

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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Where Is Peace on Earth?

Luke 2:14 NASB - *"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

Luke 12:51 NASB - *"Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division."*



These two scriptures seem to be a dichotomy. How can you have peace among men with division? How can both be true at the same time? We know there must be harmony in the Lord's Word.

As we approach the end of 2020, Christmas nears when many religious people of Christian background remember the text in Luke 2:14. Many Christmas cards cite it. However, peace on earth is elusive. Today, we see division among nations and within nations. It has been this way for years, since man began to fill the earth. It's nothing new except for the magnitude and awareness of the division. Peace is far from mankind's experience.

What then is this peace the LORD promised? We believe it is the peace our Lord said he would leave with his followers (John 14:27). It is the peace of God that Jesus had and we have through Jesus (Phil 4:7). It is the peace which surpasses all [human] comprehension. Because we have the mind of the spirit we can have this peace.

The text in Luke 12:51 refers to divisions in a divided household – between those of the spirit and those of the flesh. Can two walk together except they be agreed? Proponents of the new walk of faith will be opposed by unbelievers. Members of the household will be divided as shown in the context, vs. 52 and 53.

In a troubled and fear-filled world, we can have peace - peace through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). Eventually, with the soon-to-be ushering in of the Millennial Age all mankind will have access to attaining this long elusive peace.

May His peace be with you! Best wishes in the Lord for the holiday season and New Year to come.

R. Whittaker

Shalom -- Peace on Earth

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." - Isaiah 9:2

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David."- Luke 1:68, 69 RSV

One day, while the priest, Zacharias, was burning incense in the temple, *"the angel of the Lord" appeared to him. "And when he came out he could not speak to the people: and they perceived that he had seen a vision."* 400 years Israel had waited for a message from heaven, every true Israelite eager...that they should be among those to welcome the king. In quick succession there followed the angel visit to Mary; the prophecies of Elizabeth, Zacharias, and Mary; the angels to the shepherds in the fields; and the prophecies of Simeon and Anna; then *silence for about 30 years.*

To Zacharias the angel revealed that his son, though great, was only a messenger to go before the face of the Lord...*"to make ready a people prepared for the Lord"* (Luke 1:12-17). That this greater One should sit on the throne of his father David was revealed by Gabriel in his visit six months later to Mary (28-33). The mother of our Lord then hastened to the home of Zacharias and Elizabeth, and *"Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit lifted up her voice with a loud cry and said, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.... And blessed is she that believed that there shall be a fulfillment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord."* The almost tumultuous speed of Elizabeth's message vividly contrasts with Mary's equally inspired one that immediately followed, given calmly and in great simplicity. Hers is an echo of the lyrical poetry of the Old Testament, evidencing a mind that had absorbed and retained the phraseology of the sacred Scriptures as heard in the synagogue service since the days of her youth, "My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior; For he hath looked upon the low estate of his handmaid; For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call

me blessed. For he that is mighty has done to me great things; and Holy is his name, and his mercy is unto generations and generations on them that fear him. He has showed strength with his arm; He has scattered the proud by the imagination of their heart. He has put down princes from their thrones and has exalted them of low degree. The hungry he has filled with good things; and the rich he has sent empty away. He has given help to Israel his servant, that, as he spoke unto our fathers, he might remember mercy toward Abraham and his seed forever."

Two minds given over to the influence of the Holy Spirit as were the minds of these mothers must have had precious communion in the three months that followed, during which their meditation and conversation doubtless were of the hope of Israel and of the part their two lads would play in it. This time must have accomplished much in preparing them to efficiently mother the two infants.

Just as Zacharias may be described as the representative of the good and true in the priesthood at that time, "*righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless,*" so the holy family of Nazareth may be considered as a typical Israelite household. The scantiness of particulars supplied by the Gospels was intended, we believe, to prevent the human interest from overshadowing the grand central fact, to which alone attention was to be directed...The object was as indicated by St. Luke (1:4): "*That thou might know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed,*" and by St. John (20:31): "*These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.*" Is there a lesson here for us in our inclination to give details that merely satisfy human interest and add nothing to the spiritual?

Eight days after the birth of John the rite of circumcision introduced him into Jewish citizenship, a rite without which no one has ever been accepted of the Lord as a member of that favored people. On this occasion a miracle advertised to the populace that God was dealing with their nation. It is

recorded of Zacharias, who had been dumb since his vision of nine months before, *that "his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God."* The Holy Spirit that loosed the tongue also used it for a message of assurance to the people, telling them as the spirit had done through Mary, that now at last the blessings of the covenant with Abraham would be realized: *"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; For he has visited and wrought redemption for his people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant, Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To show mercy towards our fathers, And to remember his holy covenant; The oath, which he swore to our father Abraham . . . And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High; For thou shalt go before the Lord to prepare his ways."*

"And it came to pass, while Mary and Joseph were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 22:11). This lowly entrance into life was not inappropriate to one whose dwelling place and labor were to be of the humblest for thirty years; one who for his closing years was to have *"no place to lay his head,"* and whose end was to be a thousand times more pitiable than this beginning.

In the same country where Abraham had ranged with his flocks and David had tended his sheep, *"there were shepherds in the field, keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto, them, Be not afraid; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all 'people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, which comes of*

God's good pleasure, is among men." - Variorum Bible, marginal rendering.

"Not Many Great, Not Many Wise"

With haste the shepherds came to the City of David *and "found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" and "returned, glorifying God."* The associations of our Lord's nativity were all of the humblest character, and the very scenery of his birthplace was connected with memories of poverty and toil. On that night, indeed, it seemed as though the heavens must burst to disclose their radiant minstrelsy; and the stars, the feeding sheep, the 'light and sound in the darkness and stillness,' and the rapture of faithful hearts, combine to furnish us with a picture painted in the colors of heaven. But in the brief and thrilling verses of the Evangelist we are not told that those angel songs were heard by any except the wakeful shepherds of an obscure village.

Then, forty days later this babe...was presented in the temple for the required purifying rites, probably with two pigeons or doves, the offering permitted to those too poor to bring a lamb. The Law also required that at this time five shekels should be paid into the temple treasury so that the firstborn son might be redeemed from the Aaronic priesthood - in this instance that he might become the High Priest of God for all mankind on the higher Melchizedec plane.

"When the parents brought in Jesus...Simeon received him in his arms, and blessed God, and said - *"Now let thy servant depart, O Lord, According to thy word, in peace; for now my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; A light to the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."*

Then directing his prophecy to Mary, he continued: *"Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel; and for a sign which is spoken against; yea and a sword shall pierce through thine own soul; that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Once more, this time through Anna, a prophetess, the spirit spoke *"to all them that were looking for the redemption*

of Jerusalem," "the consolation of Israel," and the thirty years of silence began. Then, again, Jesus came to them, now a man, legally and, offering to remove the desolation that had fallen centuries before upon that nation. Shortsighted and unappreciative, they nationally rejected him; and Mary, after three and a half years of ministry at his hand, learned the full force of what it meant to have a "sword pierce her soul." Jerusalem was "left desolate..." "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killed the prophets, and stoned them that are sent unto her" "if thou had known in this day, even thou the things which belong unto thy Shalom," thy peace. (ARV)

Again peace, the Christmas message, must wait; this time while the Prince of Peace lies three days in the tomb. Darkness covered the earth as he entered death's portals, but *"The three sad days are quickly sped; He rises glorious from the dead. Angels, roll the rock away! Death, yield up the mighty Prey! See, the Savior quits the tomb, Glowing with immortal bloom. Alleluia, Alleluia."*

The first word on the lips of the Risen Savior when He came into the upper room in the evening of that eventful day was the Christmas message, "Shalom!" Peace! The fulfillment of the angelic prophecy that the shepherds heard, there began; not the peace of earthly prosperity, taxes paid, food and clothing provided; but the peace that nothing can disturb, the peace of One who promised, *"My peace I give unto you. Not as the world give I unto you." "Peace on earth, good will toward men."*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let the earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing.

P. E. Thompson

Luke 2:14 KJV – "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:14NASB - "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Sacrificial Love

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 NIV

This was the greatest case of sacrificial love ever performed. How painful this must have been for our Father. It defines the utmost that love can be.

Jesus emulated His Father when He came to earth to give His life for Adam’s race. *“Greater love has no one than this: that one lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:13 He did this willingly for us as He said, *“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord....”* John 10:17-18 This is the definition of Godly love. Let us never forget as we watch the news of the day and witness the suffering going on in the world. How painful this must be for our Father and Lord Jesus.

Let us also remember that this is being done or allowed for the eternal welfare of the victims who will appreciate the blessings of Christ’s Kingdom much more because of their experiences.

Now let’s focus on we who are trying to emulate the Father and Lord Jesus in our practicing of love. Do you recall Jesus’ conversation with Peter after our Lord’s resurrection: *“Peter, do you truly love me?”* John 21:16 Jesus knew Peter “loved Him”, so why did He ask him 3 times? Consider for a moment Peter’s past. He followed Jesus for over 3 years and was “ready to die” for him, but his love failed him when he denied our Lord 3 times. In I John 4:18 we are told: *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”* Obviously, Peter’s love was not yet perfect.

I was blessed with a beautiful marriage for 40 years. I loved my wife, Julie, from the beginning and that love grew through the years. However, many times Julie would say to me “you don’t love me”, and I would try to understand why she felt that way. Quite often, upon examination, I would recall some act or conversation that had really caused that outcry. My love was very imperfect!

In 2004 Julie was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. The life expectancy for such cases was usually about 5 years. Julie was blessed with 15 years. The final 2 years were difficult. As time went on, she could do less and less but I, as her husband, devoted my time to giving her more and more of the care she desperately needed. I prayed that I might suffer for her, and to some degree, that prayer was answered. My love for her continued to grow until she breathed her last breath in my presence. Now I know what sacrificial love is. Every day I thank our Father for giving me Julie and knowing she is in His keeping until the day she lives again.

Returning to Peter, he obeyed Jesus’ instructions and practiced Godly love throughout his remaining days. In his 1st epistle he writes: *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”* 4:8

Let us daily remember our Lord’s instructions: *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”* John 15:12-13

D. Anas

*It is not the deed we do,
Though the deed be ever so fair,
But the love that the dear Lord looketh for,
Hidden with holy care
In the heart of the deed so fair.*

Poems of Dawn

There is Always hope

"Oh, that I were as in months past." — Job 29:2

Numbers of Christians can view the past with pleasure, but regard the present with dissatisfaction; they look back upon the days which they have passed in communing with the Lord as being the sweetest and the best they have ever known, but as to the present, it is clad in a sable garb of gloom and dreariness. Once they lived near to Jesus, but now they feel that they have wandered from him, and they say, *"O that I were as in months past!"*

They complain that they have lost their evidences, or that they have not present peace of mind, or that they have no enjoyment in the means of grace, or that conscience is not so tender, or that they have not so much zeal for God's glory. The causes of this mournful state of things are manifold. It may arise through a comparative neglect of prayer, for a neglected closet is the beginning of all spiritual decline.

Or it may be the result of idolatry. The heart has been occupied with something else, more than with God; the affections have been set on the things of earth, instead of the things of heaven. A jealous God will not be content with a divided heart; He must be loved first and best. He will withdraw the sunshine of His presence from a cold, wandering heart. Or the cause may be found in self-confidence and self-righteousness. Pride is busy in the heart, and self is exalted instead of lying low at the foot of the cross.

Christian, if you are not now as you *"were in months past,"* do not rest satisfied with wishing for a return of former happiness, but go at once to seek your Master, and tell him your sad state. Ask His grace and strength to help you to walk more closely with him; humble yourself before Him, and He will lift you up, and give you yet again to enjoy the light of His countenance.

Do not sit down to sigh and lament; while the beloved Physician lives, there is hope -- nay there is a certainty of recovery for the worst cases.

Br. L. Ssewany

Immune Systems

We would like to consider with you two immune systems. The first is that of the human body. During this Covid-19 pandemic much has been stressed about the importance of having a healthy immune system to resist and combat the effects of this plague. As we age, our bodies lose their ability to resist things that adversely affect, for our resistance continues to wane. This is one of the warnings that we have been made aware of by health authorities regarding Covid-19, i.e., that older people are at a higher risk for coming down with this virus and death is a much more likely result for someone who does not have a healthy immune system to fight it off.

There is much we can do to slow down this aging process in our bodies. Eating nutritious foods and taking essential vitamins regularly is not only important but crucial. Eating lots of “junk food” only accelerates a downward effect on the immune system. Proper exercise of our bodies and our minds are also imperative to good health. These are just a few of the ways that are a help in having and maintaining a healthy body.

Let's see if the above may have a parallel with the spiritual body's “immune system” and sin. We know that sin is contagious much like a virus. We live in a sinful world and Satan is the “god of this world” at the present time. His main aim is to tempt others to sin wherever he can, especially the followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is very persevering in finding their weaknesses, thereby gaining a foothold. He also uses others with sinful habits to tempt them so there is a need of “social distancing!” Sin, as does leaven, can in time “permeate the whole loaf”, resulting in a potential deadly spiritual sickness.

What are some things followers of Jesus can do in such a toxic environment to acquire and maintain a healthy “immune system?”

Our intake of spiritual food is crucial. God has provided us with all the food we need in His Holy Word, but it is up to us to appropriate it every day. We read in Psalms 119:103, *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”*

Is this so with us? Or do we prefer other foods, so easily found elsewhere that have no nutritional value to us spiritually? If we want to truly know God intimately, we will only come to it by reading and meditating on His Word, especially on Jesus’ life and teachings.

What we think about is particularly important. The Apostle Paul tells us, *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

He also gives us really wise advice in Philippians 4:8, *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

Satan tries often to focus his attacks by poisoning our minds with thoughts that will weaken our defense with the toxicity of their suggestions. Let us also remember the words of Proverbs 23:7 *“For as one thinks in his heart, so is he.”* We must be constantly aware of this danger and always be ready to apply the wisdom that is given us in the scriptures above. It’s good to remember that *the battle takes place in the mind!*

Prayer is another powerful way we can keep our spiritual “immune system” in healthy condition. We are told in 1 Thess.5:16-18, *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* If we are in the mode of praying at all

times, then we have His power available to repel Satan's venomous attempts.

Worshipping our Lord will strengthen our immune system. Singing or listening to hymns of praise to our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus is another way to keep our spiritual "immune system healthy." We have a wonderful example in Paul and Silas after they had been beaten and cast into prison: *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening..."* No thoughts of pity, hatred or revenge, just praying and singing praises! In Psalms 105:2-3 it says, *"Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!"* A great reminder!

Having a grateful heart brings contentment and will also strengthen us. This was the Apostle Paul's defense against the onslaught of the devil in all his trials and persecutions. Paul's secret: *"For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"* (Phil 4:11-13 (ESV)).

Much more could be added to enhance this subject, but we will leave that for you as you ponder these thoughts.

E. Weeks

The light of God's Son in your heart puts His sunshine on your face.

Prayer connects us with the heavenly power source of life.

The more we are attracted to Christ, the more we are distracted by the world.

Expectations

This short article is intended to provide some food for thought, knowing that many may see things differently. Concerning the Lord and His promises, this article hopefully will shed some light on what we should expect and be seeking.

A wrong expectation can be likened to a team praying to win the game, without any regard to working harder than ever at practice to achieve that desire. In the Lord's prayer we read the petition, "*give us our daily bread.*" Whether this bread be literal or spiritual, do we have any doubt that it will require work on our part to achieve, even if it involves the work of begging on the street. This request in a prayer should really acknowledge our belief that it is the Lord that provides all things, thus demonstrating a sentiment of reverence and thanks for the blessings we receive. This thought is further born out when we read, "*forgive us our trespasses, even as we forgive those who trespass against us.*" (Mat 6:12) Here it is even clearer that the petition to be forgiven is conditioned on our doing God's will to be merciful ourselves (Lu. 6:37), Again, acquiring a blessing requires more than a desire, but an effort on our part to not only receive it, but more importantly, to properly utilize the gift once received. We need to be ready to receive a gift.

Although I know properly motivated, a dear brother I study with seems to be always asking for a greater measure of the Holy Spirit, even rightly quoting scripture, saying "*that ye have not, because ye ask not.*" (Ja 4:2) But what should we really be seeking? Although we read in Luke 11:13, "*If ye being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*" Think about this, if we had great means, would we shower our children with money and things not earned, that could then never be appreciated? Of course not, because we love our children, and don't want to spoil them. Even though it would be our desire to do so, be-

ing wise we would first teach them how to properly utilize and appreciate the gravity of such gifts before we fully grant them. Esau had an unearned gift of a birthright that he despised (not valued). Let us not despise the many precious promises given to us, by a lust for power and self-aggrandizement.

The scriptures clearly teach that we are the temple of God, a temple we should not defile or spot by evil works (1Cor. 3:16). Now by faith we rightly have the expectation of God's coming kingdom, and pray for it as a demonstration of our faith in God's promises, and not any dissatisfaction in His timing. Believing, should we pray for some standing in that kingdom, or a gift of greater power? The scriptures make it clear that such a desire is wrong, because it is focused on self, and not the will of God (remember the example of Simon who offered to pay for the gift of bestowing the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8)). When the mother of James and John asked that her two sons sit in positions of honor in the Kingdom, Jesus expressed not only did such positions require being found worthy, but that He had no part in granting them. Therefore, in all humility, let us pray for God's guidance in helping us do His will that we may be found worthy, and **ready to receive His gifts**, not being like the five foolish virgins who were not ready (Mat 25:12). Let us seek guidance that may include chastisements, that we be faithful and humble servants with a desire to always bring honor to God's name first, and not ours. Our Lord and Savior gives us the assurance that with obedience, both He and His Father will come and make their abode with us (Jn. 14:23). So let us in all humility strive for obedience, **and not gifts**.

In a similar matter, we read in Lu 17:5, "*And the apostles said unto the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'*" In response Jesus told them of the **great power** provided by just a speck of faith. He goes on to explain that if they, having a servant that worked all day in the field, when coming to their household in the evening, would they not expect that servant to first prepare the meal for them, before eating himself. Jesus con-

cludes in verse 10, “*So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*” So let us be humble, doing “what is our duty to do” with no expectations...as “*unprofitable servants,*” not asking for gifts, leaving it to the Lord’s great pleasure to grant them to those who are found worthy by His grace. Let us as humble servants set our sights on serving the Lord, by doing His will, by loving our neighbor as our self, demonstrating our belief that the Lord will indeed bless those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

Let us also remember that when somebody asks another for a gift or favor, even when one is happy to comply, does it not become more of an obligation than a free will offering? When we ask, let us not ask for ourselves, but rather to be a better servant of others. The Lord provided the admonition to first seek the Kingdom...to lay up treasures in heaven, and the Lord would provide for all our other needs, for He knows our every need before we ask (Mat 6:33, Mat 6:8).

So, let us give much thought before we ask, that we may receive. (Ja. 4:3)

J. DiCesare

*Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;
Keep me from any stain of sin just for today.
Let me both diligently work and duly pray;
Let me be slow to do my will, prompt to obey;
Help me to sacrifice myself just for today.
Let me no wrong nor idle word unthinking say;
Set Thou Thy seal upon my lips just for today.
So for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray,
But keep me, guide me, hold me, Lord, just for today.*

Just for Today – Poems of Dawn

The Biblical Jesus Christ

Jesus was the Alpha, the beginning of the creation of God and the Omega, the last of the Father's direct creation, Rev. 22:13 & 1:8. As the "Logos" or representative of the Father, He was a God, Theos, or mighty one, but not the God, ho-Theos, Jn.1:1 "all things were made by Him", Jn 1:14, "in the days of his flesh", Heb. 5:7, "He became poor", 2 Cor, 8:9, "lower than the angels, Heb. 2:9, as a servant, Phil. 2: 7, and a man only, Phil. 2.8.

While as a man, He did not have all wisdom, Lk 2:52, but admitted to the Father's greater power, Jn 14.28 and greater knowledge, Mt. 24:36. He also said that His Father had said that He would give His own personal glory to no one, Isa 42:8.

Jesus admitted that He and His Father were two separate persons, Jn 8:17-18. He also admitted that He did not possess the glory of the Father, Jn 17.5. Jesus expected the same unity between His true church and His Father, as existed between Himself and his Father, Jn. 17: 21-23. When Jesus died on the cross, He was completely dead, as though He had never previously existed in the flesh before, 1 Cor. 15:3, & Rev 1:18; then God raised Him from the dead. Jesus did not resurrect himself, Acts 2:24 & Gal. 1:1 Then God highly exalted His Son, Phil 2:9 to the divine nature, 2 Pet. 1:4 making Jesus the express image of God his Father,., Heb. 1:3.

We worship only the one true God, 1 Cor. 8:6, let us not violate the first commandment of the decalogue, Ex. 20:3, by embracing trinitarianism. Doctrinal teachings that teach that Jesus did not come in the flesh and came as anything more than a perfect man and or as a God Man, is of the spirit of antichrist, 1 Jn.4:3.

The spirit of antichrist, has dictated the doctrinal creeds of the apostate churches, Catholic and Protestant, or Christendom falsely so-called, Lk. 8:10.

May we always be clear as to the God that we serve, the three headed pagan God of Rome, the trinity, or do we serve the one true God of the Bible?

We serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, 2 Sam. 7:22, the Father of our beloved Lord and Savior, the Son of God, Jesus Christ whom we absolutely love and adore, Mt. 14:33; Mt. 27:43 and Dan. 3:25.

Christendom is not the kingdom of God's dear son. His kingdom is yet future, with His presence in his second advent, Rev. 20:4 and this scripture is not an idiom. We know with scripture certainty that Jesus' kingdom and his Father's kingdom is yet future because Daniel is not "standing in his Lot" Dn. 12:13 with special emphasis to verse 12 of this prophecy.

We must then ask, can we be at the end of Daniels 1335 days of years, always practicing to be students of prophecy, 2:Pet.1:19-21; Amos 3:7. Let us not place ourselves and others among those holy servants that our God installed as his chosen prophets, Deut.13: 1-3.

The criteria as students of prophecy is quite profound, prophecy is never fully understood, until prophecy has been fulfilled, Deut. 29:29

The finished mystery, Col. 1:26-27, is still in process, only then, will we be properly instructed by our beloved master and savior, Rev. 10:7 and Mt. 13:11. Because of the biblical Jesus Christ, we are so privileged by his amazing grace to even apply these lessons to the door posts and lintels of our hearts, Gen. 32:10

M. Hardin

Creating God in Our Own Image

The second commandment, which God gave to the nation of Israel was: "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 20:4-5). Though we, as Christians, are not under the law, this command is very relevant to us even today. None of us, to the best of my knowledge, has any desire to literally create gods or idols out of stone or wood. But I think that many of us are guilty of trying to create our own image of God.

For instance, in Michelangelo's famous Sistine Chapel painting, God is shown to be white and European, which, not coincidentally, describes Michelangelo himself. In ancient Greece, the gods Apollo and Aphrodite epitomize the Greek ideal of the beautiful body and intelligent mind which was so important to the Greeks. In modern times, the Old Testament images of Jehovah as a great warrior and angry judge have been replaced by those traits that our own society values. The average person in America probably pictures God as a loving parent or a tolerant forgiving friend. This says more about the qualities that we admire than it does about the nature of God.

For many people, theology is not the study of God so much as it is the re-creation of God. Instead of learning about God from the Scriptures, many try to decide who God is for themselves. And that is idolatry. For example, the Bible teaches that Jehovah is a God of justice. But many feel uncomfortable with that, so they ignore those parts of the Bible that teach it and emphasize only the loving aspects of God. But God is who God is. We can't create Him to be what we want Him to be. He is not the sum total of the values and prejudices of each generation. How could we depend on and trust a God who changes with the whims and beliefs of each generation?

What a comfort to know that the God that we worship is unchanging in His character! When Moses asked God what His

name was, He replied, "I am that I am." In Hebrew, this has a verb tense that includes all time – past, present, and future – so that God's name can actually be rendered, "I am who I am, I have always been who I am, and I will always be who I am." The God we worship is the same God that Abraham worshiped and the same God that Paul worshiped. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

God doesn't want to embody our values – He wants to transform them. Instead of making Him in their own image, God desires to remake us into His image. He challenges the world's ideas of what is good and valuable. Our society values self-reliance and strength, but God wants us to learn reliance on Him and humility. Our society values wealth and success, but God wants us to live simply and develop the qualities of love, mercy, and being willing to give our lives up for our brethren.

There is only one way that we can know what God is like. In John 1:18, we read, "No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, has made Him known." Jehovah God showed us what He is like when He sent Jesus to this earth not only to pay the price for our sins, but also that we might understand what God is like. Only God's Son could present to us the perfect image of Himself. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3). Everything Jesus said and did was a manifestation of His Father. Every miracle Jesus performed was a sample of what God can and does do. Even Jesus' greatest miracle, the raising of Lazarus, was but a foretaste of what God is going to do one day when He resurrects all of mankind.

Yes, Christ is the ultimate image of God. But, guess what? The Bible says that we, too, can be images of God as well. "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). If we are children of God, then surely we will bear His likeness.

D. Thorfeldt

Going Home

"So He brings them unto their desired haven." Psalm 107:30

The word *home* is among the finest words in our language. Indeed, someone once said that the three very sweetest words are *God, Mother, and Home*. That was one man's idea but there are other exceedingly precious words, such as *Jesus, Salvation, Faith, Hope, Mercy, Love*. But we are willing to admit the value of Home.

The great word *home* strikes a chord deep down in the human heart. Many of us first opened our eyes in an environment, which we soon learned to call *home*. That environment had associations and harmonies not found in the world outside, but it took experiences with life to fully impress this truth upon the mind so that we could sing from the heart, *"A charm from the skies seems to hallow all there, which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere."*

When we attain to manhood and womanhood how often do we think of home, and how well do we remember our first home-going after having been absent for a while. We had taken up the battle of life to make our own way in the world and now comes the summer vacation, and we are going *home*.

The telephone posts fly past as the train speeds by, but not too fast for us. Now we are at the station. Mother has been feeble, so she is not there but father is, stooped and not as spry as he once was, but he has a good hearty grip in his hand. There is no question about the fact he is pleased. We walk up the street of the old town. There is the white house on top of the hill. And who is that at the gate? We know without asking. It is mother, and this is one of the happy hours of her life. Yes, we are home, and all the trials and cares of the past year melt into oblivion while, for a few, short, blissful weeks we bask in the radiance of love.

How the soldier dreams of home the night before the battle, and how the sailor thinks of home when the billows roar and the winds have lashed to fury the raging main! And the question he often asks himself, *"Shall I ever see that home*

of mine again?"

Our Heavenly Home

How the Christian thinks of home on the great sea of human life, when the foam-crested waves mount up toward heaven and a thousand perils seem about to spring upon him! And why should he not think of his heavenly home? Many have thought of it and have thereby felt an inspiration that has assisted them in making good. Jesus thought of it, and we are told that He "*for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, scorning the shame.*" just how much he remembered of that former joy we are not told, but that he kept his eye on the goal before Him there can be no question. Furthermore, He held out the prospect of future bliss to His disciples, saying, "*In my Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also.*" How many weary pilgrims on life's rugged road have been cheered and encouraged by the music that has entered into their hearts from this mighty promise made by the Son of God.

We are not home yet. "*Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*" And "*we know that if the house of this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*" We should be getting ready for this heavenly home. We have been placed here to gain the necessary character development. The chief purpose of what we call *the truth* is to enable us to become acquainted with the Mighty One of the universe, and to establish connections between Him and ourselves. Every point of truth gained, therefore, should lift us to a higher level, making us more God-like.

And just what is the character of God? According to the Bible, it is *Love*; and divine love has been said to be broader than the measure of man's mind, and the heart of the Eternal God to be wonderfully kind. Well, we have been trying to gauge and measure His Love. A great many persons in so-called Christendom have set forth written or unwritten creeds, most of them having pretty high fences around them,

and in these creedal enclosures they have placed (as they suppose) the love and the wisdom of God.

But the Love of God cannot be thus circumscribed. God may be giving His favor to some who cannot see all points of doctrine exactly as we see them, or who express their belief in different terms. The question then is, should we condemn them for doing this and judge them as being *out of the truth?* – (Judges 12:6)

Another question is, *should doctrines be to us stumbling stones or stepping stones?* There is nothing that can make a person so narrow-minded and intolerant as religion *if received in a sectarian way.* Just think of the millions of persons who have been slain in the name of Christ! The knowledge of this fact should make us all very humble before the Lord, lest we be found in the company of persecutors of the saints. Of course, we would not want to be found in such company, but Satan is very artful, and if he can get us to judge others, doubtless he feels very much pleased with his success.

Our Home Qualities

The fact is that we should be developing *home qualities* if we expect to reach our heavenly *home.* We should be learning to live with all who love the Lord, in peace, charity, and goodwill. *There will be no judging among us in heaven. Then, why should there be judging among us here on earth? Why judge any man when we cannot read his heart? God judges according to motives. How many little points in the Bible has God left undetermined and therefore debatable simply for the purposes of testing our love.* Do we deserve a credit for loving those who agree with us in everything? Surely not; for such yes people are but the shadows of ourselves. Is it not a fact that some go about looking for their own mental reflection in all whom they meet? Yet, it is often persons who do not see things just as we do who are the most helpful to us, for they are more broadening to our minds.

Now then, do we want to be narrow or broad? The world

has two general classes, i.e., conservatives and liberals. One finds them everywhere. But did not Jesus say that the way is *narrow*? Yes, *but in what sense? In the sense that it bars out the world, the flesh, and the devil, but not in the sense that it bars out other Christians who are living up to the best they know and are seeking any enlightenment that God may have for them.*

How many of us will reach our heavenly home? All the Christ-like ones will be there. How little Jesus had to say along the *technical* lines of doctrine, but He had much to say about *faith in Himself*, and about *love*, for *He interpreted the entire Decalogue in terms of love.*

The Value of Doctrine

Doctrine is valuable only insofar as it makes us Christ-like, It has no value in itself as an abstract entity. Does it warm our hearts with a strong and ardent appreciation of the Master? Does it cause us to manifest greater kindness toward the brethren? If so, it is accomplishing its divine purpose. If, on the other hand, it is making us narrow, conservative, select, and selfish, then it has failed of its purpose, for we have not been using it in the right way. "If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Why? Because he lacks the home Spirit of love for others of God's chosen family.

God has set the members in the Body as it has pleased Him, *not as it has pleased us.* Oh yes, it is a fact that some do not appeal to us. If we were to select them perhaps they would not be in the Body at all. Being out of harmony with our own mental tendencies, these brethren jar against us. But God did not want a lot of people just alike, or those who would see things exactly alike. But does not the Word say that God's people will "*see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion?*" Yes! And they will do just that when this prophecy is *fulfilled and the wise virgins will make the types of the Old Testament conform to the teaching of the New, and not try to twist the New Testament to make it fit the Old Testament types.*

There will be some wonderful surprises in connection with our *going home*. Probably some will be there whom we considered heterodox and not fit to preach the Gospel while on earth. So, we did not support them as elders or teachers, although they possessed ability to teach and preach, and their lives were unimpeachable, but on some purely technical point of the Scriptures they did not coincide with our views, so we ruled them out. But the question arises that, if we acted in the aforesaid manner, *shall we be there ourselves?* It would seem not. This business of being a Christian is a serious matter. We do not dare to repudiate our responsibility to the other members of the Body. There are times in our experience, perchance, when we fancy ourselves on the verge of the broad ocean of eternity. Ere long the tide will come in and pick up our frail barque and carry us far away. But the stars will be there to guide us, and one glorious orb will outshine them all, and that will be *The Bright and Morning Star*.

Oft we find ourselves thinking of the ones whom we expect to meet in our heavenly home - the great Father and His Son Jesus, and a glittering throng of tried and faithful ones. Oh, loyalty, faith, and love will have achieved their crowning victory in that blessed morning when the portals of heaven open to receive us.

*When we go Home, shall the broad sea lie all at rest,
Or shall the breakers roar with riot of the deep, scorning
The voice of sleep; and thus 'mid billowy sound
Shall we go Home?*

*It matters not. That going Home will be the same.
The virgins will be there. God's loved, the true, the tried,
Bound for the other side, in robes of light divine,
Shall meet us in the air.*

*When we go Home, I think the ocean's mighty roar
Shall melt away in peace to lullaby of foam; and
Heaven's Gold shall glow in the vast vault, and so,
Born in eternity, We shall go Home.*

Walter Sargeant

A Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank Thee for our life,
Things both great and small;
We thank Thee for our health,
And watching over all.

We thank Thee for our bread,
Which propels our daily tasks;
We thank Thee for our shelter,
What more can we ask?

We Thank Thee for the day
With its sun so bright afar;
We thank Thee for the night,
With its moon and sparkling stars.

We thank Thee for the green,
So vital to our human race;
We thank Thee for all creatures,
On land, sea, and space.

We thank Thee for the water,
So precious to our needs;
We thank Thee for Thy Holy Son,
Who many pay little heed.

Forgive us, Lord, our ungrateful hearts,
Oft-times wrapped in something else;
Forgive us, Lord, our narrow eyes,
And thinking of ourselves.

Daniel A. Donnarummo

If we pause to think, we will have cause to thank.

Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up
past mercies.

Too Good to Believe?

“If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” This sound advice I have heard and given throughout my life and in a world where truth holds such little regard it is even more prudent advice today.

Christians have long been accused by many of “pie in the sky” thinking. (defined as an idea, thought or dream that is extremely unrealistic) This is no issue with me as I rest firmly upon the premise that “*with God all things are possible.*” Thus, to know that unbelievers find “The Good News” extremely unrealistic is not surprising. However, when believers and religious leaders find the Gospel of the kingdom “too good to be true” that is bewildering to me? It reminds me to never underestimate Satan’s deceptive powers and genius.

The love of God is great and far beyond the capacity of the finite human mind to fully grasp this side of the veil. However, we have one saint’s attempt to describe it in a hymn:

“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.”

Indeed “how measureless and pure”! (The Love of God) Thus we pray for our Heavenly Father to open our hearts and minds that our finiteness be reduced. We are blessed to see His love more fully in the face of One we can more easily grasp and relate to, our Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus came to earth to reveal and show God’s love for all mankind and reconcile all that was lost, back to God.

Acknowledging our finiteness in comprehending the vastness of God’s love, why is it insisted that God’s love, mercy, and grace stop at the end of this age? That God, whose desire is stated in 1Tim. 2:4 “*who desires all men to*

be saved and come to the accurate knowledge of the truth" will allow the vast majority of the creation He so loves and those for whom Christ died, to perish never hearing the name of Jesus Christ? This verse that says, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:12) seems to make the knowledge of God's love not only finite but minuscule. Is the gospel of the kingdom of God "too good to believe", that by Jesus Christ, God will have His way and His desire? Is that too good to believe?

At Christ's birth the angel announced: "*Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*" (LK 2:10,11) When God the Almighty proclaims "*tidings of great joy which will be to all people*", are we to understand that by "all people" He means a little flock whose eyes will see and ears will hear His glorious plan of salvation, only?

(1Tim. 2:5,6) "*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men the Man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*" Jesus Christ paid the ransom price for Adam's sin and thereby the price for all mankind. (Rom. 5:18, 1John 2:2)

When will those who were born before Christ or all the billions who have never heard the name of Christ, or all the world who have been blinded by Satan to the gospel message, when will be their "due time" to be testified to, happen? Surely showing a blind man or screaming at a deaf man "the accurate knowledge of the truth" would not fulfill God's desire. The "*good tidings of great joy which will be to all people*" is the same reason for the great expectation that all creation waits for, the revealing of the sons of God. (Rom 8:19 & 21)

"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God." This great expectation is neither for torment nor separation from God. "*because the*

creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

In the Millennial Age, the next age, all who are in the grave will hear the voice of the Son of man and come forth. They will be a part of the 2nd Resurrection, a resurrection to judgement. In death they have already been judged guilty as have all men. This judgement, that all will be raised to, is that of which Isa. 26:9 says, "*For when your judgements are upon the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.*" This will be the "due time", with Satan bound, that all men will be taught the "*accurate knowledge of the truth*" and righteousness, and will be given the opportunity to accept the grace of God offered in Jesus Christ .

With man, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. With God's Word if it sounds too good to true, you do not know the half of it. God's love, mercy and grace to mankind do not end with this age, in fact for most it has just begun.

B. Blake

If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free. John 8:31,32

DIVINE truth is never found except in the divinely appointed channels: and those channels are the Lord and the apostles and prophets. To continue in the doctrine set forth in their inspired writings, to study and meditate upon them, to trust implicitly in them, and faithfully to conform our characters to them, is what is implied in continuing in the Word of the Lord. If we thus continue in the Word of the Lord, as earnest and sincere disciples, we shall indeed "know the Truth;" we shall be "firm in the faith," and "able to give a reason for the hope that is in us," to "earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints," to "war a good warfare," to "witness a good confession," and firmly to "endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ," even unto the end of our course.

Daily Heavenly Manna

A Portrait of Jesus: The Eyes of the Blind Will Be Opened...



“When they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’ So they called to the blind man, ‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.’ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked him. The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’ ‘Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.” Mark 10:46-52

This is a fascinating story. Jesus and his disciples enter Jericho. Bartimaeus, the local blind beggar, starts persistently shouting “Son of David,” the phrase that is reserved for the coming Messiah. Jesus hears the cry of faith, despite the noisy crowd that surrounds Him and stopped dead in His tracks and said to the people to call him. Why didn’t Jesus go over to him, after all he is blind man, why call him to come to him? Bartimaeus throws off his cloak and runs toward the sound of Jesus’ voice. He threw off his only worldly possession...the cloak that kept him warm at night and where he would collect coins during the day. He leaves it behind; he won’t be needing it anymore. The Messiah spoken of in Isaiah has come, Bartimaeus believes it, his eyes will be opened. Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants. “Rabbi, I want to see.” Jesus simply tells him to go, his faith has healed him. He does not go though, he follows his healer.

Bartimaeus left behind his cloak and followed Jesus because he believed the mercy of Jesus would now cover him. He would no longer be a beggar, but a child of God. His blindness had turned to sight, his darkness to light. The healing that came from the faith of a beggar that everyone had walked past for years, would change the trajectory of his life forever. *“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened”* (Isaiah 35:3)...Son of David, have mercy on us all.

D. Mathewson

Children's Story Corner: Do Not Fear



Dear Ones,

These are scary times. With the pandemic and protests world-wide, it may seem like the world is falling apart and we will never have peace and safety again. Should we be afraid? Is there anything we can still trust? "Do not be afraid," "Fear not," "Do not fear," God tells us 365 times in His word the Bible. Do these words of encouragement still apply to us, or has everything changed?

You children, be as brave as David. This teenager stood alone against Goliath, the nine-foot-tall seasoned warrior of the Philistine army. David alone had courage while his own Israelite army was afraid to stand up to the Philistines. Mighty Goliath, with his spear, sword, shield, helmet, armor and javelin was no match for little David with a slingshot, five stones and the name of Jehovah. As long as we have God on our side, we have nothing to fear.

In the first century the world around the early Christians changed drastically. First, the Jews began putting them into prison and killing them. Next, the Roman government started persecuting Christians because they refused to worship Caesar, the king. These early Christians obeyed God, not men, when there was a conflict. They worshipped only God and Jesus, not Caesar. What did these first Christians do when their world fell apart? They kept on preaching about God's kingdom, healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing people sick with leprosy, and casting out demons, just as Jesus told them to do. (Matthew 10:7, 8)

But surely the disciples of Jesus "stayed safe." No, even after they were attacked by mobs, arrested and jailed, beaten and exiled, they were not afraid. They continued doing what Jesus told them to do. Paul is a fine example of someone who obeyed Jesus when Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the son and the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Paul traveled many miles making disciples and starting churches all over the Roman Empire. 2 Corinthians 11:23 lists the perils he

faced while obeying Jesus's command: prison stays, countless beatings, being lashed 39 times on five occasions, a stoning, being shipwrecked three times. He was in dangers from rivers, robbers, his countrymen and Gentiles. Paul was in labor and hardship, had many sleepless nights, was hungry and thirsty, in cold and exposure. Paul did not let fear keep him from doing what God said to do.

We can trust God to be near to us no matter how dangerous it is, as long as we are obeying His commandments. You children must obey your parents as God commanded, but you do not need to feel afraid. Psalm 23 says, "...Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

Please send your questions to the editor of this magazine. I am praying for you.

Your Aunt Nancy Shobe

A Rock of Strength

God is our helper in trouble and distress,
When storms are rising causing us unrest;
Clouds of gloom and darkness never seem to flee,
Though we carry burdens, we always look to Thee.

Though the tempest is raging and mighty winds will soar,
From the depths of the sea the oceans surely roar,
Though waves crash wildly, rising up so high,
And the mountains shake, rumbling to the skies;

Through all the tumult, God will stretch His hand,
The earth becomes silent at His great command.
He keeps us secure and strengthens our soul,
Sweet peace He gives, our fears controlled.

And to God's refuge, may we cling,
To our Rock of Strength, in praise we sing;
Let all the earth worship and praise,
The Almighty God for His wonderful ways.

by Alice Gmiterek Ryden

Placed Him in a Manger

"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

A humble beginning for the son of the Most High God...born in a barn surrounded by cattle. Have you ever been in a barn? They smell, they're dirty places, even the cleanest barn would be the last place I would choose to give birth to any child, but especially the son of God! Royalty sleeping on hay - what kind of entrance into the world is that for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Not the way I would have planned Christ's birth, but then again I don't have the wild imagination that God has. If there is one thing I have learned in this life it is that God's plans are so much better than any I might come up with. When you really think about how God's son came into this world you realize that Jesus' birth set the tone for His entire earthly ministry. On that dark mysterious night, the son of God tiptoed onto this earth while the whole world slept on unaware how important this day was to their salvation. Jesus was born to lowly, poor earthly parents. He was raised on the "wrong side of the tracks," after all, what good could possibly come from Nazareth. He grew to manhood knowing the pain of poverty and hard work. All this proved to sensitize Jesus Christ to the pain of the world around him. After all, He was the Savior of the world! He knew what royalty was and yet he left it to come to earth to save us and here he learned what poverty was also. He knew how to abound and how to be abased. He was a man of sorrows and was acquainted with grief. This is why he reached out to the poor and lowly, the outcasts of society. He stopped and healed the lepers and saved the prostitutes. He gave hope to hopeless people. That's what makes our savior so very special. He then ascended to His palatial home above, He took his place along-side His Father, the God of the Universe, and yet, He has not forgotten those He came to save, the poor and lowly of heart. He still reaches out to hopeless people, giving them new life in Him. What a Savior we have in Jesus Christ!

Quiet Waters Christian Devotions

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, Peggy & Russell – VT | Jones, Arlene - VA |
| Anas, Dan – FL (d) | Karavas, Anna - CA |
| Anderson, Family– WI (d) | Knapp, Jamie – NH |
| Andrada, Delores & Family – CA | Knapp, Joseph – IL (d) |
| Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d) | Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME |
| Boswell, Arlene – IL | Lepitre Family - IL |
| Buxton, Jean & Family - UK | Howes, Paul & Carla - UK |
| Carpenter, Gloria – KY | Kingsmith, Beresford - UK |
| Cline, Ruth – MO | Mazzotta, Eva – VA |
| Cooper, Carmela – NJ | Miller, Alain – Canada |
| Csutor, Judith – CT | Mitchell, Mitch - France |
| Day, Ronald – PA | Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA |
| DiCenso, Sabatino - AZ | Munoz, Sue - NY |
| Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA | Niewiemiński, Elaine – NY |
| Donnarummo, Dan – OH (d) | Orsburn, Judi – CA (d) |
| Duhaime, George & Family – CT (d) | Parker, Geraldine – CA |
| Dunn, Kim - IL | Penton, Jim – Canada |
| Fantuzzo, Tony – NY (d) | Phillips, Stella – OK |
| Feliciano, Carmen - NY | Riggio, Fran – NH |
| Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI | Rowe, Bryan - UK |
| Foster, Jean – IL | Schultz, Becky & Family – MN (d) |
| Gary, Inez – VA | Schwartz, Ruth – TX |
| Gmiterek Family (d) | Seminoff, Brenda – CA |
| Hauslein, Karen – MD | Thomassen, Sandi – NM (d) |
| Hawk, Barbara – PA | Tuscia, Priscilla – FL |
| Hildebrandt, Lois - FL | Trent, Thelma – FL (d) |
| Hogrebe, Joan – MO | Weaver, Eddie - NY |
| Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – VA (d) | White, Ken & Joan - NY |
| Iannaccone, Bob & Marie – IL | Wisdom Hezekiah Ikpo - Nigeria |
| | Zychal, Ruth & Craig– NJ |

d) = death in the family

Entered into rest:

Marion Ketco, MI – May 1, 2020

Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Websites

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



Africa

Basic Course - Peter Makali Wabwire, Uganda

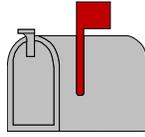
Ransom Course – Pastor Rogers Chuulu, Zambia

Notice: Bro. Allan Crawford of Aurora, IL, a CDMI Board member, has graciously accepted the job of managing the Bible Correspondence Courses and is currently organizing the files to carry on with this important work.

You are invited to view the following websites:

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)
<http://www.cbchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship in NH)
<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.homechristians.net> (Fraser Valley, B.C.)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.at> (Free Bible Students, Austria)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.org> (Mission Work Bible Students, Austria)
<http://bibelforscher.heimat.eu/> (Free Bible Students, Germany (English))
<http://www.softgrafic.com/bibbia> (Italian Bible Students)
<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News, Austr.)
<http://www.ebbereanos.org> (Berean Bible Students, Brazil – Portuguese/Span)

Letters from Our Fellowship and Readers



Correspondence between a brother in the U.K. and Bruce Blake of the Printing and Distribution Center may be of interest to those who prefer receiving the magazine over the internet.

Dear Br Bruce,
Christian greetings from the UK.

Perhaps you may remember my email earlier this year with reference to the New Creation magazine. I am emailing you now with further reference to the New Creation Magazine, which you have kindly been sending me for many years. I note the magazine is now sent me directly from the USA and not, as previously, via a bulk distribution from within the UK. In view of this I now have facility to print directly from my computer - hence capable of printing the on-line magazine edition. And I am pleased to let you know this has proved to be very successful. Consequently, please will you strike me off your mailing list. Thank you.

I was very shocked to read of the death of Mr. Don Orsburn, the Bible Correspondence Course manager. He has previously sent me certificates after my completion of the Basic and Ransom Bible Correspondence Courses. I am currently over half way through the Advance course. If possible, please pass on my sympathies to his family.

I do enjoy and find great blessings in the Bible teachings as delivered by the CDML. I thank God for that.

With much Christian blessings to both yourself and family,
David Owens

Dear Br. David (Owens),

Many thanks for your kind words and support of CDML. It is a help to our fiscal needs that you can get your copy off of our web-page and it is for this reason that we happily remove you from the mailing list.

Br. Don was such an energetic and enthusiastic servant of our Lord Jesus and CDML that it is hard to believe he had the health issues he did. I will pass on your sympathies to Don's wife Judi. Don would be delighted to know of continued advancement through the courses he was so dedicated to.

May God continue to shower His blessings upon you in your steady walk in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless.

Yours in Christ,

Br. Bruce (Blake)

Conferences & Conventions

Note: There is a dearth of physical conventions at this time due to the coronavirus. However, if you are having an online convention and would like to advertise it in the New Creation, please send full information to the editor at least 3 months in advance of your conference or convention.

Donations

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 CDMI.

Article Contributions

Please send articles for possible publication to Dennis Gorham,
4 Alicia Street Somersworth, NH 03878
email: dennisgorham@comcast.net

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.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of Jesus Christ. Father, though on the day you sent your son to this earth there was no room for Him at the Inn, may we make room for Him in our hearts. Though Bethlehem overlooked you, dear Jesus, we open wide our arms to embrace you. Thank you for coming in weakness and humility that we might know your strength and power. Thank you for the lessons you have taught us through your humble walk on this earth. Bless you, dear Jesus, for giving up your royalty in exchange for poverty that we might have life in You! Amen

Quiet Waters Christian Devotions