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"UNT0 Y0U IS BOR7 ....

"CHRIST ---- A SA7VIOUR"

"Christmas!"
What does it mean to you?
To some it means a long-awaited visit with children and grandchildren. To others; turkey, mince pie, and frosted cake. To the children; Christmas trees, hung-up stockings, "Santa Claus," and toys.

To the merchant, Christmas is a once-a-year bonanzo of profits. To the store clerk, long foot-weary hours of helping hurried shoppers. To the housewife it is a frantic weighing of gift-list with fami:y budget.

To Postal clerk and carrier, Christmas is a Niagara-deluge of cards and packages. To some it is a yearly license to "enjoy" a "Christmas drunk." To the careless and indifferent and un-saved, Christ has been dropped from the day, and it has become merely "X-mas."

To the Christian, "Chris·mas" is much more than a Holiday, a home-coming, a bounteous feast, toys, tinsel, and the exchange of gifts. To the born-again child of God, Christmas is a Holy-day, bringing to memory God's great love for man, and the most precious and costly Gift every given — His Son, Jesus.

At Christmas we re-live the story of the Shepherds and the Star, the Wise Men and their Gifts, the Angels' chorus, the Stable and the Manger, Mary and Joseph, and the Babe — Jesus Christ.

At Christmas we are reminded that through Jesus — His life, His love, His death on the Cross of Calvary — we have been Redeemed, Forgiven, Born-Again. We have been accepted as little children into the Family of Heaven. God is our Father. His love overflows our hearts. We love because He first loved us. We give — not to receive a matching gift — but because we love. We can sing with the Angels, "Peace on earth ... Good will to men."

And whatever the year ahead may bring: whether peace or war, life or death — we have the peace of sins forgiven, the joy of the Holy Ghost, and the hope of Eternal Life in Heaven with Jesus Christ. With Jesus, whose birth in a manager, life of obedience, and death of atonement, made it possible. What a Christmas Gift was He!

What does Christmas mean to you? Holiday, or Holy Day? Tinsel, Tired, Tipsy; or Praise and Joy over sins forgiven? Bright lights, gay parties, night-spots, and sin? Or Silent Night and hushed thankfulness for a Saviour?

Our prayer for you is that — because of God's Gift to the World, and your acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Saviour — This will indeed be for you a "MERRY CHRISTMAS."

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dennis

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." — Luke 2: 10, 11, 14.
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Mail Address: Box 2156, Capitol Station, Austin 11, Texas, U.S.A.

Editor: J. A. Dennis

"The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life. (John 6:63)

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**THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

We praise the Lord and you, for your wonderful response to our message in the October Texas Herald. Thank you for your encouraging letters. Thank you for your prayers for us and our ministry. Thank you for your lovely gifts.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, whose we are and Whom we serve, richly bless and keep and repay you bountifully, is our fervent prayer. May He bless your souls, heal your bodies, and multiply your gifts to supply all your needs in abundance, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

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**IF I AM FAITHFUL**

By KATHRYN BLACKBURN PECK

No gift have I to move the eager crowds;
My words are simple and my tongue is slow.
But I can speak to ONE about my Lord,
And, since I can I must; this truth I know.

He whom I love and whose I am spoke oft
To one alone. Did He not gladly tell
Of living water and redemption's plan
To one athirst who sat by Jacob's well?

Andrew, the fisherman, his brother brought
To Jesus in his humble, trusting way.
One convert his, but many came to Christ
When Peter preached—three thousand in a day!

And Phillip, Spirit-led, found one who sought
For understanding of an ancient scroll,
He showed to him the living, seeking Christ,
And brought salvation to a hungering soul.

Some may have many talents, I have one.
But that small gift I'll use till life is done.
Though I cannot win thousands, it may be,
If I am faithful, souls will seek Him one by one.

—Herald of Holiness

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May He use you in a greater way in His lovely service in those last days. May He use us in a greater way than ever, that Words of Life, Inc. and its message of Victory in Jesus—Absolute Victory over the enemy in the mighty Name of Jesus Christ—be spread far and wide, as an instrument for saving souls, healing sick bodies, and baptizing believing Christians with the Holy Ghost and fire.

Your gifts have already permitted us to:
1. Pay for the printing of the November and December issues of the Texas Herald. This is always a month-by-month effort of prayer and faith.
2. Make a part payment and start our printer on a second printing of "The Kingdom of Heaven" booklet, much used in Ghana in the saving of souls. Balance needed —$450.00.
3. Order half of the needed 100,000 "God's Eternal Life Insurance" policies, used of the Lord in soul winning in Ghana and all across America. Balance needed, $400.00.
4. Start our printer on 10,000 re-prints of "Go-Buy-Oil," much in demand by earnest Christians. Balance needed, $95.00.
5. Purchase stamps, and mail some accumulated packages to Ghana. Our postage bill is close to $75.00 a month.

STILL NEEDED: Funds for a second printing of "Elijah and Elisha," as the first printing is exhausted. Funds for a fourth and much larger printing of "The Holy Spirit," our booklet most in demand, by far, in these days of the moving of the Holy Spirit across the land. Your continued prayers for us and our ministry, that we may be drawn closer to our Lord and Master, hear His Voice more clearly, and obey more perfectly.

Your letters and your prayers have encouraged us to press on and to believe God for much greater victories than ever before.

Here is our Prayer Slogan, and our prayer, for you in the year ahead. Absolute Deliverance and Victory, through Jesus Christ and His shed Blood, His Mighty Name, and His Holy Word, from whatever sickness, circumstance, or defeat the enemy may have put on you:

"Absolutely Free in 1963!"

Say it! Pray it! Believe it! Claim it! Thank God for it!
In Jesus' Name,
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dennis

**WHY WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL**

Evangelist H. B. Mitchell

"Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED OF REVIVAL. In spite of tragedy, wreck and ruin; the broken homes, with sin that is rampart, our barren altars and our frigid services, we still wander on into a far country away from God, Holiness, the Bible and reconciliation, and we refuse to come to ourselves. Therefore we do not see revival.

WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE THERE IS NO HUNGER OR THIRST FOR ONE. Our fore-fathers saw revival because they thought the time of revival was the most important time of the year. Everything else was secondary, they purposely neglected all other form of activity but zealously labored to witness revival. The plow rested in the furrow, the binder was left in the field, but the meeting house was filled with consecrated souls and unabated action; the results were, they saw revival.

UNTIL OUR DESIRE FOR REVIVAL BECOMES AS GREAT AS GOD'S DESIRE TO SEND ONE, WE WILL NOT SEE REVIVAL.

WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT ONE. The Pastor knows he will get paid just the same if we don't have one; besides a real Holy Ghost revival might bring such a burst of emotion as would embarrass our better class of people who hold the purse strings in our church and may even drive them away. Besides, our lay members have too many irons in the fire already to give any more time than they have already allotted to the church. After all we pay our tithes and we are sat-
ished with our present status quo and we had rather raise a special missionary offering, enlarge our social program, or even build a more beautiful and comfortable edifice than to have revival, and if our pastor is discouraged we had rather raise his salary than have revival, because Revival stirs up too much emotion. We have a nice church now, filled with nice people, so let us leave good enough alone — and so we do not see Revival.

WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE DO NOT INVITE THE PRECIOUS HOLY GHOST TO BE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF OUR LIVES AND CHURCHES.

We refuse His searching, resent His probing into our private affairs and secret sins. We chafe at His reproof, hide from His light and we act wholly apathetic toward His leadings. Therefore sickly and barren, we hobble along our selfish ways, on our man-made crutches without Revival.

WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE ARE NOT WILLING TO CONFORM OUR LIVES TO THE TEACHINGS OF GOD'S HOLY WORD. We admit the Bible is an inspired Book, but many of its customs and precepts are out-dated and we find it extremely difficult to conform to them in our modern age. The Psalms are beautiful and Christ's Sermon on the mount formulates an attractive philosophy which we feel impractical in these days since higher education is more in general than in the days of Christ, and since we now possess the know-how, we do not need the well wishing or the favorite opinion of our fellows to survive as was essential in Christ's time. Therefore while we reject the truth of God's Holy Word to the past, we move on down the broad way of hopelessness without Revival.

WE DON'T SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE ARE NOT WILLING TO PRAY UNTIL IT COMES. Not that we are to pray to try to convince God of our lack and our need of revival, but we refuse to pray long enough until we sense the intermediate need of revival in our own lives; until the flood gates of Heaven open which will send turbulent waves of cleansing and glory into our souls, until our being is electrified with the mighty presence of God. Prayer is too hard for us, after all we pay the preacher, so we feel he should pray for us and we do not see Revival.

WE DO NOT SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE REFUSE TO GO GOD'S WAY. We understand God has a way, but to surrender our affections, ambitions, strength, and even our will to the Lord as some ministers declare we should, we think it fanatical. We see things different now, we think of God and of the Church as proper and pious influence toward helping us to formulate a moral standard and believe God expects us to make our own decisions in life and take the way that seems right to us. Therefore we proudly continue on down the broad way to destruction without Revival.

WE FAIL TO SEE REVIVAL BECAUSE WE REFUSE TO FORSAKE ALL SIN. It has been so habitual to sin until it is the norm with us. We are fully aware of the wrong in our lives, but isn’t everyone doing the same things that we do, if not worse? After all we do belong to the church and haven’t murdered anyone. Doesn’t the Bible say for all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God? Surely no one can expect perfection in this life. The brethren of our church work hard to provide for their families, they go to church and pay their tithes. I reckon if everyone lived as good as we do we would live in a much better world. So we continue to walk away from God in our filthy rags of self-righteousness and tragically without Revival.

—The Voice of the Nazarene

The successful runner in the ancient Greek games was not only the one who crossed the line in the shortest time, but the one who crossed it in the least time with his torch still burning.
—Claude A. Ries, Houghton College.

The KINGDOM of HEAVEN

By J. A. DENNIS

4. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SICK

"And Behold, there came a leper and worshipped him saying, Lord, if thou wilt (or if it be thy will) thou canst make me clean."

"And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will (it is my will); be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." (Matt. 8: 2-3)

COMPLETELY REDEEMED

Jesus, at Calvary, by becoming sin for us and suffering death in our place, redeemed us (all who believe on Him as Saviour and Lord) from the dominion of the devil. He wrested the devil's authority over man out of his evil hands, and restored man's dominion, which God had given him in the beginning, but which man had lost because of sin.

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." (Col. 1: 13-14)

Much of the recorded life of Jesus was spent in healing the sick.

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." (Matt. 9: 35)

When Jesus sent out the twelve, healing the sick was to accompany their preaching of the Kingdom.

"And as ye go, preach saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt: 10: 7-8)

When Jesus sent out the seventy, healing the sick was again to be an integral part of the Kingdom message.

"And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." (Luke 10: 8-9)

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven, He gave the early Church instructions, through James, for the healing of the sick.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5: 14-16)

(Teo Page 8)
BREAKING THROUGH THE BARRIERS TO A MIRACLE

A Story of the Triumphant Faith of Jesus

By LEO HARRIS

This is a story of the triumphant faith of Christ. It tells how His faith overcame every barrier and won through to a glorious miracle.

It sets forth some simple and intensely practical lessons of faith for us if we too would break through the barriers to a miracle.

For the entire story read John 11: 1-46, the record of the raising of Lazarus, whom Jesus loved.

The Hazardous Venture of Faith

Jesus was “beyond Jordan” when a messenger brought the news that His friend, Lazarus, was sick. Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus, had sent the word, saying, “Lord, he whom thou lovest is sick.”

Consider the immediate response of Jesus—a positive confession of faith and authority:

“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby” (verse 4).

This declaration of our Lord’s faith, however, was but the beginning of a long and hazardous journey of faith. Yet at the end of that faith journey we find Him standing at the tomb of Lazarus, still strong, positive, unwavering in His faith, and saying:

“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the Glory of God” (verse 40).

But before verse 4 and verse 40, between His first great confession of faith and His final appeal for others to join with Him in believing, were many hazards to be met, many barriers to be swept away:

Unlike the faith of many of us, Jesus had to break through the barrier of fear. Fear places the worst possible construction on every situation.

Yes, friends, fear jumps to conclusions—and always the wrong conclusions.

Jesus said “Judea.” The disciples thought He was going there for a miracle in our area, but the delay is our opportunity.

And how can we have a miracle-working faith if we are confused about the miracle we need?

If we have never come to Christ as our Saviour, then we are lost, and we need the miracle of salvation, the miracle of the new birth. Not just religion, or reformation, or turning a new leaf — but a miracle. The miracle of forgiveness, of peace with God of Christ indwelling our hearts.

If we are sick, we need the miracle of healing. Not merely comfort, or encouragement, or help — but a miracle. We need the healing power of the Lord to make us whole.

Let us be definite and specific. Let us name our needs, clearly and boldly.

Moreover, let us identify Satan as the author of sin and sickness, and torment.

We need salvation. We need healing. WE NEED DELIVERANCE.

Christ came into this world — not merely to encourage us, nor just to help us bear our burdens, nor simply to comfort us. He does all this, and much more.

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3: 8).

He came to heal “all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10: 38). Sickness is the devil’s oppression. But Christ delivers!

Let us be clear about the miracle we need!

Then Jesus Met The Third Barrier . . .

Qualified Faith!

Arriving at Bethany in the course of this faith journey to a miracle, Jesus was met by Martha.

The sister of Lazarus! Surely she would share His faith for a miracle! But did she? Hear her words: “Lord if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died” (verse 21).

Was she faithless? No! She was just conscious of the need and time, and knew that Jesus could come to save her brother.

Then Jesus said still, “Lazarus is dead.”

How ridiculous to think that Jesus would make this journey with all its hazards merely to awaken Lazarus from a siesta! How confused the disciples were about the real situation! They could not grasp the facts. They were hazy about the kind of miracle that was needed. How could they have faith in these circumstances?

The First Barrier Jesus Faced . . . Fear

When Jesus said, “Let us go into Judea again,” it was with the intention of raising Lazarus. He was going there for a miracle, for the glory of God.

But when His disciples heard Him say that, all they could think of was persecution, stoning, death and disaster. “Master,” they said, “the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?”

The mention of Judea raised thoughts of fear. They could not see a miracle because fear filled their vision.

Fear misunderstands every sign. Fear misinterprets every word, saying:

“Hasten and Go!” Kidnappers! Someone must have put this warning there! So we hastened and went, our push-cart touching the ground just now and again! Later, when the panic was all over, it was explained that those words were “Hassen and Co.,” land agents who were selling building lots in the area!

Fear misinterprets every sign.

Fear places the worst possible construction on every situation.

Yes, friends, fear jumps to conclusions—and always the wrong conclusions.

Jesus said “Judea.” The disciples thought of persecution, stoning and death.

Jesus said “Judea” because He was going there for a miracle!

He had to break through the barrier of fear in their minds.

We, too, must break through the barrier of fear if we would commence the faith journey to a miracle in our lives.

Then The Second Barrier . . . Confusion

Next Jesus explained to His disciples that Lazarus had died. He used the word “sleepeth.”

The disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleep, he shall live.”

Then Jesus said plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”

How ridiculous to think that Jesus would.

 Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand.

But — the passages that bother me are those I do understand. — Mark Twain.

PAGE FOUR
“God could have answered yesterday, but today it is too late.”

There is faith there, for sure, but a qualified faith. It is a faith qualified by an “if” of DOUBT.

Martha’s qualified faith would never have got Lazarus out of his tomb.

Your qualified faith will never give you the miracle you need.

Go back to the Word of God. God’s Will is in His Word. Know the will of God. It will settle all your “ifs.” Know what God WILLS to do and then believe that He WILL.

The Fourth Barrier was . . . A General Faith

By a general faith we mean a faith that is so general that it misses the particular. It is an unfocussed faith and cannot see the detail.

Martha exhibited this kind of faith when she declared: “But I know, that even now, WHATSOEVER thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee” (verse 23).

Martha, that sounds wonderful! So often people have declared: ALL things are possible!” Others have boasted: “I have great faith. I believe God can do ANYTHING!”

They believe in power of God in a theoretical sense. They have a DOCTRINAL faith in miracles. They believe all things are possible.

But do they believe THIS thing is possible? For a specific miracle we must have a specific faith.

Said Martha: “ WHATSOEVER thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.” But she didn’t expect Jesus to raise her brother from the dead!

She boasted of a general, wholesale faith — faith for all things — faith for anything — but not faith for the particular miracle she needed.

So Jesus sought to focus her faith to this specific need, saying, “Thy brother shall rise again” (verse 23).

Jesus hadn’t made this journey for ANYTHING, or for ALL THINGS, or for WHATSOEVER. He had made this faith journey for a definite purpose. He had faith to raise Lazarus from the dead.

My friend, what is the miracle you need? Do you have some “Lazarus” to bring out of the tomb? Do you face some difficult or impossible situation?

What is it? Name it. Specify it. Challenge your faith with it. Focus your faith on it. Nail your faith down. Not ALL things, or ANYTHING, but THIS THING I now believe God for!

Like Jesus, we must break through the barrier of a general faith.

The Next Barrier was . . . A Wrong-Tense Faith

“My brother shall rise again,” said Jesus. Martha replied, “I know that he shall rise again — in the resurrection at the last day.”

She believes now in the very miracle she needed, but not for now — for the distant future!

How amazing it is that many can believe in miracles that are past, or in miracles that are future, but for a present-tense miracle they have no faith.

People believe in the miracles of Bible days, and in the miracles of the future — the return of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the translation of believers, divine judgments, and so on — but their faith stagers at the thought of a miracle today!

Yet God has promised us miracles today. The gift of “the working of miracles” has been SET in the church (1 Cor. 12: 10, 28).

People will even talk about miracles of twenty years ago, of revivals they have seen in bygone days, but their faith fails before the challenge of a miracle today.

Praise God, Jesus Christ is the same YESTERDAY, TODAY, and FOR EVER.

To Martha He said, “I AM the resurrection and the life” (verse 25). Not I WAS, Nor I WILL BE, but I AM.

(Turn Page)
We need faith for a miracle TODAY.

Then The Sixth Barrier was Met ... A Comparative Faith

Some of the Jews standing by commented, "Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?" (verse 37).

They had seen other miracles. They had seen the blind receive their sight. Their faith was based entirely on the miracles they had seen. They compared the miracles they had hoped for with other miracles which they had seen.

Many are like that today. Their faith is based on other people's testimonies, or on a previous miracle they have experienced. Folk often say, "I believe God will heal me of this because He once healed me of something else." Others say, "Why didn't God heal this person like He healed that other person?"

Friends, this kind of critical, comparative faith is landing on a false foundation. We need fresh faith for each miracle!

We cannot base our faith on another person's testimony, nor on our own previous testimony. People can fail God and lose their testimonies!

Our faith must be firmly fixed in the unchanging Christ and in the infallible Word of God.

Some people have challenged us, saying, "You prayed for that person and he was healed, now come and get this person healed."

God doesn't respond to a challenge like that. He responds only to the challenge of faith . . . faith in His promise, faith in His Word.

Yes, my friend, you will need fresh faith for each miracle. You will need to go to God's Word afresh. You will need to turn to the appropriate promise for the miracle you need. You will need to meet the conditions afresh. Yesterday's faith will not do for today's miracle!

Jesus Berkas Through The Last Barrier ... Inactive Faith

The end of the journey. Jesus stands poised, ready for the miracle. Before Him is the tomb, with a stone standing against the entrance. This is the moment He has waited for.

"This sickness is not unto death," He had declared, "but for the glory of God."

This is the moment of God's glory! Logically He commands, "Take ye away the stone."

God will raise Lazarus, but we must remove the stone. We must do what we can do, but God will do what we cannot do. We do the easy thing, and God does the impossible thing.

Jesus was simply acting according to His faith for a miracle.

Suddenly, like a flash, Martha's hand — the cold hand of unbelief — is raised against the stone. She objects, "Lord," she says, "by this time he stinketh; for he hath been dead four days."

Jesus was ACTING His faith. Martha's faith was INACTIVE. She had a qualified faith, a general faith, a wrong-tense faith, and it faltered before the challenge to ACTION.

She did NOT believe that her brother would rise that day.

She had talked much about her faith. She had boasted that she believed ALL THINGS were possible. But she was unwilling to have the stone removed.

In spite of her claims, she did not believe for the miracle.

Friends, here is the final test of faith. James said, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2: 14-26). Or, as Weymouth translates those words, faith without corresponding actions is dead.

Let us not miss the miracle because we fail to take the last positive step of active faith.

Let us roll the stone away. Let us clear the way for God to work. Let us get ready for the miracle we need.

Turning to Martha with one final appeal has declared, 'but for the faith we need.

They are the demons obeying the will of Satan. Jesus healed all who were "oppressed of the devil." The word means "tyrannized." If you are bound by such works of the devil, you need a miracle of deliverance. You need complete faith in the Father, and complete authority over the devil and his power.

Christ has given you that authority. He has given you His name. He has defeated Satan and his evil hosts and has delegated to you the authority over all his works.

"Behold, I give you power (literally authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions (symbols of demon power), and over all the power (force, strength, ability) of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10: 19).

My friend, turn your eyes to the Father and speak to Him in the quiet, calm, confident voice of perfect faith. He will hear you. If you ask according to His Word, according to His promise, He will always hear you.

Then turn to the enemy. Face the open cave of sin, sickness and defeat. Speak with the firm voice of authority. Command! The enemy must give way. "Resist the devil and he will flee" (James 4: 7).

Lazarus came forth. He was struggling and hobbling along, bound hand and foot with graveclothes, but he was alive! They loosed him and let him go. A miracle of triumphant faith!

And your "Lazarus" will come forth from the cave of despair and defeat. Your miracle will come, for the glory of God! Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest BELIEVE, thou shouldest SEE the glory of God?"

—Revivalist, Australia
THE CONDESCENSION OF CHRIST

by Keith Munday, England

“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself” (Phil. 2:8).

We may never know what it cost the Lord Jesus Christ to visit our planet in the fashion of a man. His spotless Life spent among the fallen sons of Adam was not one humbling, but a series of humblings from Bethlehem to Calvary; and in His quest for the souls of lost humanity, every step was a step of condescension. “He humbled Himself” says Paul writing to the Philippians, and His first great humbling was shown.

By Becoming Man

“Found in fashion as a man.” Christ was the Eternal Son of God. He was deity. How can we find words to describe deity? We know that the three Persons of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are Eternal, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnypresent. We know that there are no limitations upon such Attributes; and Christ had shared this Glory from Eternity, yet on that first Christmas night the Unlimited One awakened one morning to find himself a lower order of creation, but who can measure his innermost soul upon itself humanity! He further humbled Himself and enters hearts that welcome Him.

A further step of condescension is seen by Jesus:

By Becoming a Nazarene

By Decree of Augustus, Mary and Joseph were brought down to Bethlehem for the Registration, thus fulfilling a 700 year old prophecy of Micah that “Out of Bethle­hem shall come forth a Ruler in Israel.” Afterwards the childhood days of Jesus were spent at His mother’s home in Naz­areth thus fulfilling another prophecy, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The name of Nazareth was rather notorious. No one seems to know why. Did some bad characters live there? Or was it a sleepy little place with no ambition and had never given any illustrious sons to Is­rael? Whatever the reason, the name always seemed to be used with scorn. Even the upright Nathaniel queried whether “any good thing could come out of Nazareth.” And later after the Church was formed, the disciples were dubbed “the sect of the Naz­arenes” (Acts 24: 5).

Yet Nazareth was never the same after Jesus had lived there! It ever after be­came the identifying name for the Son of God . . . Jesus . . . OF NAZARETH! It was “the formula” used by Peter and John at the Gate Beautiful when the man was healed. “In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise and walk!” There was no virtue in the name of Nazareth, but in the Name of Jesus, and now, owing to His association with it, even the lowly name of Nazareth was mentioned alongside the Mighty Name of Jesus!

Maybe your life seems like Nazareth. Dull, unexciting, having no life or purpose, but let it be known that Jesus is willing to come into that life and make it something beyond your wildest dreams. Such is the condescending grace of the Saviour, and all who have welcomed Him into their little “Nazareths” can sing “Oh the Grace that links Thy lovely Name with mine!”

Childhood gave way to adolescence and Jesus further humbled Himself:

By Becoming a Working Man

In the hidden years between childhood and His Ministry, there is little doubt that Jesus worked in ordinary labour. As every Jew had to be taught a trade, and Joseph his foster-father was a carpenter, it was most likely that of carpentry.

How wonderful to think that the Saviour knows the lot of the working man, knew what it was to earn his daily bread, to live in times when work was hard and when work was short! He did not seek exemption from daily toil, but days were filled with humble service by Jesus the Carpenter. How conscientiously He would have applied Himself to His task! Certainly the products from that workshop were well made! The cribs, the tables, the ploughs, and so many other things. And . . . while He was making these . . . somewhere, someone else . . . was making a Cross!

Thank God then we have a High Priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows our life in every part. Those Hands that were laid upon the sick, those Hands that took the little children and blessed them; those Hands that gave sight to the blind, and those Hands that eventually were pierced at Calvary . . . were the Hands of a working man! He humbled Himself!

But the supreme humbling came not so much at the beginning of His Life but at the end. Jesus humbled Himself to the limit:

By Dying on the Cross

“He humbled Himself and became obe­dient unto death, even the death of the cross.” He not only shared our life, He also shared our death. Not an ordinary death either but a violent one. How strange that He who had created all things and was the Prince of Life, should subject Himself to death! Yet through death He was to destroy him that had the power of death, that is the Devil.

When the Lord sent a message to the suf­fering Church in Smyrna, some of their members were being persecuted and martyred, He addressed them as the One who was dead but is alive again. He understood their experiences, for He Himself had passed through them. “He tasted death for every man” says Heb. 2:9. Not only physical death but also spiritual death, for in that awful moment on the Cross when God forsook Him Jesus was forsaken by all, and He experienced what spiritual death and isolation means. He humbled Himself! Let this Christmas time be a time of fresh val­uations of Christ’s humblings. He took our flesh, lived our life, died our death, and is now leading men and women to Glory. Will you not yield to Him, or if you are His, yield to Him afresh? “He who was rich for our sakes become poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich!”

—Redemption Tidings
THE KINGDOM

(From page 3)

After the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, the Lord worked great miracles of healing through them, showing that healing was not just for the time when Jesus was on earth.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.

"Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." (Acts 5:14-16)

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

"For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsy's, and that were lame, were healed, and there was great joy in that city." (Acts 8:5-8)

HOW TO ENJOY DIVINE HEALTH

How can we receive our healing, or enjoy Divine Health?

First, we must BELIEVE that it is meant for us, personally.

"And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened." (Matt. 9:28-30)

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matt. 21:22)

Second, we must dare to CONFESS with our mouths that we believe God will heal us or keep us well.

"Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whatsoever ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." (Mark 11:22-24)

Our faith never rises above what we dare to SAY or CONFESS.

"Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth." (Prov. 6:2)

Third, we must ACT our belief.

"Faith without works (corresponding action) is dead." (James 2:26)

Healing faith ACTS on God's promises. "Stretch forth thine hand." (Matt. 12:13) "Rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6) "Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed." (Luke 17:14)

Fourth, we must THANK GOD for our healing BEFORE it is in evidence, as proof that we BELIEVE it is coming to pass like He has promised.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most high: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Ps. 50:14-15)

Jesus thanked the Father for answering his prayer BEFORE He called Lazarus from the tomb.

"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus, lifted up his eyes, and said, Father I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

"And I know that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 11:41-44)

Fifth, we must be willing to learn and obey God's rules for health, for eating and drinking, for exercise and rest, and sleep, for renouncing resentment, anger and fear. To ask God to heal us or keep us well, while taking into our bodies things which we know are harmful, is a mockery.

"If thou shalt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exod. 15:26)

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (I John 3:21-22)

"But when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any." (Mark 11:25)

Sickness is ours because we have disobeyed one or more of God's laws, or because we have not believed God's promise to heal us, and have not claimed and enforced the dominion He gave us over the devil, the peddler of sickness.

Jesus said on the Cross, "It is finished." The work was done. Our redemption is complete. It awaits our claiming, by faith in God's promise and Jesus substitutionary atonement.

Health is one of the great inheritances of those who "see" and "enter" the Kingdom of Heaven.

"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us. " (Isa. 33:22, 24)

5. YOU HAVE AUTHORITY

"Then he called his twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:1-2)

The one characteristic of Jesus, above all others, that astonished the multitudes who flocked to see and hear him, was his AUTHORITY.

He SPOKE with Authority

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (Matt. 7:28-29)

He ACTED with Authority

"And he arose and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

"And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"
other, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4: 39-41)

He HEALED THE SICK with Authority

“I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

“And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.” (Mark 2: 11-12)

He CAST OUT DEVILS with Authority

“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out: Saying, Let us alone: what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

“And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had questioned among themselves, saying What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.” (Mark 1: 23-27)

He RAISED THE DEAD with Authority

“And he came and touched the bier; and they that bare him stood still, and he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

“And there came a fear on all, and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and That God hath visited his people.” (Luke 7: 14-16)

The devil DEFEATED

Jesus spoke and acted with authority over sickness, sin, devils and death, because He had defeated the leader and instigator of all these evils — satan himself — in the wilderness.

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

“Then the devil leaveth him, and behold, an angel stood ministering unto him.” (Matt. 4: 10:11)

Jesus laid aside his royal robes in Heaven, came down to earth to live and die as a man, and to defeat the devil and take authority over him, not for Himself, but for you and me — for everyone who would accept Him as Saviour and Redeemer, and accept His victory over satan as their victory, too.

He won — as He came to do — won an overwhelming and everlasting victory over our enemy, satan; in the wilderness, at every encounter with man’s enemy, at every sick bed, every demon possessed victim, every death-bed where He was called; in Gethsemane, at Calvary, and at the bursted tomb, He won Victory — Victory for you, Victory for me; Authority over the devil — Authority for you, Authority for me.

Ascending to the Father, He received God’s promise — God’s Spirit to dwell in man — and sent that Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that had dwelt in Him as He faced and defeated satan on earth, back to dwell in his disciples.

Disciples given Authority

The same power, the same authority, the same Holy Ghost, that descended from Heaven upon Jesus as He was baptized in the river Jordan, the same power and authority which He wielded over sickness, sin, devils, and disease, He sent back to infill his disciples, to empower them to do the job that He now turned over to them to do.

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endowed with power from on high.” (Luke 24: 49)

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost in all His fullness and power, the same Spirit that had infilled Jesus while on earth, came into the 120 disciples in the upper room, filling them with joy and love, authority and power. No longer were they cowering behind locked doors for fear of the Jews, (John 20: 19) Now they marched triumphantly out into the streets of Jerusalem, faced the hostile Jews, and with the Tongues of Heaven shouted the Victory of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, his ascension to the Father, his receipt of the “Promise of the Father” and his “shedding forth this which ye see and hear.” (Acts 2: 33)

Peter and John, filled with the Holy Ghost, spoke to the same man at the temple gate, with Authority — the same Authority Jesus had:

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk! ... And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.” (Acts 3: 6, 8)

This demonstration of authority astounded the people, even as had the authority of Jesus.

“And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.” (Acts 3: 9-10)

Peter’s Authority

Peter continued to SPEAK and ACT with Authority — the God-given Authority of the Holy Ghost.

“And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, sick of the palsy.

“And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. And all that dwelt at Lydda and Sarion saw him, and turned to the Lord.” (Acts 9: 32-35)

Paul’s Authority

Paul, after his conversion and filling with the Holy Ghost, spoke and acted with the same Authority that Jesus and Peter had.

“And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked.

“The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed.

“Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.” (Acts 14: 8-10)

Authority Available Today

This same Authority — this same Power that Jesus and Peter and Paul exercised — is available today. The Holy Ghost, like Jesus Christ, is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Heb. 13: 8)

Jesus has given this Holy Ghost Authority to those who will believe it, claim it, and boldly use it for his glory and the salvation of souls.

“Behold, I give unto you power (or authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10: 19)

“Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

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“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14: 12-14)

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16: 17-18)

This Divine Authority has operated in many of Christ’s disciples down through the 19 centuries following his ascension, and is operating in many evangelists today who are boldly preaching the Gospel and casting out devils in the Name of Jesus Christ, who has all power in Heaven and in earth.

Many Christians today think that they can do nothing, that to boldly claim and assert Authority over the devil, is not showing proper “meekness,” and that only God and Jesus Christ have power to command evil spirits and sicknesses to depart.

Jesus has all power. We, of ourselves, have none. But He has given us Authority to wield his power in His Name.

Not Power — but Authority

The traffic cop on the busy corner of a small Texas town has little if any “power” to stop a big Diesel truck which comes roaring at him. The officer may be small in size, he may not be armed except for a little whistle.

The truck driver is six foot four and weighs 225 lbs. and is “tough as a boot.” The big truck under him weighs 5 tons and can crush any man that gets in its path.

The truck driver might well laugh at the little man with a whistle trying to stop him and his truck at the intersection.

“Get out of the way, Copper, or I’ll mash you into the pavement, you and your whistle! You haven’t the power to stop me!”

But still the little man dares to stand in the middle of the street, hold up his warning hand, and blow his little whistle, in the face of the oncoming driver and his big truck.

And the driver puts his 225 pounds onto the brakes, the big truck grinds to a protesting stop, while the officer escorts some little school children across the street.

Why? Why did the big truck and the big driver stop? Because he saw pinned on the officer’s breast a little badge, the Badge of Authority. And that badge was speaking to him:

“You say we have no Power? Perhaps not, but we have Authority, given to us by the great State of Texas. Therefore we are not afraid of you, but you are afraid of disobeying us, and we COMMAND you to STOP, in the name of the LAW!”

And the truck driver stops.

Authority over satan

Does the devil frighten you as he comes roaring at you, with a load of sickness, doubts and fears?

Yes, he is big and ferocious.

“Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, whom resist steadfast in the faith.” (1 Pet. 5: 8-9)

“Seeking whom he may devour” indicates that he cannot devour everybody, only some — those who do not yet know their rights in Christ and their God-given Authority in his Name.

You say he is big and powerful and you are small and weak? And you don’t have power to overcome him or stop his attack?

But you have Authority — the Authority given to you by Jesus Christ, if you are his and filled with his Holy Spirit.

And back of you is all the power of Jesus and his shed blood at Calvary, all his power that defeated the devil in the wilderness, Gethsemane, the Cross and the empty tomb. All power in Heaven and in earth resides in Jesus. And He and His power are back of you, if you dare to raise your hand in faith, and shout the Victory in the devil’s face:

“STOP, in the NAME of the LORD JESUS!”

The devil may snarl and snap and gnash his teeth in rage at losing another victim, at meeting a “little man” he can’t “run over.” But if you boldly and confidently command him to STOP, he will have to stop. For he knows that Name, he has tasted defeat many times at His hands, and he knows you have Authority to command him in Jesus’ Name.

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4: 7)

“In my name shall they (who believe) cast out devils.” (Mark 16: 17)

“And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (Rev. 12: 11)

Yes, we “little men,” we Christians, we citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, have Authority over satan, over his sicknesses, diseases, torments, when we dare to boldly use and VOICE that Authority in Jesus’ mighty Name, knowing that Jesus Christ and all the Power in Heaven is back of His Word and us. And knowing that the devil is aware of this, if many of the saints today are not.

The Lord is looking for more “Heavenly Traffic Cops” bold and brave enough to take his little Badge of Authority and step out in the path of this “roaring lion” who is bent on destroying little children and older ones alike, and command him to “STOP, in the Name of the Lord!”

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4: 4)

“Verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matt. 18: 18)

“These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all Authority. Let no man despise thee.” (Titus 2: 15)

6. WEAPONS OF THE KINGDOM

“The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword.” (Heb. 4: 12)

Jesus instituted the Kingdom of eHaven in a world of violence where men must be armed or perish. When He fought wicked men, persecution, the hosts of evil, what weapon did He use?

First of all, He used the Word of God. Against the devil’s onslaughts in the wilderness, He put the enemy to rout with “It is written.” With these slashes of “The sword of the Spirit” which is the Word of God” (Eph. 6:17), He won the Victory, and the devil fled.

Jesus had a new technique for fighting evil and evil men, so recognized by his contemporaries as a method of dealing with others, as to be labelled the Way. He had a secret weapon.

There are three ways of reacting to the conduct of others. First, is the natural or human response: good for
good, evil for evil. “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” (Matt. 5:38)

Below this human plane of conduct is the sub-human or devilish way of dealing with others: evil for good; evil when no evil has been done to warrant or “justify” it.

But there is a third level of conduct which lies above the human, as the devilish lies below it. It is the Divine Level upon which Jesus lived and to which He calls His disciples. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus laid down some revolutionary rules of conduct for citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus said unto you, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Matt. 5:44)

“Resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.” (Matt. 5:39-41)

In other words, meet whatever of evil anyone may render against you, with a greater amount of good.

One does not pull off his coat and fight at the insult of a child. There is too much difference in size between the culprit and the injured one. One does not usually “beat up” the goggly “drunk” who curses him. There is too much difference in condition between the sober man and the one who “isn’t himself.” One does not plant doubled fist on the chin of a sharp tongued shrewish woman. She is protected by her sex. She is the symbol, though perchance at times only the snob of all, that is good and pure and holy. A mother does not give her son his “just deserts.” In return for his selfishness and ingratitude, she sews and cooks and scrubs for him, sits up for him at night, and loves him in spite of the depths of sin into which he has fallen.

These examples illustrate Christ’s Way of meeting evil. His bigness made his adversaries seem childish in their venom. His noble character had only pity for those who were “not at their best selves.” His strength and power and superiority made it not only uninvulnerable, but impossible, to strike again the one who struck, yet had the possible likeness of God within his breast. Loving more deeply than a mother loves her child, He would lay down his life to save a child of God.

Christians, in fighting injustice, frequently overlook the fact that Christ came, not so much dealing out justice, as calling for escape from just deserts by repentance. He came to reedom rather than to punish; to convert rather than convict, save others rather than save himself. “For I come not to judge the world, but to save the world.” (John 12:47)

What matter if He were a prisoner, or reviled, or forced to carry the pack of an arrogant Roman? What really mattered was that his jailer, his persecutor, his conqueror, was lord in sin. Could he hold him and set him free? If so, How? Repentance, to be real, must be voluntary. That ruled out winning him by force, by rendering him evil for evil. How then?

When they struck with force and evil, He struck back with his secret weapon: Truth and Love and an Extra Mile, and the impact of his power staggered them. He, like God, was Love. He loved them so much He could not lift a hand in retaliation, though they slay Him. Loved them like a mother loves her wayward son, though he flout that love. And slowly but surely it got beneath their skin. His weapon did not save his life. That life must be laid down as the clinching proof and nower of his love, and as the sacrifice that would set men free. And even as He breathed his last, He whispered, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

But Christ did not rely on love alone to overcome evil and win the world. He had sterner measures. Most people reject Christ’s methods because they appear weak and spineless: being pushed around, and suffering it in silence; being beaten and killed, and taking it all with a martyr’s smile.

Certainly Jesus was non-violent. He did not strike back in anger or in self-protection or retaliation, regardless of whether he or some other was the victim of injustice. But when He was unjustly condemned, persecuted without cause, and crucified without sin, neither did He take it passively, smilingly, and in silence. He drew His sword.

Jesus did not carry his weapon in a sheath by his side, bared his mouth. “And out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.” (Rev. 1:16) A weapon more powerful than retaliation, violence or passive suffering, is this cutting, two-edged blade of LOVE and TRUTH.

Love alone is apt to be soft and unjust. Truth alone is in danger of being harsh and un-merciful. But Love coupled with Truth is both kind and convincing, both just and forgiving. Jesus coupled the two for his power: “God is Love.” — “I am the Truth.”

Jesus coolly stated the truth about the situation, in the right in the matter, the injustice being done. If his accusers were hypocrites, He told them so. If they robbed widows, He calmly stated it. If they were blind, or mistaken, or fools, or wicked, He did not hesitate to say so. That is why they “Durst not ask Him any further question.” (Matt. 22:46) They dared not risk the cutting truth about themselves.

Jesus knew the Truth needed no further argument, is its own defense, able to stand alone against all enemies; that in the end, Truth must triumph.

We must be prepared for danger if we use this weapon. It is no accident that the handle of the sword forms a cross. He that takes up this blazing, cutting Word of His, truly obeys, “Take up thy cross and follow me.”

The Christian must tread softly here, first making sure that his own heart and life arc pure. (Matt. 7:5) Unless one wears the protecting “Breastplate of righteousness,” he dare not enter the arena with the sword of Truth, for it is a two-edged weapon. Once unsheathed, it cuts both the wielder and the foe, exposing the wickedness of both. It is the one thing the wicked cannot stand. As it cuts away their hypocracies and exposes their sin, it drives them to madness. That searching light must be shut off, that cutting sword must be turned aside, the one who dares to wield so sharp a weapon must be silenced.

Hence persecution is added to persecution, violence to violence.

Jesus did what most of us are afraid to do. He stood day after day, face to face with his accusers, unprotected except by his unspotted purity, unarmed but for the scintillating sword. With it He struck again and again at the sin in their hearts, seeking to expose and kill it, not them. The quivering flesh rebelled and fought the operation, but Christ, unwavering, held the point of the sword upon the point of sin. This is the sword He meant when He said, “I came not to send peace, but a sword.” (Matt. 10:34) The only way the Jews could escape its cutting edge was to repent, or to kill Jesus. They chose the latter, but that did not still the Sword. The disciples took it up. Peter wielded it expertly on the day of Pentecost, setting 3,000 free.

(Concluded next month)
THE TEXAS HERALD
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Return Requested

By J. W. Mellick, Wellington, Ohio

"I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ." — Eph. 3:1.

While it is true that the Apostle Paul as a prisoner of Rome was well acquainted with dismal prison walls and dangling chains of iron, we wonder if there is not a deeper meaning in his references to himself as a prisoner.

Perhaps these conditions, imposed by Rome and permitted by God, were but outward symbols of an imprisonment as real to Paul as the one involving stocks and chains, persecutions and sufferings. Paul was conscious of a blessed imprisonment the world knows nothing of.

CAPTURED

On the Damascus Road, laden with fetters and chains meant for others, the would-be captor was himself captured! His heart was fettered with truth concerning Christ! The soul of Saul of Tarsus was shackled to Festus and Agrippa. In reply to Agrippa's words, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian," Paul states that he wishes Agrippa and all that hear him that day might be as Paul, a Christian, "except for these bonds."

We would not believe that chains of iron held Paul "a prisoner of Jesus Christ." That which held Paul captive comes earlier in the same chapter. It was that commission and "heavenly vision" to which he was "not disobedient." Had those invisible chains not held him, there would have been no occasion for the others of which he spoke.

O that all of God's people were bound to Christ with the blessed chains of a clear, sharp vision and heavenly commission! How much a keen sense of holy responsibility and high privilege is needed today!

THE PRISONER

CONFINED

Walls of confinement, as well as chains, were the lot of the apostle, but again, these were in Paul's life only because of unseen, stronger walls. We hear Paul affirm this in writing to the church in Corinth. "For the love of Christ constraineth us . . . ." (II Cor. 5: 14). "Constraineth" is the same word which is translated "throng" as the multitude surrounded Christ and came against him from every side. Paul was "walled in" or confined with the overwhelming immensity of Christ's love for a sinful world! These thoughts thronged and pressed upon him.

Blessed are such limitations! It will confine us and limit us to those paths which are all-important in these days when we are tempted to stray from the appointed place of our calling.

CHASTENED

It is not easy to conceive of God stanching his "prisoner." We have taught ourselves that service to Christ should somehow immunize us from anything trying and unpleasant — from God, that is. From the world we easily expect suffering if we are faithful, but certainly not from God! When our Bibles lay open at II Cor. 12: 1-10, however, we see a different story. The Lord, having taken Paul into His confidence, revealing to him things of heaven not to be talked about, knew the danger of His servant's self-exaltation. God removed His sheltering hand to a degree, as in the case of Job, and Satan got the chance that he had probably been waiting for — a chance to buffet Paul.

In three earnest seasons of prayer, Paul sought God for the removal of this "thorn" but it still stayed. This "messenger of Satan" not only served as a deterrent to pride but it so thoroughly removed all self-confidence and self-sufficiency that there was room made for an abundance of God's grace to find a place for useful display. Had Paul been dependent upon natural abilities and favorable circumstances, God's grace would have gone begging for a place to show forth in its completeness. Paul came to welcome any adversity or impossible situation, no matter how unpleasant, because it made an obvious vacancy of human ability — a waiting void for God to fill.

When God needs a place to display His grace, whether it be power, or patience, or something else, He may make a place. He may permit Satan limited access "that the power of Christ may rest upon" so that when we are weak, we are really strong! A "messenger of Satan" may be the hand of God for our good and His glory.

CHOICE

The prisoner's choice is not his own, it is that of his captor; and this was Paul's experience as he moved in harmony with heaven. To him, any would-be "disappointments" were considered as "His appointments."

There is a motto which reads, "God gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him." Our sight is too short and our reasonings too inadequate to dare to choose, apart from God's will.

As we view Paul as a prisoner of Rome, let our hearts thrill in love to the Lord as we see the real imprisonment without which the other would not have been. Let us see the spiritual capture, chaining, confinement, chastening, and choices which made Paul so much at one with his Lord. And, reading again, "Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ," let us ask in all seriousness: Could I substitute my name in the phrase of Paul's in this phrase — "Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ?" —The (Methodist) Herald

LAWSYERS UNITE AGAINST PREACHER

(News as it might have been written if there had been newspapers 1900 years ago.)

Another professional group has come out in strong opposition against Jesus of Nazareth, alleged his bitter attack upon them last week here in Jerusalem.

The carpenter-preacher accused the lawyers of taking away the key of knowledge, of refusing to enter into his "Kingdom" themselves and of hindering those who would otherwise enter. "We woo unto you, also ye lawyers," he said, "for ye lade men with burdens too grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."

The legal profession is one of much authority here, powerfully organized and active in government and civic affairs. It was rumored late today that an active campaign would be waged to trip up and discredit this fiery orator, with several of their best speakers taking the stump against him.

The Jerusalem Herald, December 2, A.D. 29.

"First symptom of a sick Christian. Sharp pains when he opens his pocket-book to pay his tithe."

—Newcastle, Pa. First Wesleyan Meth. Church