

THE NEW CREATION

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 “*Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.*” – 1 Thess. 5:21.

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Lessons from Ian

The date is September 29, 2022 as I write. We live in Florida in a suburb of Orlando. Hurricane Ian has left its trail of destruction and is on its way to the east coast and up to Georgia and South Carolina. Power outages, flooding, and downed trees are the aftermath of a storm that hit near Ft. Myers and made its presence felt as it moved across the state. Many have lost precious possessions and homes; hopefully there will be few deaths. This scenario reminds me that I need to keep in my heart the heavenly things.



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal (and calamities like Hurricanes can remove in a moment). "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Mat 6:19-21 NASB I need to set my affections on things above – the eternal, meaningful things, like the understanding of the plan of God and the present opportunity to lay up treasures where no hurricane can take away. As the apostle Paul wrote, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Rom 8:35 NASB... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:38-39 NASB No storm can do it; nothing can do this except we ourselves.

It reminds me too that the plan of God will be fulfilled. Nothing will stop it. He can make changes in man's plans easily – just create climate conditions, allow viral mutations, or permit the anger of man to have expression; and we see famines and hurricanes, pandemics, and wars. Nothing is too hard for the LORD to move our world in accordance with his eternal Plan. While we can, let us seek His kingdom and its righteousness.

R. Whittaker

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23

The Sower is the Son of Man. The seed is the Word. The soil is the human heart. The Son of God went forth to sow—not to make a display or to criticize, but to encourage others to do likewise. Everyone who is burdened with this precious seed longs to scatter it. The prophets of old knew what the burden of the Lord meant. The apostles were burdened with it, and every Christian who loves the Lord will feel a compulsion to speak the Word.

The four different kinds of ground represent four ways in which the Word of life is treated by those who hear it. Let us consider them.

The Wayside

First, there is the **wayside** ground, or the indifferent hearer. The wayside is a very hard place. This one may be a regular hearer, but his heart is like a footpath, open to every passer-by, and beaten down hard by the feet of selfish thoughts. The heart opened for the pleasure of sin will be hard for the Word of God. The wayside is also a dangerous place. It is exposed to the fowls of the air as well as the feet of all who walk on it. No matter how precious the seed, it can only fall *on*, not *into* it. So the heart must be opened up, softened, to let the Word in. The seed is always in danger of being lost until it is hidden in the ground (heart). Is it any wonder that David said, “*Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee*” (Psalm 119:11). Now fowl have sharp eyes, and so does that evil fowl, the devil. He detects the precious Word lying on the thoughtless heart and snatches it away. *Its loss is never felt because its worth has never been enjoyed. Moreover, the wayside is a hopeless place*, for the living seed can find no shelter. Although it may remain for a time, it cannot germinate and grow. So the indifferent hearer profits not at all.

Stony ground

Now let us turn to the **stony** ground. This might be considered to portray *the emotional hearer*. Here the Word is joyfully

received, but there being no depth of earth, it is easily lost. The shallow-hearted person is often emotional. His thin layer of feeling is easily stirred. Tears are easily shed, and as quickly dried. He hears the Word gladly, but alas, his heart seems to be in his feelings alone. There is no real depth (commitment), no place to take root. It sprang up, seemed to have promise, but it remained without downward growth because there was no depth of earth. Beneath the thin covering of emotional feeling, there lies the hard unyielding rock of a stubborn will. When difficulties arise, self-will takes over instead of letting God have His way. Under the burning heat of persecutions or trials, the seed is completely scorched and it withers away. There being no inward nourishment, it is soon overcome by outward circumstances.

Thorny Ground

The third kind of ground in the parable was **thorny**, representing *the double-minded hearer*. Here we have abundant soil. Where there is sufficient depth for thorns, the soil is also deep enough for seed to take root. The plough of the convicting spirit may have worked on the heart, for there is readiness to receive the Word of the Kingdom. But here we see the double-mindedness: *the thorns of worldly cares or riches are still growing side by side with the new seed*. Also, this thorny ground is *preoccupied soil*. That which is first is natural (1 Corinthians 15:46). The thorns and briars usually have first place in man's heart. But if the spiritual is to grow and prosper, that which is first *must be displaced*. Our Lord Jesus said, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon*" (Matthew 6:24).

This thorny ground is *unfruitful*. The seed will not choke the thorns, but the thorns will choke and kill the tender growth of the spiritual seed. The sins that are harbored in the heart will eventually manifest themselves, although they may be out of sight for a time, *like the thorns covered by the passing plow*. Cares that choke the hopeful Word are deadly enemies, although often excused. *We must cast out these murderers if we are to be fruitful in every good work*.

Good Ground

Finally, we come to the last kind of ground: the **good ground**, picturing the *honest, open-minded hearer*. This is the prepared heart that has been the object of special concern, ploughed and furrowed by the Spirit of God. The weeds and thorns have been uprooted and cast out, because they have been recognized for what they are. A heart that is truly hungry for spiritual things has no room for the cares and riches that hinder the one thing needful.

The good ground, or honest hearer, has an *understanding heart*. If the seed of the Word is to be fruitful, it must have full liberty in the soil of the heart; it must have care and regular feeding. Without meditation and understanding, the growth of the seed will be stunted. It needs a congenial environment. Psalm 1:1, 2 says, *“Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law he meditates day and night.”*

As a result of care and feeding, the Word will bring forth fruit according to the surrounding circumstances: one man’s life will bring forth 100-fold, another 60, another 30. The measure of understanding has much to do with the amount of fruitfulness. Any sowing that remains unfruitful is loss and failure to the sower. *The secret of bringing forth fruit is to keep the heart right and to abide in Christ, feeding upon his Word and being watered by His Spirit.*

David in the Psalms and Solomon in Proverbs gave good advice in respect to keeping our hearts fertile and fruitful. (See Psalm 9:1; 37:4; 51:10; 73:26; Prov. 4:23; 23:7.) And our Lord Jesus said, *“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,”* and *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”* (Matt. 6:21; 12:34, 35).

May God help us to keep our hearts clean and pure that this seed (Word) of life may put down deep roots into the good soil of our hearts. May we always abide in Him, for *“apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

Ralph Dills Sr. - 1964

How Important Is Hope?

A short answer to this question is, it is *extremely important!* The Bible mentions the word hope about **129 times**, and it is one of the most important virtues of the Christian alongside faith and love. It is found in Genesis right through to Revelation.

But where do I find hope? If you look for it from an earthly source, it is fleeting indeed, not very reliable, and often leads to disappointment.

Ever since Creation there has been only one completely reliable and sure source of hope. It is found in the infallible Word of God.

In 1 Peter 1:3, the Apostle tells us, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* Because Jesus lives and indwells us, we are blessed to be able to fully rest assured that the hope that is offered to us in the Scriptures is living and active as we lay hold on it. The Apostle Paul states in His greeting in 1Tim. 1:1, *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of **Christ Jesus our hope.**”*

There are so many in the world today that live hopeless lives. They feel tremendous emptiness and can't find their way through life, seeking one thing after another, hoping to make sense of their existence. Many spend their whole lives in this sphere of existence searching for “something” or “someone” to give them hope. At some point, many, especially younger people just give up. “Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24 in the U.S. Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.” In Ephesians 2:12 it says that we were at one time *“without hope and without God in the world.”* This is what is missing today in not only our

young people but in most of the rest on mankind. Let us share the hope we have in Jesus at every opportunity. You and I are *"lights in the world,"* Jesus said. Letting our light shine may possibly save a life of someone who feels hopeless.

Christian hope is a catalyst that has the ability to encourage and inspire. There are many examples where this so in Scripture:

In Hebrews 12:1-3 we read, *"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."* What was the "joy set before Him?" The word "joy" in Greek has a definite article, which means this wasn't just joy in general, but it was a *specific joy*. What was it? The verse goes on to describe that joyous "*finish line*" that Jesus set His face like flint toward: "...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and *is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" Jesus had His eyes of faith *fixed* on the empty throne at the right hand of the Father that was reserved for Him once His victory was complete. He yearned to once again be in the presence of His Father. For Jesus there was no greater joy!

The Apostle Paul tells us because we have been chosen by the grace of God, He has revealed to us *"the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**"* (Colossians 1:27). What is this "*hope of glory*?" For those of us who have become disciples of Jesus, accepting His invitation to "deny self, take up their cross daily and follow the Lord" have the hope that one day we will spend eternity with Jesus. What encouragement for us to press on to our *finish line*!

The Apostle John tells us, *"See what great love the Father has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not*

*know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, **now** we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as he is. All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:1-3). “To be like Him!” The substance of this hope is beyond our ability to fully comprehend. But we can be sure, it will be the greatest reward possible for the faithful follower of our Lord. To really believe in this hope will truly energize us in this race of the high calling.*

The Apostle Peter tells us, “Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming” (1 Peter 1:13). This reminds us of what the Apostle Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 that we will be taken up to be with the Lord forever:

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

This is an event we should be anticipating; it could occur at any time, so we should not just be hoping for it, but also be watching for it!

Abraham is another inspiring example of one who had a very strong hope in the promises of God. “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised” (Romans 4:18-21).

There was no doubt in Abraham’s mind that God would keep this promise. Later on Abraham’s hope was further tested.

We read in Hebrews 11:17-19, *“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.”*

May we also be fully persuaded that the hope we have in the amazing and most precious promises given to us will one day bear fruition to His Praise and Glory.

E. Weeks

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

“There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope.”

“Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.”

“Never Say Never”

As we add years to our lives, we should grow in understanding and wisdom from the mistakes we have made and continue to make. One could say that we grow in wisdom and understanding from the things we suffer in life, from life’s many learning experiences. We can try and should pass this wisdom down to others, yet unfortunately for many, the real teachers in this life are experiences that we are blessed to receive(suffer) by the will of God. As we read in Prov. 16:31, “*The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.*”

One thing I’ve learned from experience over the years is “Never to Say Never.” This is a shared wisdom that is often expressed by others. I have learned this the hard way, because I have come to understand my frame, and that as sincere I may have been at the time of saying “never,” it was in reality not only a sign of boasting, but also an oath that made a fool of me.

Do you remember what the scriptures say about making an oath? We read in **James 5:12**, “*But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*” I have learned the hard way that when I have said never, I ended up eating my words, as did Peter who said he would **never** deny the Lord, and did three times before the cock crowed. (**Mat. 26:33-34**) He like us learned the hard way. As a result, I kind of doubt that he was ever boastful and so overly confident again.

We should remember the important wisdom of Israel’s King Ahab that the Lord provided as a lesson for us, *when Ahab responded to the boastful threat of Syria’s king, saying in 1Kings 20:11*, “*Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.*” King Ahab like each of us, looked to the Lord for his victory, and it was the Lord’s will that Ahab be victorious against the king of Syria. I think it important that we humbly remember and write Ahab’s message to the king of Syria on the tables of our heart, to be

led by it, never being too sure of ourselves, for it is only by the grace of God that we can count our victories.

I say this, for we each have a responsibility for one another, unlike evil Cain who asked the Lord, "Am I my brother's keeper"? (**Gen. 4:9**) This responsibility for the welfare of our brothers is clearly expressed in many different ways in the Holy Scriptures. We can deduce this responsibility from the Lord's command that we "love our neighbor as ourselves" (**Mat. 22:39**). This command would obviously require our willingness to help a neighbor or brother in need, whether that need be material or nonmaterial (spiritual) in nature. Like it was unto ourselves, we would naturally want the best for our neighbor that we love as ourself. Additionally, the Lord specifically told His servant, like each of us aspires to be, that he had a responsibility to warn those he witnessed in need of help or guidance. We read in **Eze 3:18-19**, "*When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; **but his blood will I require at thine hand.** Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; **but thou hast delivered thy soul.***" So let us respond by not only letting our light shine as an example, but also by providing caring words of guidance by accepting the responsibility of being our brother's keeper.

J. Dicesare

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.
Proverbs 3:7

NOTHING is more dangerous to the child of God than self-conceit: it blocks the way to true progress and reformation of heart, and hinders true usefulness to others, and especially usefulness in God's service; for His Word declares, "God resisteth the proud, but showeth favor unto the humble." Instead of self-confidence, Wisdom dictates a distrustfulness of self, remembering its weaknesses and imperfections, and correspondingly the greater reverence for God and reliance upon Him, which more than anything else will strengthen and enable us to depart from the evil of our fallen estate.

Daily Heavenly Manna

One Person

Dr. Frank Mayfield was touring Tewksbury Institute when, on his way out, he accidentally collided with an elderly cleaning maid. To cover the awkward moment, Dr. Mayfield started asking questions. "How long have you worked here?"

"I've worked here almost since the place opened," the maid replied. "What can you tell me about the history of this place?" he asked.

"I don't think I can tell you anything, but I could show you something."

With that, she took his hand and led him down to the basement under the oldest section of the building. She pointed to one of what looked like small prison cells, their iron bars rusted with age, and said, "That's the cage where they used to keep Annie."

"Who's Annie?" The doctor asked.

"Annie was a young girl who was brought here because she was incorrigible. Nobody could do anything with her. She'd bite and scream and throw her food at people. The doctors and nurses couldn't even examine her without her spitting and scratching at them.

"I was only a few years younger than her myself and I used to think, 'I sure would hate to be locked up in a cage like that.' I wanted to help her, but I didn't have any idea what I could do. I mean, if the doctors and nurses couldn't help her, what could someone like me do?"

"I didn't know what else to do, so I just baked her some brownies one night after work. The next day I brought them in. I walked carefully to her cage and said, 'Annie, I baked these brownies just for you. I'll put them right here on the floor and you can come and get them if you want.' Then I got out of there just as fast as I could because I was afraid she might throw them at me. But she didn't. She actually took the brownies and ate them.

"After that, she was just a little bit nicer to me when I was around. And sometimes I'd talk to her. Once, I even got her laughing. One of the nurses noticed this and she told the doctor. They asked me if I'd help them with Annie. I said I would if

I could. So that's how it came about that every time they wanted to see Annie or examine her, I went into the cage first and explained and calmed her down and held her hand. That's how they discovered that Annie was almost blind.

"After they'd been working with her for about a year – and it was tough sledding with Annie – the Perkins Institute for the Blind opened its doors. They were able to help her, and she went on to study and became a teacher herself.

"Annie came back to Tewksbury Institute to visit, and to see what she could do to help out. At first, The Director didn't say anything, and then he thought about a letter he'd just received. A man had written to him about his daughter. She was absolutely unruly – almost like an animal.

"He'd been told she was blind and deaf as well as 'de-ranged.' He was at his wit's end, but he didn't want to put her in an asylum. So he wrote here to ask if we knew of anyone – any teacher – who could come to his house and work with his daughter.

"And that is how Annie Sullivan became the lifelong companion of Helen Keller.

"When Helen Keller received the Noble Prize, she was asked who had the greatest impact on her life and she said, 'Annie Sullivan.'

"But Annie said, 'No, Helen. The woman who had the greatest influence on both our lives was a cleaning maid at the Tewksbury Institute.'"

Deep Waters & A Bubbling Brook

I cannot do without Thee;
I cannot stand alone;
I have no strength or goodness,
No wisdom of my own;

But Thou, beloved Savior,
Art all in all to me,
And weakness will be power,
If leaning hard on Thee.

Poems of Dawn

Seven [*times*]

"And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven... more for your sins." [Leviticus 26:18, 21, 24, 28]

Those familiar with these verses will recognize that something important is missing in the above quotation. That is the word "times".

Looking in Strong's Concordance under "times", and then down to Leviticus 26, one finds that there are 4 references [in 4 verses], but NONE of them has a Strong's number. This means that the word "times" is not in the original Hebrew text in all 4 cases.

So WHY is the word "times" there in the translation?

The translators of the KJV, and many others since, felt that "seven more" was incomplete and unclear to the English reader, and so added the word "times" to clarify the thought [as they understood it]. Usually, words added by the translators are put in italics so you can recognize them for what they are -- but not in this case!

Before going further, we note that some consider these "seven times" as a time prophecy, and calculate some 2½ millennia, from Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, to the great World Wars of the 20th century. This cannot be so, because there is NOTHING in these Leviticus texts to base this on. One cannot use NOTHING as a basis for time calculations.

So, what do these texts in Leviticus really mean, in their context?

Green's "Interlinear Bible" shows that "times" is in parenthesis in all 4 cases, and the texts should merely read seven "somethings". The seven "somethings" could be plagues, famines, wars, increasing intensity, etc., but not necessarily "duration".

It seems that “increasing intensity” is the correct thought. For example, consider Daniel 3:19, which also has the word “times”, but it too is missing a Strong’s number, and thus is not in the original text:

“Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.”

Suppose that the original temperature of the furnace was, say, 400 degrees. Would the King then want the furnace raised to almost 3000 degrees? No. He merely wanted the heat [intensity] of the furnace raised to an unusually high temperature.

This helps to clarify the meaning of the verses in Leviticus; i.e., not duration, but intensity. One commentary calls this “stages of severity”. Another says, “The consequences of Israel’s disobedience are sequentially and more progressively painful.”

Some translations render “seven more” as “sevenfold”, or “seven-fold”. Let’s look at Leviticus 26:28 for some examples:

English Standard Version

“...then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins.”

Revised Standard Version

“...I will walk contrary to you in fury, and chastise you myself sevenfold for your sins.”

Berean Study Bible

“...then I will walk in fury against you, and I, even I, will punish you sevenfold for your sins.”

New American Bible

“...I will continue in my hostile rage toward you, and I myself will discipline you for your sins sevenfold.”

Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures

"...I, for my part, will discipline you sevenfold for your sins."

But again, "sevenfold" is not to be taken literally, but symbolically [as a figure of speech]. God's punishments are not literally 7 times greater than the sins. No. God renders punishments equal to the sin. For example, we read in Revelation 18:6-7

"Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow..."

At first reading, it sounds like God renders "double" [twice as much] for each sin, but the word means "duplicate", as the statements "*Render to her just as she rendered to you*", and "*in the same measure*", tell us.

One really needs to read the entire chapter 26 of Leviticus to get the full context of God's promised blessings or corrective punishments, and the principles of how God dealt with Israel. Here are verses 14-18 as one example:

"But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins."

The same principles are found in another series of texts, this time in Isaiah. Again, reading the entire context is important to get the correct understanding.

"For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still." [Isaiah 5:25; 9:12, 17, 21; 10:4]

One really needs to read the entirety of chapters 5 and 9:8-10:4 of Isaiah, to get the full context of God's promised blessings or corrective punishments, and the principles of how God dealt with Israel.

Here are verses 13-17 of Isaiah 9, as one example:

"For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, nor do they seek the Lord of hosts. Therefore, the Lord will cut off head and tail from Israel, palm branch and bulrush in one day. The elder and honorable, he is the head; the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed. Therefore, the Lord will have no joy in their young men, nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows; for everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still."

Similar principles are found in another series of texts, this time in Amos 4:6-11. Here is verse 9 as an example:

"I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the locust devoured them; yet you have not returned to Me," says the Lord."

A similar recital of blessings and curses on Israel, detailing God's blessings and corrective punishments, is found in Deuteronomy 28. The entire book of Judges also shows similar principles in action.

So what? one might ask. Leviticus 26 was written several millennia ago. What value is there for the church in the flesh, in

understanding this at the end of this church age? We might answer, primarily in understanding the principles by which God operates, and how He deals with His creatures [Israel, church, world], each in their proper times.

God promises blessings to His obedient children. But, if they do not listen to Him, he will send corrective punishments appropriate to their sins. If they still do not obey Him, then He will ratchet-up, or increase, the intensity of the appropriate corrective punishments. This He did for Israel, until finally they had to be carried out of the land -- first to Babylon, and later [by Rome] to all the nations.

One of the saddest passages in the Bible is this:

"And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy." [2 Chron.36:15-16]

The same principles will, it seems, also apply to mankind during the Millennial age. Obedience will be blessed; disobedience will receive corrective punishments. The same principles can also apply to the church in the flesh, for the uplift or correction of the New Creature, the spiritual mind.

Wonder of wonders, God is not done with Israel, nor with the human race. God still intends to bring blessings to all humanity, to all who are willing to accept life on God's terms -- but it will be *"for the Jew first and also for the Greek (gentile)"*. [Romans 1:16]

In all of God's prophecies of doom and gloom, He always gives a ray of hope, a promise of good things to come. The Leviticus 26 context continues:--

"Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with

them; for I am the Lord their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord." [Leviticus 26:44-45]

The Isaiah 9 context gives us these wonderful words:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." [Isaiah 9:6-7]

The Returning Remnant of Israel

"And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel, and such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, will never again depend on him who defeated them, but will depend on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God. For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; the destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness." [Isaiah 10:20-22]

Yes, the church will be completed; Israel will return to their land [process already well advanced] and be saved by Divine intervention; the world of humanity will see the Millennial blessings open before them. Jesus will reign as King; and his Bride will be with him.

Praise the Lord!

L. Schneider

All references are from the NKJV unless otherwise specified.

“Blessed (Happy) Are You...”

Matthew 5

Those who believe in and follow Jesus are very much aware of the many wonderful blessings they receive from God, our Heavenly Father. Along with all the blessings we receive, comes an indescribable joy and happiness not only in the good times, but even in adversity; something which those in the world, who do not worship God, cannot understand. In Matthew chapter 5, usually known as The Beatitudes or The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us of nine situations upon which blessings are given and of the happy and blessed results.

The Greek for *blessed* used here is *makarios* which means both blessed and happy. As we look into the Scriptures we can see all the fulfilled promises of God, which show that He has a tremendous love for *all mankind* and this includes those who do not know or love Him. But to those who love God and whose lives are devoted to Him and to the service of others are given minute by minute, day by day and year after year blessings. Even after the nation of Israel had gone against God's laws time after time, from the Exodus out of Egypt, even unto today, God has still fulfilled the tremendous blessing which He gave to them in Numbers 6: 24-26:

*“Jehovah bless thee and keep thee,
Jehovah make his face to shine upon thee and
be gracious unto thee,
Jehovah lift up his countenance upon thee and
give thee peace.” American Standard Version*

Due to their rebellious nature, Israel has suffered often and in the Old Testament we read of all the times they went into captivity. Yet, upon repentance they received God's forgiveness and were allowed to return to their own land. Even after the dispersion, a few years after Christ's crucifixion, God did not cast them off. Now He has fulfilled His promises by returning the Jews back to their promised land. Although the Jewish nation has been given that promised land, they still are

a *secular nation* and look to themselves and the force of arms for their salvation. Nevertheless, they still receive many, many blessings from God. Their greatest blessing will be when they as a nation come to realize that, the greatest blessing is that the Messiah, whom they so eagerly await, has already come and has given His life for not only for Israel but also as a ransom for all mankind. This is the greatest blessing giving complete happiness when understood and received.

Yes, the promised blessing of salvation is for all who eventually accept Jesus as Lord and Savior; for both Jew and every person who has ever lived. God sent Jesus, His Only Begotten Son, who by His death on the cross and resurrection has reclaimed each one of us from the curse of suffering and death which our first parents brought upon mankind. Christ's death on that cruel cross is a blessing to us. His resurrection is an even greater blessing because He, being the firstborn from the dead, showed that *death is conquered*.

In this evil world there are so many afflicted in lands where Christ's followers are scorned and killed. There are so many sick and troubled people in the world who don't know which way to turn. Christians are not immune from Satan's attacks and the troubles of fallen mankind. We will have our share of problems, sicknesses and loss. But the great blessing, which we have, is that God always softens the blow so that we can bear our trials. The Bible tells us to cast our burdens on Jehovah and *He will sustain us* (Psa. 55:22).

1 Peter 2:24 says, that by His stripes we are healed, which Isaiah 53:5 prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus' birth. So we have that wonderful and blessed promise that we are never alone. Because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can give all our problems, and troubles to God, and He will make it His burden. There is no one better to carry our burdens and we can always rely on God and our Lord Jesus. All we need do is ask to have His blessing as we rely on His promises. There is a further wonderful prize - that one day *we will be like Jesus and see Him as He is*. He gives us eternal life; a life with no sickness, no sorrow or pain; and with all death abolished.

We will have a wonderful life of peace and joy that lasts forever. In this present life while all the world lies in Satan's hands; where people are wondering which way to go and what to do; where so many live in anguish and desperation; we can have the peace and joy of knowing God and walking daily with Jesus, who said in Matt. 28:20, "*Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.*"

Do you believe these wonderful Bible promises? If you do, you will be both blessed and happy, both in this life and that which is to come. As one evangelist says, "God said it. I believe it. And that's it!" God bless you dear reader.

E. Williams

"Give thanks to the LORD, call on His Name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice."

1 Chronicles 16:8-12

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

WE cannot have too many rejoicing Christians, nor can they rejoice too much, if they rejoice in the Lord. This rejoicing is not necessarily boisterous, nor of necessity the reverse. It implies serenity, happiness, peace, pleasure of soul, however, and does not mean that noisy demonstration is essential, as some seem mistakenly to think....The only ones who can rejoice alway are those who are living very near to the Lord, and who can feel always their oneness with Him, and that His protection and care are over them, and that His promise is sure, that all things shall work together for their highest welfare, as New Creatures.

Daily Heavenly Manna

Thanksgiving

*"O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good;
His mercy endures forever."*

Psalm 107:1

Thank God for life! What a wondrous life man is permitted to live; to be alive; to be conscious; to have power to think; to solve problems; to read the pages of nature reverently as they reveal God. To know that this life is not all of life, but above things animate and inanimate, we are to endure forever; the immortal world of God never to disappear; all this included; all in the one fact of being alive. *Shall we not evermore give thanks?*

Thank God for work. We are all in the habit of complaining that we have so much to do, but we really like it. There is not a day that passes but that we do things that are not necessary. This only proves that we like it. What we call vacation is only change of work. Play is work differently spelled – it is work that we happen to like to do. We could never have a moment's happiness unless we had something to do.

The most dangerous thing we can do is to be idle. The English doctor's advice to his rich patient was: *"Live on a shilling a day and earn it."* It had in it the gospel of good sense. The man who is a Christian but not working on it much will soon either be dwarfed or become spiritually dead. When we have plenty of work to do, we have much occasion to thank God for it.

Thank God for rest. After a hard day's work, rest is welcome and sweet. It is like the mountain climber reaching the top and enjoying the wonderful view from there. He not only enjoys the view, but the rest, the calm and serenity that only a mountain-top can give. Life is not all labor. The way is not all uphill. Let us thank God for the resting places He has provided in life's journey.

Thank God for helpful friends. There are many good men and women found in the world. There are doubtless bad people, far too many of them; but we are liable to forget those who *do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.* People who love, and give, and pray and work, and do all in their power to

put down evil and make this world a decent place in which to live! Yes, thank God for the multitudes of good people in the world.

This is God's world and a good world, and in due time it shall become a paradise, a second Garden of Eden. God says so, the Bible says so, and we believe it. In the long run, right is stronger than wrong. God is mightier than Satan. Christ's Kingdom is surely coming, and God's eternal purpose will be done on earth by men as it is done in heaven by angels. The Kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of the LORD and of His Christ: and He shall reign forever and ever (Revelation 11:15). *Thank God for This!*

Hitherto has the Lord helped us. Thank God for all your blessings and take courage.

Gaetano Boccaccio

A Thanksgiving

For all Thy blessings given there are many to thank
Thee, Lord,

But for the gifts withholden I fain would add
my word.

For the good things I desired that barred me from
the best,

The peace at the price of honor, the sloth of a
shameful rest;

The poisonous sweets I longed for to my hungering
heart denied,

The staff that broke and failed me when I walked
in the way of pride;

The tinsel joys withheld that contentment might still
be mine,

The help refused that might have made me loose
my hand from Thine;

The light withdrawn that I might not see the dangers
of my way;

For what Thou hast not given, I thank Thee, Lord,
today.

Annie Johnson Flint

Gifts to Our King

A Christmas Meditation

"My son, give me your heart" (Proverb 23.26). The wise men of the East came seeking the new-born Jesus, the King of the Jews, with presents of myrrh, frankincense and gold. From this incident we can gather some valuable suggestions respecting our obligations to the great Messiah, and the need to renew and increase them at the close of another year.

The wise men, three according to tradition arrived at Jerusalem and began making inquiries respecting the new-born Jewish King. The news soon spread, and the holy city was in commotion because, according to the prophets, Messiah promised for centuries, was due to appear about that time; and "All men were in expectation of him.

This expectancy naturally would be heightened by the coming of the wise men or Magi from a far country, supposedly Persia, to show homage to Messiah. The news finally reached the royal palace and King Herod himself. The latter, doubtless on his own account, felt a kind of jealousy toward anyone who would be likely to share the royal honors and dignities and thus detract from his own importance. Additionally he felt that as representative of Caesar's government, the protégé of the Roman Empire, it was his duty to see to it that no king should arise in the land under his jurisdiction, whose title or claims would in a measure conflict with those of Caesar.

Without attempting to determine how much or how little truth attaches to astrology, we have assurance that there was a truth connected with the appearance of a special and peculiar star. It guided the wise men of the east to the country of Messiah's birth and to the capital city of that country. The Lord may have given them additional understanding of the matter, just as He subsequently warned them in a dream. Herod cunningly affected to be deeply interested in the search of the wise men for the Messiah. He called the wise men of Judea to assist. These were no astrologers but chief priests and lawyers, men learned in the Law and prophets of Israel. He inquired where the prophets had foretold that the Messiah should be born. They promptly answered that it was *"Bethle-*

hem of Judea," and for that city only six miles away, the eastern Magi set out. They promised to return and identify to Herod, the baby King and where He might be found, ostensibly that the king might also go to worship at His feet. He really wanted such knowledge to destroy the baby Jesus. In route for Bethlehem, the miraculous star that they had seen in the Far East appeared to them again, apparently as a ball of light or of fire traveling near the earth. It served as a guide until rejoicing they reached the very house and found the baby and His mother.

Tacitus, Suetonius and Josephus tell us that throughout the entire east, at this time, there was an intense conviction, derived from ancient prophecies, that before long a powerful monarch would arise in Judea and gain dominion over the world. Virgil, who lived a little before this, says that a child from heaven was looked for, who should restore the Golden age and take away sin. Confucius had prophesied the appearance of such a deliverer and a deputation of his followers going forth in search of Him were the means of introducing Buddhism into China. The clearest of all these prophecies was by Zoroaster. The Nestorians say that Zoroaster was a disciple of Jeremiah from whom he learned about the Messiah and talked concerning Him to his disciples.

We should remember that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were princes in Persia and intimate with the wise men of that country, which at that time was the principal nation of the world. It is easy to see how traditions would be handed down, especially as Daniel's prophecy respecting the time of Messiah's birth might be well known to the disciples of Zoroaster, Persia's wise men. There were Jews scattered abroad throughout that country who more or less kept alive the thought of Israel's hope for the great Messiah so long promised of God, prophesied of one bringing blessings not only to Israel but through them to all families of the earth.

God chose as messengers of His good tiding not only wise men, but reverential men, men of faith and His choice of these messengers from the east to arouse the people of Judea and Jerusalem as heralds of the great King was not an exception to the rule. Although not of the nation with which God had so

far dealt and given His promises, they were, nevertheless, good, reverential men. They delighted to know of the coming blessings of peace on earth and goodwill amongst men through whatever nationality the Lord was pleased to find His representative.

In one respect many Christians could learn numerous important lessons from these wise Gentiles. No false patriotism stood in their way to hinder their appreciation of Divine favor to the children of men. When they found the Savior, they were not daunted by His humble home surroundings. They worshipped Him in three ways: Firstly, they fell before Him, physically expressing their reverence. Secondly, they worshipped Him in their hearts, giving expression to their rejoicing and confidence. Thirdly, they opened their treasure-box and presented to Him three gifts appropriate to royalty, the myrrh representing submission, frankincense representing praise, and gold representing obedience.

The reverent spirit of these noble heathen men who had so little light, and so little knowledge respecting the great Messiah and His work, should bring to our cheeks a blush of shame. We can reflect that we are favored with brighter light to guide us to the Lamb of God. We see His star in a better and truer sense and are guided to Him by the prophecies. We have found not only a baby but One who bears our sorrows and carries our grief. He made His soul an offering for sin so that by His stripes we are healed. Therefore, what kind of oblation should we pour at the feet of Him who loved us and bought us with His precious blood? With what deep reverence have we bowed the knee, prostrated ourselves and given outward evidence through our bodies of full submission to our great King? Him we know and through His gracious provision for us and for the world of mankind we have heard, not uncertainly, but with the voice of Him who speaks from heaven. Have we offered our myrrh? Have we shown willingness for service even in bitter experiences, in joy to honor the King as we suffer with Him? Have we worshipped Him in heart? This is not an outward form of powerless godliness but an offering to Him of the frankincense of heart adoration, appreciation and gratitude.

Have we laid at His feet our earthly substance, our gold? Have we realized that all that we have and all that we are is but an offering far too small? Will this be our attitude through coming days till the end of our present pilgrimage?

The apostle's words, "*Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship*", (Rom. 12. 1) apply not only to the initial consecration of our hearts to the Lord, but, as the Scriptures express it, to a covenant of sacrifice, an agreement to die daily to self and to be alive more and more in the Lord's service. Thus we shall glorify Him in our bodies and spirits which are His. If we have lacked in this in the past, shall it be so in future? Shall we not continue to grow in knowledge, to grow in love, in service, in worship and in the privilege of laying our little all at the feet of Him who is our gracious Heavenly King? His Kingdom is so soon to be established and He has invited us to sit with Him in His throne, to share His glory and to be participants as spiritual Israel in the great work of blessing the whole world of mankind, every kindred, people nation and tongue.

Our opening text is well worth remembering. This does not apply to sinners who are not sons in any sense of the word. The message to sinners is a call to repentance and to forsake sin. Only those who have repented of sin and who trust in the precious blood of Christ are reconciled to God and may take to themselves the words "*My son, give me your heart.*" When we give our hearts, it includes all that we have and are, in the highest and noblest - and fullest sense. That which was illustrated by the gifts of the wise men is represented in the brief statement, "*Give me your heart.*" Whoever gives his heart to the Lord fully and unreservedly, gives his body, his worship, his reverence and praise. He gives also his earthly treasure, time, talents, influence, and money, all to be used in joyful service for the glory of the King.

All who have never answered this call are urged to do so now. To those who have given their hearts to the Lord, we urge a remembrance of the fact that the sacrifice once put upon the altar must remain there and that the longer it remains the more joyful should be the service. In this, every opportunity for sacrifice becomes more appreciated and our hearts be-

come more thankful. In turn each experience become richer and brings the peace of God which passes all understanding, ruling in our hearts and preparing us for the glorious things which God has reserved for those who truly love and reverence Him.

From the Bible Study Monthly by BJD

The Love of God

How deep is it?

“You have in love to my soul delivered it out of the pit of corruption” (Isaiah 38:17).

How high is it?

“But...God has raised us up together. and made us sit together in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).

What is its length and breadth?

“He has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

“That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:7).

Selected

*“Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were every stalk on earth a quill,
and every man a scribe by trade;
to write the Love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.”*

What Do You Turn to for Relief?

When you're hurting inside and you want instant relief, who or what do you turn to? Be honest now and think about the last time things weren't going too well. What did you do? How did you try to ease the pain? Was it a pan of brownies calling to you at 10:00 p.m. at night? Was it that credit card that has nearly reached its limit? Was it the work you thought just couldn't wait until the next day? Was it the glass of wine? Was it calling a friend? Think about it. When you hurt, how do you try to deal with it? How do you feel afterwards? Worse? Depressed? Be honest. It was only a momentary fix, wasn't it? And one that doesn't seem to work very well! Instead of making things better, you only feel worse.

Don't lose heart! *You're supposed to feel worse!* That is your conscience talking to you, and unless you stop and listen to it, you are going to keep repeating the same fruitless, destructive pattern. That depression is supposed to be signaling you that what you are doing is wrong and that you need to change. You are running to the wrong source to relieve your pain. You are running to an idol you built for yourself, and guilt is letting you know you have sinned.

"And God spoke all these words: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God'." (Exodus 20:1-5a). In case you didn't get the gist of that last phrase, it's stated even stronger in chapter 34:14: *"Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."*

What do you think of that? God is jealous of that pan of brownies, of that credit card, of that wine, of your work and of anything or anyone else you turn to for solving your problems. When you don't turn to Him, He's jealous. Why? Because it shows who or what you really love most! And it's not Him.

Above everything, God wants your love! Remember the most important commandment? ***“The most important one,”*** answered Jesus *“is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”* (Mark 12:29, 30) Couple this with what Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”*

You can't run to that pan of brownies and say you love God above all else. You have to make a choice. If you are afraid that giving up the brownies is too risky, then God has a challenge for you: *“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.”* He will not disappoint you. He has already shown how much He loves you by making you feel guilty, which should be pointing you to Him. Now it's your turn to take the next step.

Confess that you have an idol that you love. That's right ~ *admit that you love that idol.* That's the truth, isn't it? Why else would you run to it every time it calls your name? Second, you repent by choosing to *replace that idol with God.* You need to fall in love with God and out of love with that idol. King David wrote, *“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.”*

Ask God to show you how much He loves you. The more you know how much He loves you, the more you will fall in love with Him. It's no different from when a man meets that special woman with whom he wants to spend the rest of his life. He thinks about her; he wants to be with her; he wants to do things he knows pleases her; he wants to be her comfort and protector because he loves her with an agape love.

It's no different with God; He loves us with the fullness of agape love. Spend time with Him in prayer and meditation. Get to know Him and His will for you. He will become your Love, your Confidant, your Protector and Comforter. Then, everything else will naturally follow.

Roy Boswell

A Portrait of Jesus: *The Grace of our Lord*



“...as they approached the village gate, they met a funeral procession—a woman’s only son was being carried out for burial and the mother was a widow. When Jesus saw her, his heart broke. He said to her, ‘Don’t cry.’ Then he went over and touched the coffin...He said, ‘Young man, I tell you: arise.’” The dead son sat up and began talking. Jesus presented him to his mother.” Luke 7:12-15

Jesus upon entering the city of Nain is accosted by this scene of despair and sorrow. A widow’s only son has died. Jesus sees this widow, weeping, stumbling along, overcome by her grief. Luke tells us that *Jesus felt compassion* for the woman. What Jesus does next is striking ~ He reaches out and touches the coffin. Can you hear the gasp, as the people around him watch? He did not need to do this to perform this miracle. He had raised others with just a word. But, now He had made himself ritually unclean by touching the coffin. Jesus wanted to impress on His followers, that it is not what happens on the outside that makes us unclean, but what takes place in our heart. At the command of Jesus, instantly, a son who had been snatched away by death is returned to his mother’s arms.

This widow had not asked for this miracle, she had not thrown herself at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to intercede. She had not shown any great faith; in fact she had shown no faith at all. Jesus performed this miracle for one reason alone, His own heart had gone out to this poor woman. When faced with her pain and grief He was so touched that He felt her anguish deeply and it broke His heart, and did something about it. Jesus changed her grief to abounding joy. It is an act of sheer grace, one that gives her hope and a future.

How blessed we are to have such a Savior! One who is touched to the core with the weight of our grief and pain and

who steps in and does something to change either the situation or us. His act of grace in the city of Nain that day changed a widow's life, turning her anguish into joy unspeakable. Not long after, on the cross on Golgotha's hill another act of sheer grace would give each of us hope and a future. One day the entire world will experience what the widow of Nain experienced, when all who are in their graves will be returned to the arms of their loved ones, all because of Jesus, whose compassion moves him to act and bestow grace so freely.

D. Mathewson

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Heb 2:17 NASB

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15 NASB

Jesus Only.

JESUS only! In the shadow
Of the cloud so chill and dim,
We are clinging, loving, trusting,
He with us and we with Him;
All unseen, though ever nigh,
Jesus only--all our cry.

Jesus only! In the glory,
When the shadows all are flown,
Seeing Him in all His beauty,
Satisfied with Him alone;
May we join His ransomed throng,
Jesus only--all our song!

Poems of Dawn

Prayer List

"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." (1 Samuel 12:23)



Let us be Prayer Warriors for our Brethren!

Allen Family – VT (d)	Jones, Arlene - VA
Ammerman, Shirley & Family – NJ (d)	Karavas, Anna - CA
Anderson, Family–WI (d)	Knapp, Jamie – NH
Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d)	Knapp, Joseph – IL
Boswell, Arlene – IL	Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME
Buxton, Jean & Family - UK	Lepitre Family - IL
Carpenter, Gloria – KY	Mazzotta, Eva – VA
Casell, Agnes & Family –VT (d)	Miller, Alain – Canada
Cooper, Carmela – NJ	Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA
Csutor, Judith – CT	Orsburn, Judi – CA (d)
Day, Ronald – PA	Ostwald, Dick - WI
Dewys, Mary & Family – MI (d)	Parker, Geraldine – CA
DiCenso, Shirley Anne & Family - (d)	Penton, Jim – Canada
Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA	Phillips, Stella – OK
Duhaime, George & Family – CT (d)	Rice, Michelle – NY (d)
Dunn, Kim - IL	Rowe, Bryan - UK
Fantuzzo, Tony – NY (d)	Shobe, Nancy - CA
Feliciano, Carmen - NY	Schultz, Becky & Family – MN (d)
Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI	Schwartz, Ruth – TX
Foster, Jean – IL	Seminoff, Brenda – CA
Hauslein, Karen – MD	Thomassen, Sandi – NM (d)
Hawk, Barbara – PA	Tuscia, Priscilla – FL
Hildebrandt, Lois - FL	White, Ken & Joan - NY
Hogrebe, Joan – MO	(d) = death in the family
Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – TX (d)	
Howes, Paul & Carla - UK	
Iannaccone, Marie & Family – IL (d)	

Entered into rest:

Gloria Langarcia, CA – September 2022

Important: If you know anyone in the names listed above whom no longer needs special prayers, please advise us so we may remove their names. Also, if any of the information is incorrect, please let the editor know. Thank you.

People do not care what you think until you care what they feel.

Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Websites

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their course and have been awarded a Certificate.



No new Grads to report this issue.

You are invited to view the following websites:

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)
(Current/past NC magazine issues are available on our website)

<https://www.christianbelieversconference.com/>

<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship in New Hampshire)

<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk> (Bible Fellowship in UK)

<http://www.bbschurch.org> (Lombard, IL)

<https://sites.google.com/site/quietwatersdevotions/home>

<http://www.cartyorkshire.co.uk> (CART)

<http://www.campblessing.com> (Camp Blessing)

<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News, Australia)

<https://e-biblia.org/> (Os Estudantes da Biblia, The Bible Students, Brazil - Portuguese/Span) email: contact@e-biblia.org

New -- <https://bibleresources.info/questions-and-answers>

A Poem Inspired by the Christian Believers Conference

Meeting here in the USA,
Has been overwhelming, I have to say!

We took a flight in anticipation,
To visit others in a different nation.

Being with all of you, is like finding treasure,
Kindness, sweetness and hugs beyond measure.

I have memories that go back to 1977,
6 years old, in America, learning of heaven.

But here we are at Gordon College in 2022,
Joined together with like minds and emotions of
What Would Jesus Do!

We have learned a lot from Services heard,
So many have served us from the fruits of God's word.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart, from John and Lydia
too,
For the spiritual blessings we have shared, the 3 of us and all of
you!

We all love to serve and follow Gods plan,
The plan He had in mind since before the fall of man.

But we are special, a chosen few,
The ones He will use to make all things new!

If we don't meet again before Jesus is sent,
We will meet in the air and go to that great event!

Oh what a day, what a gathering we'll make,
At that great wedding feast that God will host for our sake!

Keep going my friends, my brothers and sisters,
Keep strong, do not stumble, stay focused on scriptures.

It won't be long now, till we'll all be together,
May God bless you all, not just now but forever!!

Helen Haselden, U.K

Conferences & Conventions

Note: If you would like to have your Convention, Conference, Camp, or Seminar published in The New Creation Magazine, send information or a program *at least three months in advance* of the issue month of the magazine to the editor, Bob Whittaker.

Notice: If you know of Christian friends who would benefit from receiving the bimonthly New Creation Magazine via mail, send their names and addresses to the CDML main office, care of Bruce Blake. The address is inside the front cover.

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Many people around the world appreciate the New Creation magazine. For many, it is their only source of Christian communication. Also, for many, they only have it through the generous contributions of others. If you feel moved to help them in continuing to get the New Creation, please consider a donation to CDML.

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Any information published in this magazine that you know is incorrect should be brought to the attention of the editor at his email address: bobwhittaker64@gmail.com. We strive for accuracy but do not have full knowledge.

*We don't need to tell the world about the trouble; they know that. **Tell them about the kingdom.***