"I WILL...

"BE THOU MADE WHOLE"

THE LORD HEALETH
(Exodus 15:26)

If you are bound by sin oppressed,
In search of freedom, peace and rest,
Turn from evil unto Me!
"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

There is deliverance at My door,
For heavy laden, sick and sore;
Believe and trust, you shall be free,
"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

While seeking aid from earthly source,
If nothing bettered growing worse;
Just test the promise made by Me,
"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Behold I make the lame to walk,
The deaf to hear, the dumb to talk;
The dead to live, the blind to see,
"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

You may be healed this very hour,
Through faith in My Almighty Power;
No ailment is too great for me,
"I am the Lord that healeth thee."

—Convention Herald

"Ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee."

Exodus 23:25
What About the Apostles?

Dear Brother Dennis,

I am writing to ask you if you will help answer a scriptural question for me. I can't seem to get any answer or light on the subject. I have just finished reading Foxe's book on Christian Martyrs—and he outlines the violent death of all the original apostles—except John. He says that John was thrown into a boiling cauldron of oil—but was miraculously unharmed, and so was sent to the Island of Patmos.

My question is as follows. In my own mind I can't reconcile their fate with what the Bible promises about divine protection, especially the 91st Psalm. Divine protection is true, and I know it, but what about the Apostles?

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If you have ever found some light on this question during your years in the Lord, I wish you would share it with me.

Thanks,
J. E.

God's Special Ones

Dear Brother,

I appreciate your question and will, with God's help, try to answer it. God's Protection, as outlined in the 91st Psalm, is true, and I have been enjoying that protection for over 30 years, as my testimony in the May, 1976 Texas Herald, "God's Holy Hedge", stated.

However, God has something better than His Protection for His Special Ones. Jesus laid down God's Protection, to die for you and me, and millions of others.

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Matt. 26: 53-54.

Paul gave up this protection for God's Glory and Service. "And when he (Agabus) came unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that oweth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we and they of that place besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21: 11-13)

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20: 24) "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1: 21) "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Tim. 4: 6-8)

Jesus knew what was going to happen to the Apostles. "But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony.—And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." (Luke 21: 12-17)

"Jesus saith unto him (Peter), Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God." (John 21: 17-19)

It seems like God separates the boys from the Men. He protects us little fellows (because we believe Him for it and ask Him to), and because we value that Protection more than suffering for His Glory, and being one of His Special witnesses. But Jesus, Paul, the Apostles, and many other martyrs since their time, lived so close to Jesus, wanted more than life itself to please and serve and live or die as a faithful witness, that they counted Protection as nothing—their Prize was to Please and...
Glorify Jesus, by their life and by their death.

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” (Rev. 6: 9-11)

“And they overcome him 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)

“Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Re­joice ye in that day, and leap for joy; for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.” (Luke 6: 22-23)

There is an old Saying, "The Blood of the Martyrs is the Seed of the Church."

God's Special Ones not only died as martyrs, they died triumphantly, even joyously, so that their death was an even greater witness to the Reality and Transforming Power of God, than was their life.

Sincerely,
J. A. Dennis

Houston, Texas

Friday afternoon, October 31st, Mrs. Dennis and I flew to Houston by Southwest Airlines, arriving there at 4:40 P.M. R. L. Littlejohn, Treasurer of the Houston Chapter of FGBMFI, with Mrs. Littlejohn, met us and drove us to the Brookhollow Marriott Hotel. Later, Brother Littlejohn took us to dinner at the Romana Cafeteria.

Saturday morning, Nov. 1st, in the Hotel Ballroom, I gave my Testimony at the Breakfast meeting of the Houston FGBMFI. Virgil Mott, Chapter President, presided. Before I spoke, Chris Panos and Bryan Rudd gave two fiery exhortations. At the close of the meeting, many came to be ministered to. It was a blessed meeting, especially anointed by the Holy Ghost.

At noon, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. Anderson, took us to dinner in the Hotel Dining room, then drove us to the Airport. We flew home by Southwest Airlines, arriving in Austin at 3:40 P.M., Praising the Lord Jesus for a brief but blessed time in Houston, with His people, and speaking in His Name.

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Dennis

America, Repent or Perish

This is a booklet we believe every person in America, Christian and non-Christian, should read NOW, in this Great Nation's most crucial hour, as she faces God's Judgment. We will send up to 25 of America, Repent or Perish, free and post-paid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's Glory and the Salvation of souls. This offer good only within the United States. Order From:

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PAGE THREE
I want to share with you this message entitled “Sound The Alarm!” Blow the Trumpet! The Time is NOW!

I have been in the ministry 31 years. In my early ministry, we would just see people doing bad things. We were always grateful for the laws of America, and as a Nation we still felt secure. We had a good Government that we were proud of. We had a Military force that was Number One, a Navy that was Number One, an Air Force that was Number One. We had fine leaders in our Government, though I didn’t like what some of them did. But it appeared as though things were still in good condition. And I used to warn people at times, “If things don’t improve much, some day God is going to cause His Judgments to come upon us as a Nation.” Well, I must say NOW that God’s Judgment IS upon our Nation, that the Grace of God has lifted from our Nation. We do not have the blessings we used to enjoy as a Nation. We are under the Judgment hand of God NOW. They have already begun. And I am also declaring and believing they will get much worse, before they get better, because God is attempting to get the attention of his people.

There are many of God’s people living in America. In fact, we are known as a Christian Nation. America was founded on principles of Jesus Christ, Upon God. Our fore-fathers, that began this country, were Born-again, Spirit-filled Christians. Beautiful men, beautiful people. That’s why we have the Constitution, based on the Bible, the Ten Commandments; the Bill Of Rights, based on the Bible.

But anybody that knows History, knows that nations can backslide, and become apostate. And then God’s hand of Judgment comes upon them, and allows millions of them to be destroyed. Great cataclysmic changes take place, earthquakes, storms, all kinds of things, when God becomes angry with a Nation that ought to know better. He will judge that Nation. We, as Christian people, ought to know better.

Other Nations that are non-Christian, from God’s view-point, are not a People. But people that are born-again, they are a People.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him that hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” (I Peter 2: 9-10)

God has written facts, truths, absolutes; they are in the Bible. Christians go by Truths, by the Word of God. What God says, we believe. Also we believe God has a right to tell us when it’s going to come to pass, before it happens. Judgments usually come, Primarily, to people that know better.

“Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.” (Zephaniah 2: 3)

This scripture indicates that it is the righteous people, the Godly people, the meek people of the earth, which have wrought his judgment. I believe that the Lord’s anger has been kindled, upon America, and Canada, North America, in fact over the whole world. But God doesn’t deal with just all the people of the world. He deals with people that have ears to hear, spiritual ears. We have a spiritual ear. God always deals with his people through Prophets, through his Seers.

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” (Amos 3: 7)

Before God ever does a cataclysmic thing in a Nation that is going to involve human life, He first reveals it to his prophets. His prophets tell his people, because God’s people have a spiritual ear to hear, and can prepare themselves. Because God will always have a remnant. He will always have a People. No matter what happens, God will spare and protect his own. God will have a People. Hallelujah!

I believe, because of the sins of our Nation, that the Judgment of God is upon us. I want to show you some things that have been happening lately, that have been quite unique.

The Sunshine Skyway was recently run into by a huge ship, over 600 Feet Long. It was coming in in the morning, and a little freak storm came up. The ship’s pilot had gone through that channel before with ships. He was trained to know that when a storm comes up, you don’t let your ship go under the Sunshine Skyway. You anchor farther out, and wait until the storm goes by, then go through. But this storm was only a few clouds. It was very black, and it came up suddenly. It was close enough to the ship, but he thought perhaps it was fine to just go on through. But when he got close to the bridge, a tremendous gust of wind out of this little storm, just twisted the hull of the ship to the side, and into the bridge, and destroyed a thousand feet of it. Thirty-five lives were lost. A whole Greyhound Bus of people dropped 150 feet from the highest point of the bridge, right down into 40 feet of water.

But it was a storm that caused it. We could say that the devil did it. But the devil can’t do a thing except our Heavenly Father allows him to. And God is a jealous God. And God, first of all, when his judgments begin, is merely trying to get our attention. That got my attention.

This summer we have been hearing of violent, unusual tornados. Four tornados dipped down together in Grand Island, Nebraska, and wiped out 50 city
blocks, destroying hundreds of homes, and some were killed. Many were injured. But two hours earlier, the same night, two or three of the same kind of tornados dipped down in Western Pennsylvania and destroyed a swath of homes, and people were injured. It seems that recently, when storms come, they break records of doing more damage than normal. They are more violent.

The most recent hurricane was Hurricane Allen. It was estimated the strongest hurricane in a century, in the Caribbean region. The second strongest, in the Atlantic Ocean, having 185 miles per hour wind. And it was on its way to go into Texas. But Praise God, for God's people that prayed. That storm was stopped, right off the coast, and it wound down to 100 miles an hour wind.

Some people are giving the credit to the fact that a weather-forecaster said by his radio, "Everybody has gone out of the city, it's all deserted, and the storm is right outside on the ocean." And he was going to have to leave. His last words were, "God have mercy on us!"

Many Christians believe, because those words were heard from coast to Coast, through our Media, that it honored God to such an extent, that He had to back up the words of that weather-forecaster. I believe the Texas coast might have had 200 miles an hour winds, just tearing up in shreds, those buildings. But because there was a Texan who said, "God have Mercy on us!" and all America heard it, God had to back up that statement, like a prayer, along with other prayers.

The Christian leaders in America, are honestly believing that God is attempting to get the attention of the American people. Russia keeps saying they are going to take over the world. They keep believing they are going to conquer the U.S.A. And a lot of people in America are saying, "Don't worry. Let's just hope it won't happen to us. We are Special, and God won't let anybody hurt us."

But why is God upset with us? I became upset when I learned something about one of our laws in America that we have permitted. And it came to pass in 1973. I was busy in the work of God at that time, still am. I wasn't worried about politics. I wasn't worried about the laws, too much, because the lawmakers in Washington make the laws. That's what they are elected to do. But I discovered that their laws can affect my life-style. They can affect my standing before God. I learned something else. I learned that God can judge you as an individual, and He can also judge us as a Nation. And what I'm speaking about tonight is that God is judging us as a Nation. And we Christians are going to be in the middle of God's Judgment, because we are Americans. I want to prove that to you.

The most heinous sin, I believe that America has permitted into its laws, is the sin of permitting our mothers to murder their babies before they are born. In God's sight, that is one of the most horrible, horrible sins of murder. And when I learned that there were actually 800,000 of these officially recorded in the year of 1979 in my country of America, 800,000 murders by their mothers and American doctors helping to do it, that was something. And I learned, at the rate we are going the first months of this year, we are going to have in 1980, at least One million two hundred thousand more of our American children murdered by their mothers before they are born. And American laws are permitting it.

But to make it even worse, how you are involved in this, and how I am involved in this, is that our Government has been permitting the funding, the payments of these murders, with Federal Tax money that you and I pay. Your tax money and my tax money is paying for these murders. Our Government uses Christian's money to commit these murders. I'm involved. When I realized this, I tell you, I really became aware, I am guilty. I am guilty before God. In fact, every American is guilty. I don't care how holy you say you are. You may think, I wouldn't do that. But I can't help it, because I live in America, because I'm an American. God is going to judge this country as a Nation, as a people. The whole country is going to have to suffer and pay a penalty for these heinous sins that our Government has allowed. Did you know that we are the first nation in the history of the world that, as a Government, has passed laws to permit this violent holocaust? Did you also know that since 1973, statistically-wise, there have been more than Six million murders, by our own Government? Which is as strong as Hitler did when he murdered those Jewish people in those gas chambers. From God's view point, we are just as guilty, just as evil, and just as violent as Hitler was. And do you think we are going to get away with it? We are not going to get away with it. God is angry. I'm going to prove it to you, that God is angry. And the American people must hear this. I didn't know this until just last week that it has been officially estimated that Six million have been destroyed in America, since 1973.

Why do I say that abortion is murder? They say, it is just a Fetus that they are taking out of the woman's body, they are not a human being yet. I want to prove to you from God's Word that abortion is murder.

"Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jeremiah 1: 4-5)

Jeremiah, as a Prophet, said these words under the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God, "Before I formed thee in the belly, I Knew thee." A Fetus is already formed, there is a formation in the woman's body.

Do you know what I believe? When God begins to know about your life? He knows you the moment the sperm and the egg came together, just one more blob, your whole future, your whole destiny, was known by God. That is when you are a human being, according to the Word of God. It is in the seed.

Did you ever see a corn kernel? Well, you plant those seeds. And it does not look like a corn stalk at all. But in that little kernel is the whole destiny and the future of a full-grown corn stalk, with several ears of corn on it. Every seed is that way. And when the sperm and the egg from the father and mother come together, at that moment they begin a new life. That is when you are known by God as a future being. If it was true

Gerald Derstine was ordained a pastor in 1951 at the Strawberry Lake Mennonite Church in Northern Minnesota.

In 1954 he witnessed a Phenomenal outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their Mennonite community which led him into a new ministry of teaching and ministering to all Christians on the Holy Spirit.

Gerald Derstine is an internationally-known teacher and evangelist, conference speaker, and author. He is at present heard across the nation through his television and radio ministry.

He is the Director of Christian Retreat Conference Center in Bradenton, Florida, and Christian Retreat Campgrounds in Ogemea, Minnesota.
with Jeremiah, it has to be true with everybody. God knows the person before they were formed in the belly.

We wonder how many of God's Prophets have our American laws permitted to be murdered before they were born? With our money, my money, your money. We are all involved in this. We are guilty before God. We permitted our lawmakers to pass laws to allow women to choose to destroy these human beings, before they are born, with your tax money, my tax money. You think that's nice? That's ugly. That's a horrible sin, and God is angry at us as a Nation. We should know better. But a lot of us were busy in 1973, including Gerald Derstine. I was busy. I didn't know they were fooling around with laws like that. And here, seven years later, we are hearing statistics of all these murders our Government has been allowing and funding.

We have a pornography explosion in America. It's pathetic the magazines you can pick up on the newsstands in our country. And consequently we have an immoral condition like this Nation, or, I guess, any Nation ever had, except Sodom and Gomorrah. Who would have believed that we have lived to see that kind of a day? I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw what was allowed on Television.

I am just giving you some reasons why the Judgment of God is on our land. And consequently we have an why the Judgment of God is on our land. Sodom and Gomorrah. Who would have had any more on Television. You don't hear that anymore on Television. You don't hear that any more on Television. You don't hear that any more on Television. You don't hear that any more on Television.

They do not want this new generation to know that. They want you to only believe that you are a Democracy. Here is why, when they can convince you, brain-wash you, through all the Media, that you are a Democracy, then what the majority of the people want, we will make that kind of laws, instead of the old Constitutional Law. Our American Constitution was based on the Word of God. Our Godly forefathers built this nation upon the Holy Scriptures.

The Television Media and News reporters are the false prophets of our day. I do not mean their individual lives. But they are teaching you and giving across Television, the spirit that is behind them. Don't become caught up with only what they say. They are bent on brain-washing you and destroying this Nation. Perhaps they, personally, are not, but the spirit behind them is.

We in America are guilty, also, of a life style of waste. We waste food like no other nation in the world. We waste material things. We throw things away. We buy clothes and throw them away before they are worn out. Most of the world is unclothed. Most of the world goes to bed hungry. We waste time. We have many people in America who have lots of time on their hands, but all they are doing with their time is looking for pleasure. We are not concerned about the needs of hurting, crying, starving, unenlightened people. We have the means, we have the time, but we are wasting it. God sees this. We even say we are Christians, but we have no burden for the lost.

But God looks upon the masses, the billions of the world out there dying, and we, a few people in America, have all kinds of things, but we are not using it for the Glory of God. We are using it for ME. Me feels good, me is comfortable, me wants to stay comfortable. God is going to take care of that matter. He is going to take it away from us.

There is still time to change, and I'm going to prove that to you. That's the object of this message, that we can still change God's mind. I believe we can.

Unless God's people once again get awake, and begin to look to God, we've had it, as a Nation. We are going to get the same doom as other nations that left their God. I can cry this way and speak this way, because I know we still have hope. I must do this, because I know what I am talking about, I know what God is going to tell us as American people. And somebody has to sound the Alarm.

God has gotten my attention. Everywhere I go now, I am giving this message once, so I will not have this nation's blood on my hands. I am going to do my best. I have made a special Telecast already, on all my T.V. stations. I made radio broadcasts. I am trying to get the word out to all Americans. I wrote a personal letter to Billy Graham, and also to Bob Shuler out in California, to Jimmy Swaggart, to Rex Humbart, to Oral Roberts. To all these men that have Television ministries. Also to Jerry Falwell. Asking them to judge this matter, about what God is showing us. And I am going to tell you what God is showing us we can do. God's Spirit and Grace is still with us. I want to show you what to do.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7: 14)

"If my people", We are God's people, we know it. "If my people shall humble themselves." The question is, how does a person go about humbling themselves? That is a very difficult thing to do, to humble yourself. It is not so difficult when someone else humbles you, or to allow God to humble you. But did you ever stop and think how a person goes about humbling himself? If you do that literally, if you humble yourself, you are going to have to make yourself do something you don't want to do. You must commit yourself to willingly do something you don't want to do to yourself. That's humbling yourself.

II Chronicles 7: 14 says, "If my people, which are called by my Name, shall humble themselves, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways." But, you say, "I don't know if I'm doing such a wicked thing." Yes, but you are an American, a part of this Nation that God is angry with. Every American needs to hear this, because every American is involved, I don't care how holy you are. You may call yourself Holiness, you may call yourself a Saint. You may say "I haven't sinned for ten years." But you are still an American citizens, and you are guilty, because God is going to judge the nation, as a Nation. I am going to tell you how you can get out of it, if you are seeking God.

The other day at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, May 19-20, 1980, approximately 800 or more ministers gathered together. Jamie Buckingham was the Keynote speaker. And the first thing he
started telling the ministers was, "I believe America is in Judgment, that God is angry with our Nation." I was stunned, because I already believed that, too. Only a few weeks earlier, I became aware of that. Only not as definite as it is now. God is angry with us.

Jamie Buckingham went on with his message, saying, "I do not believe we Christian leaders and ministers, have a right to declare anything to God's people, except you have first experienced it, and have proven it. Then you can share it. We are in a perilous and serious time in our history. And unless you know what you are saying, don't declare it to the people, to confuse God's People."

When he was saying that, it came to my attention about a certain thing, as a Mennonite Pastor in 1954, that I asked my church in Strawberry Lake, Minnesota. I was hungry, really seeking for revival in our church. And I read in some History book, that the early Christians would not eat until the ninth hour of the day, on Wednesday and Friday. They would not eat until 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. They did this all the New Testament days. It was a Jewish custom, but they all followed that pattern.

I said, "I feel that God wants to give us a Revival, we need a Revival, but I believe we need to meet further conditions for it to happen. How many of you are willing to fast Wednesday and Friday till 3:00 in the afternoon?" Almost everybody raised their hands. And in the whole year of 1954 we did not eat breakfast or lunch on Wednesday or Friday. And I got discouraged about the early part of December of that year.

I said, "But in America, we are willing to fast Wednesday and Friday until 3:00 o'clock, but in America, we are not willing to fast Wednesday and Friday that long."

Then I said, "But in America, we would have a difficult time finding enough ashes." I was making a little bit of a joke out of it. "How are we going to get ashes enough for all of the people that live in the cities? They don't have any ashes, they burn electricity."

But the next morning the headlines of the Asheville Newspaper said, "Ashes Over Asheville". At the very time I was saying, "there isn't enough ashes available for the Americans", was the time when that big cloud of ash that came from Mt. St. Helen's, covered two-thirds of America, and it was just covering Asheville at that time that evening. And it was all over Asheville the next morning. You think that was coincidence? No way. God was letting us know that He will provide the ashes for the Americans.

I didn't really know if that was of God or not. I was not a speaker. I was there on the Program Committee. And I thought, "Well, God, if you want me to say this to the people, you had better give me the opportunity to say it." And, sure enough, the very next evening, I was given the opportunity. Jamie Buckingham came to me and said, "Brother Derstine, do you have anything to add?" I said, "Yes, I do think I have something to say."

As I was sharing this word with them, about my gleanings of Washington for Jesus, and about what we did in Minnesota, as Mennonites, I made a statement also, that in Bible days, when people were asked to humble themselves, like in Nineveh, they were asked to fast three days and three nights, with no food and no water. And all the animals, also fasted three days and three nights. And the King was to fast in ashes, and the people were to put on sack cloth in humbling themselves. Then I said, "But in America, we would have a difficult time finding enough ashes." I was making a little bit of a joke out of it. "How are we going to get ashes enough for all of the people that live in the cities? They don't have any ashes, they burn electricity."

But the next morning the headlines of the Asheville Newspaper said, "Ashes Over Asheville". At the very time I was saying, "there isn't enough ashes available for the Americans", was the time when that big cloud of ash that came from Mt. St. Helen's, covered two-thirds of America, and it was just covering Asheville at that time that evening. And it was all over Asheville the next morning. You think that was coincidence? No way. God was letting us know that He will provide the ashes for the Americans.

Did you read about the ashes falling in Portland, and all the big cities out West, and some of them in the North West? In Deuteronomy, Chapter 28, Moses lists the curses that will come upon the people, if they do not walk with God, once they have known God, but back-slide and don't walk with God anymore.

"And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron."

"The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed." (Deut. 28: 23-24)

"For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her in-
crease, and set on fire the foundations of the Mountains.” (Deut. 32: 22)

Geologists have told us that Mt. St. Helens had an eruption from as deep down as 60 miles in the earth. From 60 miles deep, the earth belched, and blew out a cubic mile of the top of the mountain, and scattered ashes all over America. It crossed the Atlantic Ocean over into Europe. This has been the most violent erupted volcano in the history of mankind. God is getting the attention of the whole world through this volcanic Eruption.

“But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God: to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.” (Deuteronomy 31: 15-21)

Jeshurun means Israel. Israel means the anointed of God. God's people. And I see America in here, that America waxed fat and kicked, “They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods . . . They sacrificed to devils, not to God.”

In America right now, we are having a terrible plague of witches, and satan worshippers, sacrificing animals to satan. Do you think that is going to go un-noticed by God?

God said, “I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be; for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.”

In our public schools for many years now, they may not pray, or pray the Lord's Prayer. We have a whole new generation of Americans that have no faith, no faith in God, totally heathen, intellectually heathen. Now God is speaking against America, in all these verses. God is angry with this very proud generation. God is going to get our attention. The time is NOW for repenting and asking God to forgive us.

Now, I want to tell you again what you can do as an individual. I want to give you again Zephaniah 2: 3:

“Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.”

I want to be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. His anger has begun, we see it functioning now. But He said you could be hid, peradventure, perhaps, you will be hid. That is, if you pursue righteousness and seek meekness.

At the Ridgecrest Conference, we were admonished by the leadership there, to tell our people two specific reasons why we need to humble ourselves by fasting and praying. That DOES humble a person. Most Americans can miss one meal, and not mind it too much. But most Americans feel two meals in a row, and then twice a week, that is a lot worse. Most Christians want to be liberated, set free, so that God controls their life. That your body doesn't control you, but you control it. Start with one meal a day, then two. You will have a good feeling of accomplishment. It's very healthy for you too, physically.

You may begin to wonder, “What am I doing this for, anyhow?” You are doing it because God wants us to humble ourselves. “Do I have to do this?” That is, if you want America to be healed. A lot of people do not think Americans are going to do this. The majority are going to be too proud. I am not too sure about it, myself. But I am hoping there will be enough people that will humble themselves, that God will still spare us.

We have hope that the Godly people will do this. Because we have an interest in our next generation. I have children, and I have grand-children, and I want to see them enjoy freedom in America, without an Anti-God Government. I am going to do my part, for my children's sake, for my grand-children's sake, for my neighbor's sake, and for God's sake.

The second reason for this thing of fasting and praying, is this: We ought to fast and pray, not only to humble ourselves, but to Prepare ourselves. Prepare ourselves! Why? Here it is, Hallelujah!

“For when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” (Isaiah 26: 9)

Isn't that neat? You should not be afraid of God's judgments if you know why they are happening. If you know what to do, when they are happening. Seek righteousness, seek peace. God will hide you. He will protect you individually. I believe we are going to see the judgments of God, with these eyes, in our nation. We are going to see many people suffer and cry out. Already, we are seeing it, in these storms. But I have been warning the people all over America, that the storms are going to be more violent from now on.

The heat wave in Central United States, bleached out thousands of acres of crop land, caused millions of chickens to die from heat exhaustion, and many cattle had to be slaughtered prematurely. They say that the Nation was able to weather this bad season, because we have had a lot of surplus food for this year. But they tell us, there is no surplus for next year. And if another famine or heat wave hits next year, like we've had this year, that we will not have enough food to go around. And it would begin famine for our country, and much worse for the rest of the world. We have to really trust that God is going to hear us in our humbling ourselves, before another year rolls around.

What is beautiful, is that the Prophet Isaiah says: “When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” We believe that when the judgments increase, the people that are in the valley of decision, are going to start calling on God. And they are going to do it by the millions. So much so, that there will not be nearly enough pastors, ministers, to be able to answer their questions. God needs millions of Christians to get themselves prepared NOW to know how to answer these people.

I was always preaching that there was going to be a great Revival, prior to the Lord's return. I didn't want to think it

(Continued on Page 9)
PAUL--The Defendant

By J. A. Dennis

A frank attempt to learn from Paul how Christians should face the problems of today.

As we retrace these thrilling journeys with the world's greatest interpreter of Christ, shall we not see more clearly the way our steps should go, and take courage in knowing that, once, a MAN so closely followed the Son of God?

(Continued from last Month)

Jesus was so concerned that men should make Heaven, that He urged them to take desperate measures, if necessary, to escape Hell.

"And if thine eye offend thee (cause you to sin), pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9: 47-48)

Jesus said the worm, or man's soul, was going to happen through judgments, but I can see now, that God can cause the judgments to increase, to accelerate. But He always gets his Word out to the Church, first. You are the Church. We are part of the Church. And God's people can prepare themselves, first. They get built up with God.

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have Boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." (I John 4: 17)

God has a people that will have an ear to hear and listen. He is going to cause our love to be made perfect. You people that fervently pursue God, and become built up in the love of God, will have peace in the midst of a storm. You will have the anointing to speak to the storm and command it, in the Name of Jesus, to divide or go another direction. Because, as Jesus is, so are we in this world. Was Jesus able to still the storm? And so are you.

If you seek righteousness, if you seek meekness now. If you humble yourself in fasting and prayer, and ask God to reveal to you, to build you up in his faith, He will keep you, He will give you boldness in the moments of Judgment. Hallelujah! You will find yourself singing. And when other people will be saying, "What am I going to do?" You will just be calm, because the love of God is already perfected in you. So don't count it man, it is just God. Just hold steady man, and "In the Name of Jesus I command you to part;" I believe it. Some of God's people already did that to Hurricane Allen, off the coast of Texas.

The next verse says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." (I John 4: 18) You get built up in God and you become fearless, peaceful, you will be understanding, you will have wisdom, you will know what to do.

The people that are not built up in God are going to panic. They will say, "I've got money, I'll pay for it." But money won't buy it. Only God will do it. Just speak the Word, show them the peace in your heart. That is why you are so fortunate to be pursuing God, right now. The very best investment anyone can make right now, is to seek God with all their hearts. Don't seek more investments for your money, use your money to do things for God, right now. It is so vitally important to really pursue God, to get close to God in these days.

Psalm 25: 9 says, "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." Again, it is the meek people. Meek means teachable. The teachable people God will guide during his judgment. He will guide us. I want to be led by God. I want to be led by Him.

Father, help us to understand this. Help us to be willing to prepare ourselves for the great Awakening, the Great Revival, that will be coming in the midst of Judgment. Father, we don't want to see Judgments, but if that is the only way you can gain the attention of the people, that are self centered or selfish, and are not following in your way, I ask you, Lord, Let your will be done. And help us to be ready and prepared, and capable of handling it, where we live. Father, I ask that your Word become alive to our hearts. I ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.


For the complete message on Cassette tape, write to:

CHRISTIAN RETREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER
Rt. 2, Box 279
Bradenton, Florida 33508

PAGE NINE
but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3: 16, 18)

“Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God . . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3: 3, 5)

HOW BE BORN AGAIN?

If you are lost, there are some things you will need to Believe, Some things you will need to Say, and some things you will need to Do, before Jesus can save you.

1. Believe

You will have to Believe that the Bible is God’s Word, and you will have to Believe what the Bible says about you, and about Jesus.

You will have to believe that you are lost, a sinner. For until you recognize that you are lost, you would not think you need to get saved. God’s Word says until men accept Jesus as Saviour, they are all lost, including you.

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God.” (Romans 3: 10, 23)

Then you will have to believe that Jesus is the One, and the only One that can save you.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”. (John 14: 6)

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Except Jesus)” (Acts 4: 12)

Then you must believe that Jesus was born of a Virgin, born of God, not of man, and truly the Only Begotten Son of God. Read Luke 1: 26-38, and Matt. 1: 18-25) For if Jesus was the son of man, a Carpenter, He could not save anybody from their sins.

You need to believe that Jesus died in your place, on Calvary, and that He rose from the dead, and saw and talked with His disciples. For his resurrection was the clinching proof that He was God’s Son.

“And if Christ is not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.” (I Cor. 15: 17)

The Virgin Birth could not be proven, it was a secret work of the Holy Ghost, known only by God and Joseph and Mary, and believed by few, if any, at that time. “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mark 6: 3)

But Jesus arose and appeared to his disciples, after that to over 500 people, and later to Paul. They saw the nail prints in His hands, the scar in His side. This was final proof that He was God’s Son, and risen, just as He had said He would.

But, you may say, “We today can’t know for sure that the Bible is true, that Jesus really rose from the dead. How can you prove it?”

You can’t prove it, before you are saved. After you are saved, born-again, you will have the proof in your heart.

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” (1 John 5: 10-12)

2. Dare to Say

“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” (Mark 8: 38)

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 10: 33)

“Both if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10: 9-10)

3. Dare to Do

A. Repent. Turn around. Renounce your sins. Ask God for Forgiveness and Mercy. Ask Him to take that sin out of you. The first Word that Jesus uttered when He began his ministry, was RE-PENT!

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt. 4: 17) “Repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1: 15) “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13: 3)

B. Come Boldly. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4: 16)

C. Be Baptized. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall not be damned.” (Mark 16: 16)

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2: 38)

CHAPTER 22

PAUL AND PRAYER

“The morning is the gate of day,
But ere you enter there
See that you set to guard it well,
The sentinel of prayer.”

—“The Sunlit Way”, Ernest C. Wilson

Where did Paul get the strength, the faith, the courage to do the things he did? To say that he was a strong man with strong convictions and strong character, is not the answer. There have been other strong men, not one ever measured up to Paul in his zeal, his love, and his power. No one ever so truly interpreted Christ’s words or reflected His Spirit. How was this made possible?

Paul caught the secret of his Master’s strength. He knew and practiced the power of prayer. We have left this topic to near the end, not because it is least in importance, but because it is the key to all that has gone before.

Prayer was an integral part of Christ’s life and of His teaching. Cut out the pages on which the power of prayer is portrayed and there would be little left of the New Testament. Prayer is mentioned 82 times in the Gospels, 30 times in Acts, and 47 times in Paul’s Epistles.

Before Christ began preaching He spent forty days and nights in the wilderness with the temptations incident to His ministry. Before choosing His twelve disciples He ascended a mountain and spent the night in prayer. He gave thanks for the loaves with which to feed the multitudes. He prayed for the disciples
at the last supper, He prayed in Gethsemane before His trial; prayed for His crucifiers from the cross, blessed the bread at Emmaus after His resurrection. Throughout His life He did not argue the power of prayer, He demonstrated it.

The twelve, seeing the vast difference between His life and theirs, traced His power to His life of prayer and came asking,

"Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

He instructed them to "pray always," to "watch and pray" lest they enter into temptation, and if they would do miracles, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matt. 17:21)

At the center of the Sermon on the Mount He gave them the pattern of prayer, the Lord's Prayer. At other times He gave them the requisites of prayer: forgiveness to others, reconciliation with those whom they had offended, brevity, secrecy, perseverance, faith in God, and obedience to His commands.

The disciples learned well their lesson after failing their Master in the Garden. From the day of His ascension until Pentecost they "All continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14) They were united in prayer when the Holy Spirit filled them. Released from their first imprisonment,

"When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

Never again were the disciples afraid. They knew and used the secret of Christ's power.

Until Christians again learn how to pray, in secret and in little earnest groups, the world cannot be saved from sin, and its mania of self-destruction. God has chosen to work through human means. But man's wisdom alone is not wise enough, man's love too selfish, man's faith too frail, his courage too weak, to do the work that must be done. He must have the added wisdom, love and bravery of God. And how can he gain these except through the one means God outlined for communion with His throne? That way is prayer. If you do not pray then you are not a Christian. The church was born in a prayer meeting and without prayer it will die.

Christ knelt and prayed, and when He rose and walked the power of God walked with Him.

"Lord, what a change within us one short hour
Spent in Thy presence will prevail to make!

What heavy burdens from our bosoms take,
What parched grounds, refresh as with a shower!
We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;
We rise, and all, the distant and the near,
Stands forth in sunny outline brave and clear;
We kneel, how weak; we rise, how full of power!
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or, others, that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overcome with care,
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee!

—Archbishop Trench

Paul learned early this secret. His was not an easy conversion, an instantaneous change, as some suppose. He was for three days in darkness, and during those three days he fasted and he prayed. (Acts 9:9, 11) As Jesus had spent forty days of fasting and praying to gain the Godly strength for His role as Saviour, so Paul spent three days of fasting and prayer to gain the Godly strength necessary for his lesser role. And he did not cease to pray with his conversion. He went immediately into Arabia, it is thought, for more meditation and prayer before he began his ministry. (Gal. 1:17)

Paul's call to leave Antioch and preach in Asia Minor and Greece came as he and others at Antioch fasted and prayed. (Acts 13:2-3) His ministry at Philippi was begun in prayer. (Acts 16:16, 25-26) Paul's farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus was sealed in prayer, (Acts 20:36) also at Tyre. (Acts 21:5)


In his letters to the churches Paul continually urged the Christians to pray. "Pray without ceasing." (I Thess. 5:17) "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." (Col. 4:2) He often told of his prayers for them. "Wherefore also we pray always for you." (II Thess. 1:1)

Yes, Paul knew what Jesus knew, what the world has largely forgotten. These things could not be done by man alone. He must have the strength, the wisdom, the courage, the power of Almighty God. And how obtain those things? There was only one way, through prayer. Somehow in habitual and ceaseless prayer there was the fusion of God's spirit with his spirit. God's thoughts became his thoughts, God's wisdom his, God's will his will, and God's power his power.

If the obstacles were too great and faith not strong enough for the task, and prayer did not bring the strength needed, then a more drastic remedy was brought into play. This, too, Paul learned from Jesus.

He fasted.

"This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." (Matt. 17:21)

Jesus knew that at times prayer alone was not enough to enable man to face victoriously the problems of life; at times it takes fasting, self-denial, voluntary suffering. So Paul fasted "often." (II Cor. 6:5; 11:27)

He fasted as he waited for sight to his eyes and light in his soul. (Acts 9:9) He fasted as he dedicated himself to the mission fields (Acts 13:2-3); he fasted as he ordained elders in the churches (Acts 14:23); he fasted when in deadly peril at sea (Acts 27:21, 33-36); he recommended fasting as part of a temperate marriage relationship. (I Cor. 7:5)

When dangers and doubts were large and decisions important he added fasting to his ceaseless prayers. He knew, as did Jesus, that only thus at times can fears be stilled; only thus can the call of the flesh, the voice of self, be silenced, starved into submission, so that the still small voice of God can be heard.

Here is a lesson, a truth, a power, a command that we modern Protestants
have overlooked. Why? Have we become such gluttons that we cannot miss even one meal, let alone fasting for one whole day or for several? Is our belly our ruler as Paul said of some? (Rom. 16:18; Phil. 3:19)

Paul knew that:

"The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Gal. 5:17)

Therefore he said.

"Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one wins the prize? That is the way you must run, so as to win. Any man who enters an athletic contest goes into strict training, to win an award that will soon wither, but the one who competes for will never wither. So that is the way I run, unswervingly. That is the way I fight." (Gal. 5:24; 6:12)

As I attend meetings of ministers and see the bulging waist lines, the flabby muscles, the soft bodies, the results of rich eating and little exercise, I wonder what spiritual power can be expected from their pulpits. One of the most deadly temptations of the man of God is his appetite. Wherever he goes he is offered the best in the house, specially prepared "for the minister." It takes more courage and will power for the average preacher to eat lightly, to do less than has full justice to a meal upon which some lady has lavished unstinted care, "just for him." Yet one can hardly expect a minister who has dined sumptuously with some of his well-to-do parishioners to rise and preach very strenuously against the evils of wealth, of indulgence, of greed, or to very sincerely expouse the cause of the poor, or very effectively call to a life of temperance and self-denial.

Fasting was an integral part of the prayer life of Jesus and of Paul. It is an integral part of the New Testament Scriptures. Was it intended to be ignored? We call men to repentance, to worship, to prayer, but never to fasting. We strive to win them by luncheons and suppers and banquets, by "feasting" rather than by fasting and praying.

Very few groups today, including the Pentecostals, could build a new church building without putting in a kitchen and dining room. They must have their upper room, rather than the disciples' upper room. Hear what Paul said:

"What? Have ye not houses to eat and drink in? Or despise ye the church of God and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not." (1 Cor. 11:22)

If the argument is advanced that Jesus feasted with His disciples and with Publicans and said His disciples need not fast as long as the Bridegroom was with them, as recorded in Matt. 9:14-15), let it be said that He spoke of the disciples, and stated that the days would come, "then they shall fast." It did not keep Him from fasting, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Jesus had done most of the fasting necessary for His own life at the beginning of His ministry, forty days and nights in the wilderness. Ever after His body was in complete subjection to the Spirit. For Paul that could not be true to the same degree, hence he must fast more frequently if for lesser periods, to let the Spirit rule. The bridegroom was not with Paul in the flesh, nor is He so with us. The days of fasting had come again.

Today a world gone mad with the lust of the flesh, the lust for material things, is finding a fast being forced upon it. We who would not voluntarily fast and pray must now fast and pray.

Paul had the secret of his Master's power. He had crucified the flesh, the Spirit ruled.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do

mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Rom. 8:13) "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." (Rom. 8:37)

He travelled light, as did Jesus; few possessions, few wants, few appetites.

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice." (Rom. 12:1)

Someone has said that every genius has first broken the bonds of appetite and sleep. If one would be a saint, I would add a third, sex, which completes this trio of the flesh, of animal existence.

When this trio is harnessed and disciplined to serve man, and not to rule, to help but not to master, when they are man's slaves and he no longer slave to them, then indeed man becomes a king.

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty: and he that ruleth his spirit then he that taketh a city." (Prov. 16:32)

When these are imprisoned a man is free; when these are surrendered the Spirit is victorious, when these are conquered God can rule.

The fires of passion, the heat of anger, are cooled by fasting. By fasting one comes into fellowship with all the poor and hungry of the world. He begins to understand the voluntary suffering of Jesus for others. He can understand what Jesus meant when He said:

"They which do hunger and thirst after righteousness . . . shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6)

When one wants righteousness as much as he wants food when fasting, he will attain it.

Paul had conquered his body and offered it as a temple for the Spirit's dwelling.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16)

Keeping that temple holy enabled the Spirit to rule his life un-diminished.

Paul the Defendant was Paul the un-Defeated, because Paul the un-Defiled.

Continued Next Month