any bit of sin or the temptation *to* sin, *forever!*

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27)

The fullness of this state of perfection won't occur until our Lord returns.

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12)

Of course, the Apostle Paul knew that the perfection of the Body of Christ wouldn't take place until the Church is gathered. Until that time, how-

ever, there is work to be done.

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ....(Ephesians 4:12,13)

This didn't prevent him from *laboring* to present every man "perfect in Christ."

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.... (Colossians 1:28)

You see, Paul knew *Him that is able*.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)

Not only is He able to keep us from falling and present us before His glory for all eternity, He is able to keep our very lives. He is *more* than able!

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.... (Ephesians 3:20)

This is our God as He works His *perfect* work. *Him that is able* to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. How does He do this? He does it "according to the power that worketh in us."

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

Him that is able is at work in us! Both to will and to do of *His* good pleasure. He does this through *Jesus Christ*.

Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:21)

Doing "His good pleasure" is the pursuit *we* get to be involved in as we labor *with* Him. Think about it. What an incredible opportunity we have as we work *together with* Him.

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in

vain. (2 Corinthians 6:1)

The more we work together *with* Him, as *He* works in us, the more we see *His* greatness and limitless abilities. At the same time, our *own* weakness and inability become crystal clear. God's abilities far exceed anything we can ask or think. In fact, with God, *nothing* shall be impossible.

For with God nothing shall be impossible. (Luke 1:37)

Indeed, *with* God, *all* things are possible!

....for with God all things are possible. (Mark 10:27c)

God alone is omnipotent, omnipresent, without beginning or without end, eternal, limitless, perfect, holy and *able* to do all things. Consider how Abraham, nearly a hundred years old, didn't consider his or Sarah's own inability, but believed in and gave glory to, *Him that is able*.

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. (Romans 4:19-21)

This is our God. He who is able to perform all things and present us faultless before His presence forever and ever. Just think, the day will soon dawn when Satan is shut out and sin is a thing of the past. Temptation and tears will be eternally gone and we will be *faultless* before the throne of the one, true and living God, *forever*. Heaven indeed!

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

Glory, majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever to the only wise God. *Him that is able!*

The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands. (Psalm 138:8)



"As it was in the Days of Noe
and the Days of Lot"

By Dimitris Pelidis
Thassos, Greece

When it comes to our relationship with God what seems to undermine its vitality is not so much the heavy opposition we face, but the light, daily affairs we so easily get caught up in. The casualness of our daily lives (in all its subtlety) poses a far more serious threat than any of the major crises that openly challenge our devotion to the Lord. Our daily cares gradually eat away at the great desire of the soul to follow the Master and do His will. Therefore we become insensitive to the Spirit's lead and live for this day, neglecting that the day of our Lord Jesus Christ is at hand. Not only is His return sure and ready but it will also be swift as lightning, according to the scriptures.

For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. (Luke 17:24)

Lightning is extremely fast and unpredictable! You just can't tell at which split second it will shoot down from the sky to the earth below. However, you can still notice the grey clouds and prepare for the storm. Similarly, Jesus Christ will descend from above at the speed of light and nobody knows nor can predict the exact moment of his dissension. However, we can still discern the menacing clouds of our times gathering and prepare ourselves for His sudden visitation and the great storm following.

The Gospel of Luke 17: 26-30 offers a startling analogy of our times to the days of Noe and the days of Lot.

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brim-

stone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30)

As we see from the passage above the striking resemblance of our days to the days of Noe and Lot does not lie in its blatant evilness but rather in its ordinariness and naivety. Of course there is nothing wrong with activities like eating and drinking, getting married, buying, selling, planting or building.

What is amiss here is to be totally given to these pursuits at the expense of God and His kingdom. To seek these things more than God and His things is to elevate the provisions above the Provider and thus "to worship and serve the creature more than the creator who is blessed for ever"(Romans 1:25).

Glory to God, for a man like righteous Noah who sought the kingdom of God in his day. He saw the great flood coming afar off and didn't think twice about what he was supposed to do. He simply believed God, rolled up his sleeves, got down to work and brought to pass that awesome project: the building of the ark.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, *MOVED WITH FEAR [emphasis added]*, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. (Hebrews 11:7)

One normal day while Noah's fellow men were comfortably going about their worldly affairs they got a rude awakening. The windows of heaven suddenly opened and the earth was thoroughly washed of their corrupt existence. While God-fearing Noah and his household were taking the cruise of their lives, those ungodly people were taken completely by surprise and were found at the bottom of the raging flood.

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil. (Proverbs 1:32-33)

It is interesting to see that the sin of Lot's contemporaries in Sodom was exactly the same as that of Noah's. Namely, their turning away from God in exchange for a life of ease and prosperity, definitely a prosperity of fools which would inevitably lead to their destruction also. Note what the sin of Sodom precisely was:

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom,

pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. (Ezekiel 16:49-50)

What is amazing is that our present world is just like that. Does not modern society exhibit the very same iniquity? Is it not proud, full of bread and abundantly idle? In fact the in-way of life, "the good life" is to have it all without even lifting a finger. Everything now is readily yours at the touch of a button. LEISURE, RELAXATION AND COMFORT have become the world's obsessions. Or are 21st century people compassionate and merciful? Quite the opposite, they are just too engrossed in themselves and their precious possessions to spare a thought or a dime for the poor and needy. And they are haughty, so haughty and abominable.

There was just one righteous man in the entire city of Sodom. Righteous Lot. That's certainly being in a minority of one, isn't it? Yet, wouldn't you rather be in a minority of one with the ONE TRUE GOD than in the majority with the Devil and this present, evil world? Look who got delivered and who got destroyed at the end of the day.

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.... (2 Peter 2:7-9)

Noah and Lot are types of the people we should be in our generation. Will we give in to the temptation to line up with the rest or will we, like Noah and Lot stand with our God even if that meant that we would be the last righteous men remaining on earth? What will you do when you hear the Lord's call? How will you respond when he speaks to you saying the following?

Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.... Is it time for you, O ye to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?... Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. (Haggai 1:2, 4, 7-8)

Shall we turn a deaf ear, dwell in our ceiled houses, and mind our small businesses? Or will we like Noah get the Lord's job done which is, the edifying of His Holy temple, THE CHURCH OF GOD. The choice is ours! Only, let it be a good one! Remember how the story ends. "SURELY I COME QUICKLY!" testifies the Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 22:20).



The Weapons of our Warfare seminar will be held at a magnificently beautiful house in the midst of the eastern Alps of Austria, from Saturday, 30 June to Sunday, 8 July 2001. On the 713m high "Sonntagberg", in the heart of the so called Mostviertel (Cider Quarter) in Lower Austria, stands the renovated 16th century pilgrim hotel "Hospiz Sonntagberg", with a lovely view to the Danube far into the valleys of the Mostviertel. This is the ideal place to forget the cares of everyday life and enjoy the opportunity in our spiritual growth.

This Internet link offers additional information about the place, which lies next to a majestic church: www.20andplenty.privateweb.at/hospiz/homepage1.htm

For those who do not prefer to stay in the Hostel, the nearby quiet farms (car prerequisite) are a welcome opportunity. For the participant who plans a longer stay, innumerable day trips are available from Salzburg ("*The Sound of Music*") to Vienna ("*The Third Man*").

The live seminar will be translated simultaneously from English into German. For room reservations, nearby airports and other information, please contact Rudolf Illavský via e-mail at "rudofillavsky@aon.at" or phone (43)(1)21 600 65.

God bless you!

Seeing GOD At Work

In work I have always enjoyed a tremendous relationship with God. His goodness and grace have often brought me great success. I am very thankful for what He has done and what He will continue to do. I am an Information Technology Consultant, specialising in an operating system called UNIX. This is the system of choice for large businesses and in particular for critical applications. Due to the complexity of the system and a lack of qualified people, my skills are very much in demand and as a consequence very well paid. It is not unusual to get paid in one day what most people would take home in one week.

Despite this tremendous financial abundance, I have always been willing to walk away from it. This became even more apparent when last year I took a break in order to renew my relationship with God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I took more than nine months off work. In this time God really revealed Himself to me, and this culminated not only in me sitting through the Weapons of our Warfare seminar in Trewince, but I also met my lovely wife, Beatrice.

Now at this time my finances were finally starting to run out, and I really needed a job. The easiest thing for me to do would have been to go and get a contract working for a financial institution, as I had done in the past. God however had reserved a particular job for me, this much I knew. This job was still in Information Technology, but somewhat of a departure, as I would be working as an instructor. I really needed to trust God, for even if I were successful, initially my income would be much lower than what I had been used to. It got to the point though that God filled me with such confidence that I decided to trust Him completely, and when offered the job, I accepted. This was not easy, as having proposed to Beatrice, I needed to pay for our wedding as well as fly out to Switzerland several times. God made it all possible, and somehow I managed. However, once we were married and we had been on our honeymoon, I knew we needed God to bless the situation with my work, as in addition to all the outgoings I have just mentioned, we were now purchasing a house. Now the way it works with my new job is

that you are judged on results. So the more successful your classes, the more work and hence more money you get. There is a points system: 1 is extremely poor, and 5 is greatly exceeded expectations. As a new instructor, they only expect you to score between 3 and 4. You need about three weeks to prepare for each new class. In addition to this, you sit the class and then teach it with a more experienced instructor (co-teach) before you are allowed to teach it solo. Indeed it is a great opportunity to prove God, and I prayed that God would inspire me to say the right things, and I also prayed that God would bless my students and make them able to fully receive what they needed to know. My wife also ably assisted me with lots of heartfelt prayer. On many occasions I could tell when Beatrice was praying for me, as I always seem to find some extra energy or inspiration from somewhere. Anyway, I had just completed a co-teach of what for me was a new course to instruct. I was still preparing to teach it solo in two weeks time, when due to another instructor becoming ill, I was requested to teach it the very next day. I was very nervous, because the old saying goes that if you are not prepared, you are prepared to fail. However God knew that I needed the money, and I was convinced that He had opened the door, so of course He would support me. I was also nervous because I was starting on the second day of the course, when previously there had been a more experienced instructor. So we prayed, and I went and taught the class. Moment by moment God helped me with the way I did the presentation and also with the students. He kept them alert and friendly. It truly was a great glory to God, because on the completion of the course, on average I scored a perfect 5. Some of the comments from the students were "Excellent, provided lots of additional information not in the notes;" "This instructor is at the top level;" "Great instructor." I found this a truly humbling experience, that God could be so personal and bring me such success. Another aspect of this whole experience that added an even bigger thrill was, when I discovered that one of my students was a devout Christian. This just confirmed to me that it is God that rules in the kingdom of men and

that He put me in that class to teach that particular group of students. As a result I am very well booked for the future, and God has resolved the financial situation completely. Praise God, for His goodness and mercy know no end.

David Mantock
Haslemere, England

It is said of our Lord Jesus Christ:

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. (John 21:25)

Seeing God working every day in my life especially at business, I had some kind of a difficulty to point out a specific incident. To write of SEEING GOD AT WORK would mean writing a large volume, but I believe that the following incident is a wonderful testimony of God's guidance and His often surprising dealings with us. Surely, we are never left alone if we call unto our only wise God, to whom be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.

Besides being a double bass player with the Vienna Radio-Symphony-Orchestra, God granted me to be the business manager of a Viennese chamber music group called "Ensemble die reihe", with the special task of presenting new, classical music.

So here I was, looking forward to a broadcast performance of the "Ensemble die reihe" to take place on the last Thursday of November. The preparation for a musical performance like this involves many details, including making arrangements with various people for more than a few months.

On the Monday before the concert, the first rehearsal was to take place. Another rehearsal was scheduled for Tuesday, and then on Thursday the actual concert was going to take place. In this first rehearsal the conductor, who happens to also be the composer of the piece, asks to my surprise, where the player for the "Baritone" (a brass instrument with major use in Austrian folk music) is. Unmindful of the need for one, I hadn't hired a Baritone player. My only concern was, to find within the next 24 hours a "Baritone" player (please be aware of the fact that this instrument is very rare in Vienna) for tomorrow's rehearsal at the same hour. On top of all I was not able to immediately start looking for a musician, since

I am the bass player of the ensemble, and I have to be at rehearsal as well. While we rehearsed, I had another musician call certain players, with no positive results.

In a chamber music piece, every individual musician is important. If you leave one instrument out, the musical meat will lack some salt and even the whole structure might fall apart. Besides that, contracts had been signed (all the musicians, including conductor and singers, still get paid, even if the concert doesn't take place) and the concert was already scheduled to be on air. To cancel the event would have been a serious problem for me, to say the least.

Now, where could I find a brilliant player overnight? One who could come to rehearsal the next day and the performance on Thursday without ever having seen the music before? With these thoughts, I went to bed that night, not forgetting to ask the Lord for help.

Waking up very early in the morning, I realized that my schedule wouldn't allow me the time to look for a player since I had rehearsals lasting almost the entire day. So departing from my home I was led to take the bus to go to work, something that I normally do *not* do. While waiting for the bus, someone tapped me on the shoulder and asked me: "Don't we know each other?" I replied: "No, I don't remember you." He explained to me that he worked as a stage manager with us recently, I simply hadn't noticed him. To my amazement he was carrying a big tuba in his hand. My first thought was, you can't just ask a person from the street if he is able to play the "Baritone," what if he is a terrible player? So, while we were riding on the bus together, I asked him if he is able to play the "Baritone." He said "no" but gave me the numbers of two players. I called each of them from the subway station, when to my great relief the second person said that he would be able to do the concert.

The story doesn't end there, since I didn't know what quality of player he was. To make a long story short, he is an excellent player and played the concert with just one rehearsal! In fact, he played as if he had been sleeping with the music under his pillow for a long time. The next time I need a Baritone player, you can bet I'll know who to call. I'll again call on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Rudolf Illavský
Vienna, Austria

A Message for Teens:

"Ponder the Path of thy Feet"

As a parent, there are many things I wish for my children. I wish my children could all grow up to live happily ever after without the hint of worry or stress to disrupt their tranquillity. I wish I could shield them from all evil influences in the world. However, I know that such wishes do not come true—at least not in this world. As Paul said, if that is what you want, "then must ye needs go out of the world" (1 Corin. 5:10).

After I "return to reality" I realize that since I want my children to grow up to live fruitful and peaceful lives, there is only one thing I can and should do for them. As their father, I must teach them how to make good choices.

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. (Proverbs 4:1-4)

Life is determined by the choices we make. This is why the Proverbs have so much to teach us about the need for wisdom. It is *wisdom* that leads us to make the right choice.

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. (Proverbs 4:5-6)

It is *wisdom* that will exalt and promote you.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. (Proverbs 4:7-9)

It is *wisdom* that will add years to your life.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be

straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life. (Proverbs 4:10-13)

Wisdom will lead you in the right path. But the right path is not the *only* choice you can make. There is also the path of the wicked. And understand, God does not prevent you from going down this path. He *advises* you to avoid it. But the choice is yours.

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. (Proverbs 4:14-17)

One way is the path of light. You see where it leads. The other path is in darkness. You won't even know what hit you.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. (Proverbs 4:18-19)

Have you ever noticed how *old* some young people look? Going down the wrong road will steal away your vitality. But the words of wisdom are life and health to all that find them.

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. (Proverbs 4:20-22)

Look around, in school or at the mall. Just as God has placed good examples around you to learn from, He has also shown you bad examples as well. He *wants* you to see these things. They prove what He is saying is true. As I am fond of telling my teenage daughter, you can either learn from your own mistakes or from the mistakes of others. It hurts a lot less to learn from the mistakes of others! Wisdom guards your heart.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are

the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. (Proverbs 4:23-24)

There is an old saying, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Fools like to jump right into the middle of trouble, like some entertainers like to throw themselves into the outstretched arms of the crowd. The Bible says that fools *make a mock at sin* (Prov. 14:9); they consider it an *abomination* to depart from evil (Prov. 13:19). Therefore, the Word of God says, fools *die* for want of wisdom (Prov. 10:21).

It is hard to forget the things you've done wrong, even when you know God has forgiven you and you've accepted His forgiveness. The next time you are thinking about going down the wrong path, ask yourself if you really want to live with that memory. God wants us to learn to think about the consequence of our actions. We are to ponder the path of our feet.

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil. (Proverbs 4:25-27)

Making the right choice doesn't get easier with age. If anything, it gets more difficult because after you reach a certain age, you can do pretty much what you want. A 12 year old can turn down an invitation to trouble by saying, "My parents won't let me." But that will sound pretty ridiculous coming from the mouth of a 25 year old!

It may not seem like it now, but the time will soon come when you will be required to make all your own decisions. Your parents can tell you their hopes and dreams for you, but in the end, you will have to choose the paths you take. You will receive the reward or consequence of your decisions. Now is the time to learn to "ponder the path of thy feet" and learn to make decisions that will bring honor to you, your parents and God.

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

(1 Timothy 4:12)



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"Ye Are Our Epistle"

Letters and Testimonies

Dear Tim,

The Weapons of Our Warfare Class in Baton Rouge was a blessing in many ways. It was truly a testimony that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

As we read and heard the Word of God, truths were revealed and made plain enough that I could see them clearly and know them. I gained a deeper understanding of the Weapons of Our Warfare as the Word magnified Christ and His works.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

One important truth that was magnified to me personally was to trust, worship, serve, and praise ONLY God for ALL things, in ALL situations, ALL the time. It's not that I didn't already know this, but I certainly haven't always behaved as though I knew it. I find myself thanking God and seeking His guidance through His Son Jesus Christ more and more.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Matthew 4:10)

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

My personal fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, has become sweeter each day.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

I know that more and more will be revealed to me as I seek to excel to the edifying of the church.

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. (1 Corinthians 14:12)

We certainly had beautiful surroundings at Hemmingbough, inspiring music, and wonderful friends in Christ with whom to learn and grow both during and after class. The fact that my husband and I were able to take the class together made it even more special to me. I was particularly blessed by the participation of the teens who shared in this experience. It is wonderful to see that His truth will be declared in the next generation

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

Although it was wonderful to be away from the demands of daily life, this was not a class where I became emotionally pumped up in a special setting only to go back and face the "real world" with difficulty and defeat. It was, instead, a class where I was filled spiritually and strengthened to endure and conquer moment by moment as I trust ONLY God for ALL things, in ALL situations, ALL the time.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24 - 25)

Thank you for teaching this class in a way that magnifies the Word of God.

God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ,

*Jerelyn Pearson
October 14, 2000*

The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

(Nahum 1:7)

Workers Together With Him

Post Office Box 4217 Brownsville, Texas USA 78523-4217

Telephone/Fax 956-574-9475

E-Mail: WorkersTogether@aol.com

Visit our web site at www.workerstogetherwithhim.org

The Weapons Of Our Warfare Seminar is scheduled for the following dates:

March 3-17, 2001 Matamoros, Mexico (English/Spanish)

April 16 to 21, 2001 Thasos, Greece

April 28 to May 6, 2001 London, England

June 9 to 17, 2001 Ponchatoola, Louisiana

June 30 to July 8, 2001 Rosenau, Austria (English/German)

The seminar "**If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall**"
will be presented November 2001
in Mexico City, Mexico (English/Spanish)

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