

The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, inc.

Incorporated September 28, 1999

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."

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

It is again my joy to send you the newsletter of Workers Together with Him. These newsletters are our means not only to keep you informed with the activities of this ministry, but also to do our part to fulfill Christ's injunction, "Feed my people." I trust you will find the articles in this issue both savory and compelling.

With each issue, it is our earnest endeavor to well represent the heart of God to His people. This morning I awoke with the inspired words of Paul on my mind: "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God" (Rom. 11:22a). That little phrase so captures the essence of the Almighty. He is so wonderfully good, and yet so terribly severe. One cannot claim to know God without recognizing both aspects of His temperament, His goodness and His severity. This is the God that Moses made known to the Children of Israel:

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

(Deuteronomy 30:15-19)

The fact that God has been so good to us in Christ Jesus does not give us license to take advantage of His goodness. We are expected to respond appropriately.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared

to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

We are to be zealous of good works, not in order to *be* saved, but because by His wonderful grace, we who have accepted the Saviour *are* saved. We spend our lives trying to find the appropriate balance between walking in grace and producing good works.

I believe that this issue of The Vine & Branches will really serve to make these realities come alive for you. I am very pleased to present to you articles prepared by Rev. Jerome Lucas of South Harrow, England; Rev. Todd Pikel of Thessaloniki, Greece; Rev. Evan Pyle of Louisiana, USA, Mr. Alois Eggmann of Siselen, Switzerland; Mr. Carl Roberts of Swansea, South Wales; and Mr. Stephen Marchano of London, England. I believe that you will see a wonderful balance in this newsletter, perhaps like never before.

Since the writing of the last newsletter, I have presented the Weapons Of Our Warfare class here in Brownsville, Texas and taught the weekend seminar, "If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall" in the Netherlands. I would like to particularly thank Mary Calpin for the work she did in preparation for my visit, and that in spite of some dire physical challenges she was facing at the time. We had a wonderful time and I pray the Lord grants me the privilege to return to serve His people there. I would also like to thank Andy Calpin for the Christian hospitality he showed me and my wife Nelly. And I would like to thank Hans Peter and Mary Joe

Debets for opening their home to us for the meetings.

In the last newsletter, I reported the success of the weekend seminar on the “worship” gifts of the Spirit that I presented in Michigan. As a result, I am now “officially” making that class part of our repertoire. As of this writing, “That The Church May Receive Edifying” will be presented in March in Swansea, Wales, hosted by Carl and Vivienne Roberts; and in July in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, hosted by Jay and Jerelyn Pearson. I will be teaching “If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall” in Switzerland from May 18 to 20. Other classes are being planned for the summer here in the USA which I will announce shortly. Two special events are also coming up this year in Cornwall, England and in Greece, the details of which are in this newsletter.

Once again, thank you for your continued prayer and support. I am continually faced with my own shortcomings but I endeavor to be “strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:1) and move forward with the things of God, realizing as Jesus said, “Without Me, you can do nothing.” As Paul prayed in Romans 15:31, I too pray “that my service which I have for [you] may be accepted of the saints.” May God bless you richly as you walk in His truth and grace,

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (Heb. 12:28)

In the service of His Majesty, the King of kings,

Rev. Tim Sullivan

The VINE & BRANCHES is distributed free of charge, financed by donations received by Workers Together With Him. Please let us know if you wish to be added or deleted from our mailing list. Written contributions are encouraged and may be submitted to our office for publication upon approval. We reserve the right to make editorial changes as needed, but without changing the original intent of the author.



The Children's Class on The Weapons of our Warfare

In the book of 1 Samuel we read of David's famous battle with the champion of the Philistines, the giant Goliath. Just before David ran to face the giant, King Saul tried to persuade David to borrow his armor.

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. (1 Sam. 17:38-39)

King Saul was not only a fully-grown adult, but “from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people” (1 Sam. 9:2). Saul's armor would not have served David at all. In fact, Saul's armor would have been a great hindrance to David, too much for him to bear, and unsuited for his battle.

With this Biblical truth in mind, I am pleased to announce that I will be teaching a new course entitled “The Children's Class on the Weapons Of Our Warfare” for children aged six to sixteen. This class will be held in Cornwall, England, from October 20 to 27th. In content and in schedule, this class has been specially adapted for children.

We will learn about the nine gifts of the Spirit, the weapons of our spiritual warfare. Students will be led into their practical use as well. At the same time, we will learn about many of the key people and events of the Bible. We will study about the week of Creation; Adam and Eve; Noah and the ark; Abraham and Sarah; Joseph and the Pharaoh's dream. We will read about Moses; Joshua; David; Solomon; Balaam and the talking donkey; the prophets Elijah and Elisha; Daniel and the lion's den; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the burning fiery furnace. We will also learn about John the Baptist, the Apostles, and of course, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This class will be taught from Sunday, October 20 to Saturday, October 27, with lessons from 9:00 to 11:00 in the morning and 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. There will be a water baptism service on Saturday, October 26th for all that have not yet been baptized. The class will conclude with a graduation service on Sunday, October 27th.

We will be using the Authorized King James Version

of the Bible, so please make sure your children bring one to class, preferably a "big-letter" edition.

This class, like all seminars presented by Workers Together With Him, will be free of charge. An offering for the continued work of Workers Together With Him will be received at the conclusion of the week.

Space is extremely limited, so register now! Please contact Rev. Jerome Lucas for more information.
Telephone: 044-208-248-3798;
E-mail: tecministries@netscapeonline.co.uk



It's Greek 2 Me!

submitted by Rev. Todd Pekel

Greetings and God's blessings to you and yours in the name of Jesus Christ. This is to announce our summer plans and to invite you to attend one or all of the following events here in Greece. Beginning June 22nd & 23rd Rev. Tim Sullivan is presenting his class on the worship gifts of the Spirit entitled "That The Church May Receive Edifying." Held on the beautiful island of Thassos, this weekend seminar - coinciding with Pentecost weekend here in Greece - will set the tone for a full month of various activities. Immediately following this presentation, we will set off on "the footsteps of Paul" tour beginning on the 24th of June. Accompany us as we follow Paul and company's itinerary as they brought the gospel to European soil for the first time. Philippi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens and Corinth will be visited as well as other points of interest along the way (museums, the Acropolis, etc.) The weekend following this tour, June 29th & 30th we will relocate to Thessaloniki for Tim's class, "If You Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall." The following two weekends we again return to Thasos for presentations by South African Pastor, Donovan Sillifant of Philadelphia Church. If you can't make any of these events and would still like to come and hang out here in Greece, feel free to contact us as it would be our pleasure to have you here anytime. God bless you all.

For information, please contact:
Rev. Dimitris Pelidis
telephone 5930-61764;
email: dimitrismarjo@yahoo.com
(or)
Rev. Todd Pekel
telephone 310886-581
email: toddevi@Otenet.gr.



Remember God's Goodness

by Carl Roberts
Swansea, Wales

There are plenty of records in the Scriptures where we are required to remember what God has done for us. A record worth bringing to our attention is:

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: (Eph. 2:11-12)

Verse 12 tells us of our hopeless state when we were without Christ, having no hope and without God in the world. Furthermore in Ephesians 2:1b and following it tells us even more:

...who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Eph. 2:1b-3)

Man's need to be redeemed from this lowly position could only come from God Almighty with a costly price. His love was so great that he gave His only begotten son.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (Eph. 2:4-6)

From being dead in sins, He quickened us together with Christ. God pulled us up from such a lowly position and put us in an exalted one.

Another record for our learning of God's goodness can be found in Exodus. Israel was in bondage to Egypt having task-masters set over them to afflict them with their burdens. Their lives were made bitter with hard bondage, and were made to serve with all rigour. If this were not enough, the king of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives that they were to kill all the sons that were born of the Hebrews.

The pressure these poor people were going through seems hard to comprehend; working until they were physically exhausted, but even worse the emotional wrenching of the heart concerning the Hebrew boys that were born and were to be killed. There must have been many prayers and cries for help. God heard their cries and their prayers for deliverance were answered because of God's love for them.

God wanted Israel to remember how He delivered them out of bondage.

...but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt; The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid. (Deut. 7:18b-19)

In times when we are afraid, where do we put our trust?

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. (Ps. 20:7)

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. (Ps. 56:3-4)

Many years ago I was in danger of losing my house, having been told it would not be possible for me to keep making the payments. It was a very depressing time for me and it seemed hopeless with no answer. But one scripture in particular helped me through this problem. It was:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)

I learned many things from these verses, but most importantly to me that He would direct my steps. I still remember how relieved I was when I was told I could keep the house. Only God could have directed an outcome like this.

Not only is it good to *remember* the works of the Lord, but we are to *meditate* and *talk* of His doings.

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. (Ps. 77:11-12)

What joy we will have telling others about being reconciled to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you in His name. Amen.



God Is Judge Himself

by Rev. Todd W. Pikel
Thessaloniki, Greece

And the heavens shall declare his
righteousness: for God is judge himself.
Selah. (Psalm 50:6)

The moment in time "when the heavens shall declare His righteousness," is a time most Christians look forward to with great joy, and rightly so. For the moment described is the moment of our gathering unto the Lord, to meet Him in the air. The verse above, however, contains truth worth expounding. In fact, the section of Scripture that precedes this verse puts it into context worthy of our utmost attention.

Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. (Psalm 50:3,4)

What do you imagine the return of our Lord to be like? Just a quick "poof" and everything is suddenly great? Regarding the manner in which He shall come, the Scriptures teach that "a fire shall devour before Him and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him." Moreover, He is coming, "that He may *judge* His people." The parallels between this future appearance and the appearance of God on Mt. Sinai are striking indeed.

And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. (Exodus 19:16)

At this appearance of God, "all the people that was in the camp, *trembled.*"

And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: (Exodus 19:17,18a)

"On the third day in the morning... there were thunders and lightnings...and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud." Compare this with what the

Scriptures teach regarding the return of our Lord.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

What will that voice say?

He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. (Psalm 50:4,5)

“Those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice” is not referring to anything that you or I have done. This covenant and sacrifice is made manifest by God’s Son upon the cross at Calvary, “through the blood of the *everlasting* covenant.”

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:10)

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Hebrews 13:20)

This is the everlasting covenant made *by God* with those that believe in Jesus. If you have entered into this covenant with God “through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” then Christian, you need to know the following.

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. (Romans 3:24,26)

God is not only just; He is “the Justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Therefore, since the covenant and the sacrifice upon which our justification is based are God’s, He *alone* is judge.

And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah. (Psalm 50:6)

Selah! This Scripture says, consider this and give it some thought. In other words, *pay attention*. “God is judge Himself.” What kind of judge do you picture God to be?

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 tells us that is no need for witnesses in God’s courtroom, for He Himself is an “eyewitness” to the

evil that is done. The evil that David did was done in the *sight* of God.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:13)

As eyewitness, God’s judgements “are true and righteous altogether.”

...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (Psalm 19:9b)

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. (Revelation 16:7)

God is coming to *judge* His people and His judgement will be *perfectly* just. There will be no court of appeals and endless legal debates by silver-tongued lawyers. There will be no “it depends what your definition of is, is.” There is no “higher court” to overturn His ruling, for “God is Judge Himself.” As the Scriptures teach, we who have made a covenant with God by the blood of the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ must appear before His judgement seat.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Whether it be good or bad, each will receive according to “that he hath done.” No appeals, no “I was going to but...” no more blaming it on someone else.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: (1 Peter 1:13-17)

God will judge according to every man’s work *without* respect of persons. This is “sobering” to say the least, isn’t it?

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 (1 John 2:28)

Evidently then, some *are* going to be ashamed at His coming. Children of the Most High, how can we

insure that it's not one of us? The answer, was in the verses above, did you see it?

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: (1Peter 1:14)

Obedience will go a long way to insure that we are not ashamed before Him at His coming. As obedient children whose "former lusts" are just that; *former!*

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1 Peter 1:15,16)

How are we to be holy? To begin with we are to be holy "in all manner of *conversation.*" Just as God sees our evil deeds, He *hears* our vain conversations.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (Philippians 3:20)

In light of what we have just read, the following should take on a deeper meaning for us all.

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Matthew 5:37)

If you think about it, God's message to His people throughout the ages really hasn't changed all that much. It has been, and more or less *is*, "come out," "be separate" and "touch not."

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (2 Corinthians 6:17)

God has always desired a separate, clean and *holy* people. A people that would fear and serve Him in a manner befitting the one, true God.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (Hebrews 10:28-30)

Truly, "the Lord shall judge His people." May we be compelled to walk more closely with Him, knowing "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31)." God bless you all.



Have A Heart For God

by Rev. Jerome Lucas
South Harrow, England

Have you ever heard the expression, he or she 'has heart'? Well, there are two ways of looking at heart. One way is to look at it is from man's point of view. The other is of course God's. Man's point of view may consider emotions and feelings and our need to look good. God's perspective, however, teaches us the truth regarding our hearts.

God is very interested in our hearts. Psalm 119:2 says, "*Blessed are they that keep his testimonies and that seek him with the whole heart.*" Not only does He want our heart, He wants our whole heart. God says happy are they who keep or obey His Word and seek Him with the *whole* heart. To seek a relationship with Him with your whole heart – this is the true meaning of Christianity.

God's original plan for man was to have a relationship with him. God is still seeking men and women today for the very same purpose. In this day and time, this relationship is through Jesus Christ.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

There are many areas in life where we fail to seek God's guidance and instead pursue our own agenda. But God wants our complete attention in all areas of life. We have to seek Him, pursue Him, involve Him in all that we do.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. (Psalm 5:3)

David's eyes were focused upward. He expected to get his direction and answers from God. In verse 8, he asks, "Lead me Oh Lord in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make my way straight before my face." He prayed that God might make his path in life level and straight, so he would know clearly where to walk. How important is it to have clarity when walking – to see where you are going. If you cannot see where you are going, do you walk with confidence? I don't think so! You walk with hesitancy because you are not sure where you are going.

David was the example that God used to describe a man after His own heart.

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. (Acts 13:22)

David sought God with his heart. David had a very personal relationship with God. He is one of our best examples of someone who sought God with his whole heart. David praised God with his whole heart.

I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. (Ps. 9:1)

The heart that is not directed toward God is deceitful, desperately wicked. Unless it is directed toward God, it will follow its own agenda.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

To put your trust in anything but God - to trust in your job, your relationships, your life - is to have a heart that departs from the Lord. It is simply one way or the other. God is always with those that seek him diligently with their whole heart. When you give God your whole heart, you will be able to observe His ways.

My son, give me thine heart and let thine eyes observe my ways. (Proverbs 23:26)

The Old Testament is full of examples for all that want to seek God. It shows many times how man's heart without God is deceitful and desperately wicked. Remember, we are talking about God's own people. If our heart is not fixed on Him, it will lead to a lifestyle of failure.

Asa in his day sought the Lord with a great heart and took away much idolatry from the land during his reign. As a result God gave him rest.

For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: And commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images and the kingdom was quiet before him. (2 Chronicles 14:3-5)

If God gives you rest, no one can take it away.

And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years: because the Lord had given him rest. Therefore he said unto Judah,

Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the Lord our God, we have sought him and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. (vs. 6&7)

Asa sought the Lord and God gave him rest on every side and he prospered. Asa cried unto the Lord when the odds were against him.

And Asa cried unto the Lord his God and said Lord it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, Oh Lord our God: for we rest on thee and in thy name we go against this multitude, O Lord thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. (2 Chronicles 14:11)

His heart was fixed on God. His cry was "*we rest in thee and in thy name we go against this multitude.*" This is the basis of the relationship he had with God; his battle was God's battle. He didn't cry to his friends, he didn't complain to his wife, he didn't tell his subjects to sort it out. He turned to God and cried out to God, Who is the only one who can help where it counts in life.

Nobody else can develop the relationship you have with God but you. Asa encouraged many of God's people to seek the Lord with all their hearts

And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul; (2 Chronicles 15:12)

The blessed result is the same for all who follow his example. The Lord gave the people rest.

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire: and he was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about. (vs. 15)

He was found of them. Isn't that everyone's cry, to find God? He was found of them and they found their peace, their sanctuary. The Lord gave them rest round about. Is this not what we all want, to have rest on every side?

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The Lord will guide and direct you. Be diligent and obey his commandments. Have a heart, have a heart for God.



**Give, and it shall be Given
Unto You**

Alois Eggmann
Siselen, Switzerland

From the book of Acts, we read, “And all that believed were together, and had all things common” (Acts 2:44). “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32). This is because they had “sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:45). And besides “distributing to the necessity of saints,” they were “given to hospitality.” (Rom.12:13)

Isn't it wonderful that when you read this, you can say, “Wow, that is exactly how our church runs”? But does it really? But this is the way it worked out best for them, then and there; and I believe it would still work out very well today. Think of it, they were of one heart and of one soul.

When I look on the body of Christ today, I see that the believers of the “arms” may have this kind of unity, but they do not want to be compared with those of the “legs.” But what does it matter? The “arms” in the body of Christ have a different job to do and so do the “legs.” If Christ is the head of all these “parts” and God is glorified – Hallelujah! There is no excuse for not living up to the example that has been given to us.

“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food” (Jms. 2:15) and one who “hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion,” (1 Jn. 3:17a), and says unto him, “Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (Jms. 2:16). “How dwelleth the love of God in him?” (1 Jn. 3:17b)

I don't think the idea was that everybody sold everything, so everybody was now in the same poverty. I'm not looking for this kind of unity. But obviously “in the multitude of them that believed” there were some in need. Maybe their need was daily food, clothing, furniture, finances or a place to stay. One may have needed prayer, or someone to talk to or listen to. Whatever the need was, 2000 years later, the needs in our church today are the same.

The question is, Why do we suffer need at all? Is it because of our disobedience, or because we don't give our tithes faithfully? Is it a judgment of God? Or is it because we are just too weak, and we don't believe enough or pray long enough? Should not we be the ones who are wealthy and have all the material benefits, never needing anything of anybody, always doing good, so happy and blessed? Then we could proudly say, “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess” (Lk.18:11-12)!

Paul was a very faithful man in Christ, and he said, “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” (Phil. 4:12). Jesus let His disciples know, “For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always” (Matt. 2:11) Now who are the poor, the needy ones? The unbelieving heathens? Well, Paul would not agree with this opinion, as he wrote to the Romans, “For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem” (Rom.15:26).

A contribution for the poor saints at Jerusalem? How about that? What a bad testimony! What went wrong down there? Nothing, necessarily! But as it is in our relationship with our heavenly Father, it is always a giving and receiving. Our God is always loving, giving and forgiving.

It is good to be dependent on each other. This is how it should work also between believers.

For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: (2 Corinthians 8:13-14)

With His love poured out in your heart, and having peace within, you can “Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on, (Mt. 6:25)” realizing that “your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things (v. 32b). “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mt. 6:33), and “be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil. 4:6).

Here is the answer, whether you are rich or poor. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and His promise is "all these things shall be added unto you." But don't forget to let your requests be made known unto God and His children, your spiritual family. Don't expect them to read your needs on your forehead.

And how about sharing with other "loved ones" as Jesus said:

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; for if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? (Matthew 5:44, 46-47)

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. (Romans 12:20)

And while I heap coals, I think about,
And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (Matthew 10:36)

Now, who are my enemies? Honestly, I have a greater battle to love some within my household than some enemies in the world.

And concerning giving to the necessity of the saints, how much is enough?

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. After all the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; (2 Corinthians 9:7,12)

Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, (1 Corinthians 16:2)

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Hebrews 6:10)

Now I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35)

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (Luke 6:38)



The Divine Antidote

by Rev. Evan Pyle
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

God's grace and love is the antidote to judgmental, critical and self-righteous attitudes. His grace and love also provide the antidote to selfish, profligate and sinful living. Both conditions and their cure are dealt with in Jesus' account of the Prodigal Son.

And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy com-

mandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. (Luke 15:11-32)

The attitudes of the three characters are seen clearly in the reading of the story. First, there is the loving father. Then there is the selfish, foolish and sinful son. Lastly, there is the self-righteous and critical son. As Christians who are the same time flawed people, I think we can identify with each of these people and their attitudes. How many times have we grown impatient with the failings of a brother or sister? We think, why can't they just get it together? And we grow critical and cold.

We are all different people with different talents and gifts. Some do the work of God with apparent ease, for others it seems to require considerable effort. Some are naturally good writers and speakers. Some have a tendency toward slothfulness and negligence, others are more naturally industrious and ordered. Whatever the case, we all have in common a selfish and sinning nature. This nature manifests in different ways, typified by both brothers in our story. Though I know we have identified with these characters, I submit that we have failed to see that we are the prodigal, and we are his self-righteous brother. Jesus is talking directly to us, to our hearts. We have taken the Father's riches and squandered them. We have lived foolishly. In short we have sinned against God and have become loathsome and stinky, not the sweet-smelling savour He called us to be. We have been feeding on the poorest of food and we feel very, very alone. Oh, how great our need for repentance at all times! God is incredibly lavish in his love and grace. That is how He will receive you right now. He will embrace you with tears of joy, clothe you with clean, sinless garments and place you before a lavish feast.

There are some things the prodigal did to be an active participant in and recipient of God's grace. First, he fully realized his true state. Then he decided to arise and go to the Father. And he determined to be as one of his Father's servants. True unselfish and uncritical living is born of us experiencing the same attitude as the prodigal. Just think about it. We are unworthy of even one good thing. We have no rights here upon earth. Yet we are blessed with grace and peace through Christ. A true revelation of this makes one meek and tender of heart and ever ready to serve. The spirit of a servant makes us willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, denying ourselves

and following Jesus. We will always face a cross, our cross. Our human nature would like to avoid it and get rid of it. But each new day the servant-son gratefully looks to Jesus and shoulders the cross. This is the essence of accepting God's grace for daily living.

With the spirit of grace we give up our rights to retaliate, nurse grudges, hold malicious thoughts, grumble, or to look smugly and in disdain on those in error, or to feel we deserve a special reward for the good we have done. There is no happier place where one feels more secure and restful than in the will of the Father. Remember, He accepts us when we arise and go to Him in repentance.

One wonders if there are too many saints who attempt to serve God by abstaining from certain evils and by doing certain good works. They are missing the point of serving the Master from a heart overflowing with thankfulness, willingly and with joy.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)

With a revelation of the prodigal's servanthood we will capture the true joy of giving and willing service, done simply in devotion to the master. We will have found the secret of how to love others unreservedly. May we all find this joy in service and rest in the Father's love and acceptance today.



Grounded

by Stephen Marcano
London, England

God bless you in his powerful name, the name in which all men will bow, Jesus Christ.

A few days ago I was going over some of the teachings of the Weapons Of Our Warfare (class of 2000, lesson 40). For those who have not yet taken this class, or may be thinking of doing so, don't hesitate a day longer. If you are seeking to know the truth of who GOD is and the sacrifice He made for us, and WHY GOD has done the things He has done then, PLEASE don't hesitate any longer. And if you have already taken it once take it again to establish it in your heart and life.

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; It is because the thing is established by GOD, and will shortly bring it to pass. (Genesis 41:32)

So there I was in lesson 40 which incidentally is

named, "To Heal the Sick" and these versus of scripture describing an incident where Jesus Christ heals a blind man jumped right of the page at me.

And he [Jesus] cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, And besought him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought [anything]. And he [the blind man] looked up and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

(Mark 8:22-25)

Now there is a lot in these versus of scripture that we can look at but for this teaching we are looking at *men as trees, walking*. What does this mean I thought to myself, is GOD describing a future event, a fancy dress party of some sort where we would all be asked to come as trees? I should think not. Or did He mean something else? It was then that the scriptures were opened to my eyes- trees are not normally walking around the planet but they are fixed to the spot by their *roots*.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith [how?] that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (Ephesians 3:17)

Rooted and grounded just like a tree unmovable in the soil of GOD's love.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

Any one who has any agricultural experience will tell you, that the soil is one of most important parts of the growing process of any plant, if the soil does not have the essential minerals that the plant needs to grow healthily and strong, then that plant will eventually wither and become to weak to survive the harsh weather conditions it will go through.

So where is our soil?

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of GOD; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. (Ephesians 2:19-20)

I don't believe you will find a better soil than that which you have just seen in this verse, if you don't understand the nature of the soil, how will you grow?

Reading the Old Testament will show you the love & sacrifice and indeed the mistakes of others who seeing still did not believe in that which was given, so why the need to be *built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets*? So that we the children of GOD can have the opportunity to grow strong and walk as his children.

Preparation of the soil is OUR responsibility.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it, (Mathew 13:23a)

This word "understandeth" means to "comprehend, to be earnestly occupied with the object, to reflect morally, ponder, lay to heart." As a people we need to ponder and lay to heart the Word of GOD. Only then can we walk up right, rooted and grounded in Christ, and be as He was - obedient and unmovable.

For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which GOD hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

Once we decide to walk as God intended us to, then we will know the power that is God Almighty. Once you take that step to walk you will see, as will others around you, the nature of the one we serve.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1:3)

May God's love abound in you and His Word and promises fill your minds with peace. Amen.

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Revelations 22:16

Workers Together With Him

Upcoming Events

March 22-24: That The Church May Receive Edifying (Swansea, Wales)

hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Carl and Vivienne Roberts

May 18-20: If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall (Siselen, Switzerland)

hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Alois and Regina Eggmann

June 22-24: That The Church May Receive Edifying (Thassos, Greece)

hosted by Rev. & Mrs. Dimitris and Marjo Pelidis

June 29-30: If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall (Thessaloniki, Greece)

hosted by Rev. & Mrs. Todd and Evi Pekel

July 12-14: That The Church May Receive Edifying (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA)

hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Jay and Jerelyn Pearson

Oct. 20-27: The Children's Class on The Weapons Of Our Warfare (Cornwall, England)

hosted by Rev. & Mrs. Jerome and Aine Lucas

*For additional information, or to request a class
in your area, please write or call our office.*

Workers Together With Him

P.O. Box 4217

Brownsville, Texas USA 78523-4217

Phone/Fax: 956-574-9475 e-mail: workerstogether@aol.com

Visit our web site at www.workerstogetherwithhim.org

Workers Together With Him is an international Christian ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the message of Salvation and the education of Christians to the end that they be a living testimony of God's love, power and glory. Teachings are distributed via congregational meetings, seminars and various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

All Scripture referenced in this publication is from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible, as quoted in Power BibleCD, Copyright 2000 by Online Publishing, Inc. 127 N. Matteson Street PO Box 21, Bronson, MI 49028 bible@mail.com.