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J.A. Dennis

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"AND FOLLOW ME"

"TAKE UP THY CROSS"

ALONE

It is human to stand with the crowd, it is divine to stand alone. It is man-like to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is God-like to follow a principle, to stem the tide.

It is natural to compromise conscience and follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.

Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves.

Abraham wandered and worshipped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion, and fed the flames.


And of the lonely way His disciples should walk He said: "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, He said: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The Church of the Kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets.

The Church of Caiaphas praised the prophets and persecuted Jesus. The church of the popes praised the Saviour and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, both in the church and the world, applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness to truth today.

Wanted, today, men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fortune and friends and life itself.

—Selected.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9: 23.
A New Loan Cassette

Our latest Cassette, "Seven-Wire Fence Around Hell", is the message I recently gave at The Church of Glad Tidings in Austin. It includes an invitation to accept Jesus as Saviour, an Invitation Hymn, and the closing remarks and prayer by Brother Tommy Thompson, Youth Pastor. We pray the Lord Jesus will use this message to save souls, for His Glory.

J. A. Dennis

PREACH THE WORD

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." (Eph. 5: 6)

A minister friend has said that he has been shown, through prophecy, that men and women in these days would be engulfed in confusion. This seems to have come to pass.

Men and women are confused because some ministers are confused. Men today are preaching, not one doctrine, but many; not one religion, but many; not one Christ, but many different interpretations of Christ.

Some are preaching that their present bodies are immortal, that they will never die, or their bodies will not suffer corruption. Some are preaching that there is no God but Jesus, that to pray to God is like praying to an idol. Some are preaching that, regardless of what sin a Christian commits, he will be saved, he is eternally God's child if born again. Some are preaching that God has given them a "new revelation" about dress and jewelry and pride that annuls and renders void the New Testament teachings on the subject.

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Some are preaching that Russia is going to invade America, some that she is going to invade Palestine, some that Jesus is coming soon to catch away His Bride, the Church, before the tribulations begin. Some are preaching that there is to be no Rapture of the Church, that Jesus has already come, and dwells inside the believer. Some are preaching that there is no Hell, that everyone will be saved.

Many, though not all, of these strange and confusing teachings are coming from men who profess to be in "this" new move of God" that some call "a New Revelation," some "This Revival," some "Latter Rain," etc.

But all come from men or women who profess to hear direct from God, words not taught in His Word.

Many folks are elated to learn that God speaks to His people today through prophecy and messages in tongues with interpretations. But some seem to overlook one fundamental, un-changing truth: God does not speak, today or any other day, contrary to His Word. Whether it seems to be prophecy or a message in tongues or a vision or a "voice" or ANY OTHER word from Heaven — GOD DOES NOT SPEAK, today or any other day, CONTRARY TO HIS WRITTEN WORD.

God, as Jesus Christ, is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb. 13: 8)

"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the Holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (Rev. 22: 18-19)

Some of the ministers who are preaching these things, I know and love. They are earnest, sincere, praying men. Some of their followers, I also know and love. They, too, are earnest, sincere seekers after God's truth. But they are swayed this way and that by their personal regard and affection for their leaders, rather than a solid grounding on the Word of God.

The ministers who are preaching these strange, conflicting and confusing ideas are for the most part men and women who believe that God speaks directly to THEM, and they are placing more importance upon these "messages" than on God's Holy Word. They say, "God revealed to me," "God showed me," "God told me," etc.

I, too, have had "messages" I thought came from God. Some of them I am sure did; but others—of which I was just as sure at the time—afterwards turned out to be not of God at all. How can these things be?

Man is a delicate, mysterious instrument, made up of body, soul and spirit; more delicately tuned than any musical instrument or radio. Sometimes on a radio you tune in on one station and get another mixed in with it. Often it is difficult to cut out one station from another.

So with man. We think we are in tune with God, that the voice we hear is His Voice. Yet, frequently, we have two stations instead of one. The voice is Self, or the Devil.

Then how can we trust these voices, or any guidance? There is one infallible test: God NEVER SPEAKS CONTRARY TO HIS WORD.

"I am the Lord, I change not." (Mal. 3: 6)

I believe in prophecy because it is taught in God's Holy Word. But I do not believe that everything that comes forth in a church or tent meeting under the NAME of prophecy, is PROPHECY! Neither do I believe that everyone who has been prayed over and told, "You have the gift of Prophecy," is a prophet or has the gift of Prophecy.

God's prophets do not live as the world lives, they do not get their messages as lightly or as easily as changing a dress or reciting a poem. Prophecy cannot come without much prayer and much humble obedience to God's Word.

But you may say that it is written, "In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." (Acts 2: 17)

Yes, and it is also written:

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shew great signs and wonders: insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matt. 24: 24)

"But evil man and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (II Tim. 3: 13)
“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (I John 4: 1)

How are we to try the spirits? What standard or what gauge shall we apply to them? You may quote:

“The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” (Rom. 8: 16)

That is true, but your spirit can be misled regarding teachings, the same as it can be misled in hearing “messages” or “voices” or “prophecies.”

The ONE SURE TEST is the Word of God! I say, and I would like for the whole world to hear: Any man, woman or child that claims to have a “new Revelation of God,” a “message” or a “prophecy,” which is contrary to God’s Holy Word is a false prophet and his “message” is not from Heaven. He has gotten another station mixed up with station G-O-D.

Yes, you who claim to be God’s prophets and yet are preaching doctrines contrary to God’s Word, “I am afraid of you.” (Gal. 4: 11)

You can quote Scriptures that seem to back up your teachings. But you ignore other Scriptures that refute your arguments. And the Scriptures must be harmonized or “dovetailed” into one another, which cannot be fully done except by the Holy Spirit. But when a teaching or “revelation” is absolutely contrary to many plain Scriptures on the subject or when they claim to supercede or out-mode the Bible, then you have gone too far, you have fallen into error, you had better get away with God, cry out for mercy and light, and keep quiet until God really speaks.

What about some of these confusing doctrines? They would be ludicrous if not for the tragic reality that men and women are swallowing them, hook, line and sinker.

We will not have time in this article to discuss all the errors mentioned above, but will take up some of them.

**IMMORTAL BODIES?**

I have heard one man and heard of another preaching that their present bodies are immortal, that they will never die. They have some Scripture that seems to bear out their claim.

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever.” (John 6: 51)

But they overlook these plain Scriptures:

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (I Cor. 15: 42-44, 50-53)

**NO GOD BUT JESUS?**

The good folks believing in this doctrine are commonly known as “Oneness,” believing that Jesus is the only God. Jesus is Lord and Christ and God (John 20: 28) but to believe that God is not a real and separate Person, is to refute practically all of Christ’s words on the subject:

“The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.” (John 14: 10)

“For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say and What I should speak.” (John 12: 49)

“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: 41-42)

“Father glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” (John 12: 28)

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” (John 20: 17)

A “NEW REVELATION”?

There has been a lot of scoffing and laughter about the “old fogy” teachings of “Old bachelor” Paul concerning women’s dress and behaviour. Most Christians ignore Paul’s instructions, but most so-called “Full Gospel” folks adhered to it, leaving their hair un-bobbed and their lips and nails unpainted, until the last few years.

But now some of these “Full Gospel” folks think they have heard God’s voice in a “New Revelation” which repeals Paul’s standards and allows them to indulge, with God’s blessings, all the vanities that they inherited from mother Eve.

If they want to go the way of the world and the flesh, as their more “modern” sisters have done, that is their privilege; but please don’t try to justify such worldiness under the guise of a “New Revelation” that denies the Word of God and out-modes Paul and Peter.

For, to the surprise of many Christians, Peter — Christ’s Number One Apostle—had about as much to say, and along the same line, as Paul, about women’s dress and behaviour.

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without their more “modem” sisters have done, that is their privilege; but please don’t try to justify such worldiness under the guise of a “New Revelation” that denies the Word of God and out-modes Paul and Peter.

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“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they

**WHAT OF THAT!**

Tired! Well, what of that?
Didst fancy life was spent on beds of ease,
Fluttering the rose leaves scattered by the breeze?

Come, rouse thee! Work while it is called today!
Coward, arise Go forth upon thy way!

Lonely! And what of that?
Didst fondly dream the sun would never set?
Dost fear to lose thy way? Take courage yet!
Learn thou to walk by faith and not by sight;
Thy steps will be guided, and guided right.

Hard! Well, and what of that?
Didst fancy life one summer holiday,
With lessons none to learn, and naught but play?

Go, get thee to thy task! Conquer or die!
It must be learned; learn it then patiently.

No help! Nay, it’s not so;
Though human help be far, thy God is nigh,
Who feeds the ravens, hears His children cry.
He’s near thee wheresoe’er thy footsteps roam,
And He will guide thee, light thee, help thee home.

Anonymous
behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear, Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel:

"But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.

"Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord; whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." (I Peter 3: 1-6)

Hear also Paul:

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." (I Tim, 2; 9-10)

What these "Liberated" (?) women of "this present move" do not see (being blinded and led astray by false teachers) is that they are merely doing what all other worldly Christians have done—satisfied the pride in their hearts—and tried to "justify" themselves by an "annulment" of God's Word; whereas their proud sisters in other denominations merely ignored God's Word, to satisfy their vanity.

"These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord, and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning." (II Peter 2: 17-20)

I repeat: Any "prophet" who claims a "new Revelation" which would annul or is contrary to ANY of God's Word is a FALSE PROPHET and his "prophecy" a FALSE PROPHECY.

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." (II Peter 2: 1-3)

NO RAPTURE?

Some are preaching that there will be no Rapture of the Church, that Christ has already come: His coming is the coming into the believer's heart when he is born again, or when he received the Holy Spirit. Here are some Scriptures:

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1: 27)

"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14: 23)

But don't overlook the Word's plain teaching in the matter: "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up: and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1: 9-11)

"And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matt. 24: 30)

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4: 16-17)

NO HELL—EVERYBODY SAVED?

A "hellish" doctrine, the doctrine of "no hell," is creeping like a plague through the churches, camps, prayer groups. These folks teach that God is "too good" to let anyone go to hell, that if a man isn't saved in this life, he'll be given another chance in the next, or if necessary he will be re-incarnated again and again until he is saved.

They have little Scripture to back up this doctrine. But they stoutly claim that "God is love" will cover their beliefs. Some quote:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2: 10-11)

Here, Paul names three classes of beings which would eventually bow to Jesus: (1) Things in heaven (angels) (2) Things in earth (men) (3) Things under the earth (demons). Are the demons to be saved; too?

Bowing the knee and confessing that Jesus is Lord is far different from confessing Him as YOUR Lord and accepting Him as YOUR Saviour.

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REPRINTS OF

MY ELDER BROTHER

and

CHRIST’S TRUE CHURCH

By J. A. Dennis

NOW AVAILABLE

We now have reprints of My Elder Brother, as it appeared in The Texas Herald, January, 1980, and of Christ's True Church, as it appeared in the Texas Herald, March, 1980.

We will send 10 of either reprint, Postpaid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's Glory and the blessing of His people.

WORDS OF LIFE, INC.

Box 2156, Austin, Texas 78768

PAGE FOUR
“The devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2: 19)

“And in the synagogue there was a man which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, 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.” (Luke 4: 33-34)

“And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass that way. And behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” (Matt. 8: 28-29)

Jesus didn’t mince words about there being a hell:

“The rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom, and he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” (Luke 16: 22-24)

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10: 28)

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned; but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment . . . the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” (II Pet. 2: 4, 9)

I tell you, it is a serious business to preach, teach or believe something contrary to the Holy Word of God. That has been the Devil’s chief weapon since he deceived Adam and Eve, to get man to doubt God’s Word or to substitute something for it, or to change it.

You are saved by Jesus Christ. And Jesus is the Word made flesh. (John 1: 14) It is our one sure guide.

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119: 105)

All the assurances we have—of Salvation, Healing, Holy Spirit, Eternal Life—are in His Word. If we change it, add to or subtract from it, twist it, ignore it, or disobey it, then we lose our assurance of God’s promised gifts.

Paul saw that these delusions and confusions would come and warned his followers against them.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

“Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” (Acts 20: 28-32)

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Tim. 3: 14-17)
The House of Prayer

(Written in 1955)
Where The Lord Guides—He Provides

(Continued from last month)

When the House of Prayer was opened on April 16, 1951, we had exactly $5.00 left. Our car had been sold to buy chairs and to print the issue of the Texas Herald which announced the opening. We had obligated ourselves to pay $75.00 a month rent, besides utilities and telephone, also $50.00 a month for our rented home, plus utilities there.

No organization backed us or helped us or recognized our existence. We had no congregation, few friends in Austin, no income.

How were we to live?
The only way we could live was by faith—faith in God's Word, faith that He had sent us to Austin for this work, faith that He would fulfill His promise, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matt. 6:33) And, “My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4: 19)

It wasn't always easy. Many times that $5.00 we had on opening night looked like an awfully large amount. Sometimes we were down to a few pennies.

The Texas Herald, being sent out on faith, brought in no certain income. Some days only $1.00 would be received in the mail; some days nothing. Often we would have to go get the mail before going to the grocery. Sometimes we wouldn't go to the grocery, but would eat what was left from the day before. But God always saw that we were fed. Sometimes when there was no money and little food in the house, an unexpected invitation out to dinner came in just right.

Rent paying times were always times of much prayer and renewed testing of our faith. Soon after we started, when rent day came, we lacked $20.00 of having enough to meet it. The offerings left in the miniature church had not made up the necessary amount. It had not come in the mail. What to do?

God, to show how He looks after his trusting children, as he does his sparrows, sent a friend of ours from Lubbock to Austin, who stayed but a few hours, came by to see us, asked to see the House of Prayer, and before he left, wrote out a check for $25.00 and left it with us.

Did we thank the Lord! The rent was paid, we had money for groceries, and we had a renewed faith in God and His promises.

The monthly printing of the Texas Herald was another continual testing of our faith. The date when the material should be given to the printer would roll around and find us with no money or insufficient funds for its printing.

What should we do?
The devil would say there wasn't any use to do anything until the money came in. But our lesson of “prepare ye victuals” stored us in good stead. What victuals could we get ready in this case?

I got all the material together, typed it, placed it in a large mailing envelope, ADDRESSED AND PLACED STAMPS UPON IT, and laid it all on my desk, READY TO MAIL.

I had done all I could do. The next move was up to God. And I find that when YOU DO ALL YOU are supposed to do or CAN DO, and it is something God has promised in His Word — that God MOVES! He ALWAYS MOVES WHEN IT IS HIS TURN TO MOVE. Too often we wait on God to do something when it isn't His move—it's our move.

One month we had only part of the amount needed to print the Texas Herald, but an unexpected letter from a friend in far-off Virginia contained $50.00, and the Herald was sent on its way as we rejoiced and thanked the Lord for His goodness.

Another month, on the last day that we could wait, if the magazine was to get out on time, we lacked $40.00 of having enough to print it. I took the Herald envelope with me to the post-office, opened the mail and, sure enough, there was a check for $40.00 from a friend in Oklahoma that we had met only once.

Another time, I had sent the Herald to the printer with enough money to pay for the type setting, but lacked $30.00 of having enough to pay the final printing. On the day that was due, I was in the bath room praying “Claiming” the $30.00, and thanking the Lord for it.

The phone rang. My wife answered it. A friend wanted to know how much we lacked to pay for the Herald's printing? Her husband wanted to make up the amount! Within thirty minutes she brought the check to us. A speedy answer to our prayer!

Checks came from Herald readers we had never seen or met, from as far off as New York, California, South Carolina, Canada, as well as many from Texas and Oklahoma, and from Austin itself.

At first, when we opened a letter and found $1.00 we were thrilled. Then we began to expect $5.00 gifts and $10.00 gifts, and received them, as well as a few as large as $25.00 and $50.00. Our faith grew as our needs grew, for we soon saw that we would need some large gifts to keep the magazine going, since many did not send anything and many could send only small amounts.

I remember the day I first got faith to ask God for a $100.00 gift, and to claim it and thank Him for it. I had never received a $100.00 gift and it seemed a miracle to think that anyone would give that much for the publishing of the little Texas Herald or the work at the House of Prayer. But sure enough, it wasn't long before we received our first $100.00 gift, then another, and another. As our work grew and our needs grew, I began to ask the Lord for a $500.00 gift and then $1,000.00 gifts. And, I believe He is going to send them in as needed.

REPRINTS
We will send up to 10 Reprints of Gene Neill's Testimony—How God saved and Baptized him with the Holy Ghost in a prison cell, under a sentence of 50 years, then miraculously set him free after 2 years—Postpaid to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's Glory and the Salvation of Souls.

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PAGE SIX
Our first $100.00 gift did not come in through the mail, but was placed in the miniature church at the House of Prayer. An evangelist had been holding a meeting for us for a week or two. Since we took up no offerings, a silver tray was placed on a table where those who wished could place gifts for the evangelist, while the money in the little church went for the building expenses.

During the meeting our offerings in the little church were small. We did not know how much the evangelist received, but it looked like we weren't going to get enough to pay the rent.

The last night, after the people had gone, I emptied the little church and found a few bills and a small envelope which I stuck in my coat pocket unopened. I had noticed a similar envelope in the evangelist's tray.

The evangelist was counting his money and all at once, after opening his little envelope, he began thanking the Lord and handed me $30.00 "to apply on the rent." I thanked him and said, "Well, I'll have to give you back $3.00 as my tithe. Now, I guess I'd better open my envelope and see what's in it." I did, and to my amazement, found a $100.00 bill. The evangelist jumped and shouted and hugged me and we thanked the Lord together. Then I said, "Now I'll have to give you back one of your $10.00 bills as my tithe of this $100.00!" We had a great time praising the Lord and giving our money back and forth.

The Lord seemed to be trying to teach us to trust Him right up to the last minute when money was needed. Several times the rent money, or the balance needed, came in the day it was due. Several times the money for printing the Herald came that way.

Sometimes the Lord "paid us off by the day" as someone expressed it. During the fall of 1954, for instance, we got "paid off" daily for over a month, with rarely as much as $5.00 on hand at any time. Many times I would go to the post-office and receive only $1.00 in the mail. Taking out 10 cents for the Lord's tithe, left us 90 cents for groceries. It is fortunate for us that my wife, Freda, is economical and a frugal buyer. That 90 cents would buy a pound of hamburger, a large potato, a quart of milk, a small can of fruit, perhaps a loaf of bread or a "stick" of oleo. This would make us two meals. And we thanked the Lord for a good grocery nearby, a good appetite, and a good God who never forgot us or our needs.

Our personal needs—clothing, haircuts, laundry—were also taken care of through prayer. During the first year when we could barely pay the rent and pay the Herald's bills, the preacher's one suit approached disintegration. There was no money for a new suit and little prospect for its coming in. Nevertheless, I began to pray for a suit.

It wasn't long before a large package arrived by parcel post. Opening it we found—not one suit—but TWO SUITS, almost new, and both fit me perfectly without alteration! A sister-in-law had, without any knowledge of my need, sent me these clothes. Her husband had gotten "too fat" for them. One of the suits was of just the material I would have picked. I thanked the Lord for his care.

About the time two years later, that these suits were worn through, I received a surprise check from one of my brothers, whom I didn't know was interested in our work. The check was for $100.00 and the enclosed note urged me to get something for myself that I wanted. "Part of that check bought the preacher another suit!"

"WORKING WITH OUR HANDS"

After a number of months in the House of Prayer, we felt led to take a position as bookkeeper in a downtown business house in Austin, which we held for one year. This enabled us to contract for a weekly radio broadcast which we were impressed, after prayer, to call the "Words of Life" program. This program continued for one full year.

We found that, while working it easier to pay the rent and the Herald's printing, it took the element of faith out of our testimony and also so drained us of energy that we had little left for our nightly preaching. It also prevented us from doing any counseling with people during the day and left little time for prayer and Bible study. After praying about it for several months we were directed to quit our position and trust God entirely for our needs.

Several times after that when money was very scarce and faith was low, I was strongly in the mood to go "get a job." I put out every effort I knew to do so, but each time something prevented, and it seemed the Lord was not permitting me to work, except for Him.

One occasion stands out in my memory where the Lord had us wait on Him day after day, and provide the needed answers just on the last day or at the last minute. Just before Christmas, 1954, money had been extremely scarce. I wanted to have the Christmas number of the Herald mailed before Christmas, as it contained our Christmas greetings. But there was no money and none in sight. In fact, the rent money had not come in and we were "eating hamburgers" almost daily (praying for God for them!)

Nevertheless, I prayed, then I placed the Herald material in an envelope, wrote a note with it stating that I was enclosing . . . . . . . . . . . . . (amount left blank) with it, and hoped it could still be printed before Christmas. Day after day ticked by. I knew the printer was rushed with Christmas business. The copy should have gone to him a week ago. Still no money came. Still I prayed and thanked Him for sending it in, for getting the magazine out for Christmas.

Then a check came for $50.00 from a Herald supporter in Lubbock. This would cover the cost of the typesetting, so I mailed it with the copy, stating that I would send the rest with the corrected proofs, before the printing.

Before the proofs were returned to me for corrections, checks had come in totaling the other $50.00 needed. I thanked the Lord and continued to pray that the printer could still get the magazine printed, addressed and mailed before Christmas. He did, two days before, so that folks in Austin received their Herald the day before Christmas.

I praised the Lord for that answer to prayer, but I had other things to pray for, too. I had to have $17.00 to deposit at the postoffice for postage before the magazines could be mailed. We needed

COMMUNITY

by Gene Neill

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WORDS OF LIFE, Inc.
Box 2156, Austin, Texas 78768

(Turn To Page 12)
The Cross And The Believer

by Ivor Lewis

The mystery of the love of God in the cross of Christ! I count it a joy to come to you with this message — the message of my heart. It is said that every minister has his own living, challenging message to proclaim, and my one theme as a minister of the Gospel, is this message of the cross. I bring it to you out of my own personal experience too. I did not learn this in college, altho I was greatly privileged to sit under some of the best teachers when I was at Cambridge, and one especially whom I consider the best teacher of philosophy. But I come to you as a minister who has entered into a new and great experience spiritually. I came out of college a saved man and my desire was to consecrate my life and service to the Lord Jesus Christ. But I had learned so much. I knew a lot! So it shattered me when I came to realize that I had to put aside my learning and come before God as knowing nothing, counting all else but dung that I might find Christ in this new and great way.

"If any man be in Christ he is a new creature... all things become new." It changes your whole outlook. Read Rom. 6 where being "in Christ" is fully explained. It means we are to be baptized with Him, buried with Him in death. To be in Christ means we are to be transformed. It means a constant identification with Him on the cross, and that means a new creation—all things become new. It means a new outlook, a new view, a new understanding. Not only the cross where our sins were dealt with, but where the Christian enters into the experience of dying, with Christ—death to self, and to this one there comes a new view of one's self.

If there is one message needed today it is this; the application of the cross to the self life. One man came to my study one day and he wanted to convert me to another denomination. He knew the Bible. He was saturated with the scriptures. But from the way he argued I perceived he was also full of self. An unreadiness to apply the cross is where the Christians are failing. We may know the Bible and still be carnal.

We get a new view of self. "I am nothing." Of no worth; no value. Your only redemption is that you live henceforth unto Him. This "I", "self" is an absolute failure, no good in it unless it is "put off" and Jesus allowed to govern and rule.

There is an experience in God where "I" may be obliterated. Self is the thing (or the one) we are constantly confronted with in our life, in our ministry and in others—the carnal nature, the "I." For instance many have not yet learned to put out of existence the self that likes its bed in the mornings. How many of you have joy in getting up at six or even seven to spend time with Jesus. You are desiring victory, joy and the blessing of God. Well, the cross must be applied to the things of our self life. First Jesus; last me. You have to be led as a lamb to the slaughter. Yes, Jesus was, and you must too. Is there anything more undignified than that? Do not save your flesh. "Seek first the kingdom of God... Make no provision for the flesh. Ourselves and our interests should come last.

This problem has come up in a business man's life. Could he take God's way or was the price too great. He would have to turn down orders that meant hundreds of pounds to him. The other fellow would get the business. Why couldn't he have it as well as the other man. What would it mean to me, to my business, to my family to do what God has shown and take the way of the cross? For the present it might mean gain but for eternity an irreparable loss. He that loseth His life shall find it.

I've had to face up to these problems. I could scheme and plan and have things easy and comfortable; I could see that my wife and family were provided for abundantly. But there is a way God has pointed out for Ivor Lewis, and if I follow in this path, in the straight and narrow way, there will be churches closed to me. There will be those who will say, "He is off; leave him alone." But on the other hand, if I allow the cross to be applied to my life and my ministry, God will undertake, He will give success. That is where my friend the business man failed. He was counting on a bank account and not on the Omnipotent God.

We ourselves are worthless and good for nothing without God, and useless to God until this "I" is cancelled. What are you living for? What is uppermost in your life? What is your prime consideration? Are you feathering your nest? Making a nice home? Or have you put these things on one side for the sake of Him? Is your home His, or do you possess these things?

I had to battle these things out myself. I loved my home when I got one. I never had a real home until I was about 30, and it seemed so nice to sit down in an easy chair and enjoy the comforts and luxuries of a home. But I had to face the fact that multitudes were needing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. I also had to fight the same battle with regard to my money, I knew I could have a comparatively easy life, I could provide amply for our future. But the cross had to be applied? Do you know this experience? You are meaningless, nil, of no value, unless you are taking up the cross daily; unless God is first.

This lesson is not learned in five minutes, but it is put before you now for serious and earnest prayer. You need to know that you must die, not only to your sin but also to your self. Must you have your bed in the mornings, your game of golf, your this and your that, because it is all so reasonable. The cross must be applied, and God must be first, not just a motto on the wall but the very power by which we live, and we can only enter into this experience when "I" dies. Then we get the new view of self and "henceforth we live unto Him."

A new view of others. "Henceforth know we no man after the flesh." The cross needs to be applied to our view of others which is not after the flesh but after the spirit. I might suggest that this is a most difficult thing to grasp or ap-

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proprietor. Think of it! You are to consider yourself the least, the most unimportant, preferring others in all things. You know that we meet some very queer folks and especially when as a minister are to deal with those who sometimes are queer and fanatical. Yet we must consider them, have patience and bear with them in Christ for He is no respector of persons. We have to consider ourselves the least of all. We have to see these folks as one whom God loves and has redeemed. This humbles us. When I meet one such I must see him as better than I am in the spirit of love and humility. The cross gives us a new view towards others. This is also the answer to sects and denominations. If any one is a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ he has taken the Holy Spirit as the dominating power in his life, and I can take his hand and say “God bless you, brother.” Just to say we wash our hands of it is not the answer. There is a real spiritual unity and fellowship that will come into the churches of every denomination when the Christians learn to die. It will not come by uniting the sects. I am praying that the day will come when such a baptism of the Holy Spirit will be poured out that all barriers will be broken down. I do not mean to have one huge church where all can worship together; nor that, but where all who worship in churches will be so united to Christ in the spirit of love, that the Christians in Berry St. Pres. Church will remember those in Victoria Hall, and Christians taking the bread in Victoria Street will remember some other Baptist brother who is worshipping in his own church and so on—beyond the bricks and mortar we have entered into that unity and fellowship in Christ Jesus. Then nothing on earth could resist the floodtide of God’s glory if we could get the vision and act upon it.

If we know what it is to have the view of ourselves last. So many have an up and down experience. We should be continually mounting up. If we are “more than conquerors” then we should be going from glory to glory, from victory to victory—not a thermometer experience, but the eagle experience, always mounting higher. The reason for your defeat, for your change of temperament is because you have a carnal view of Christ. You are not walking in the spirit, in newness of life. God can so enable us to die to ourselves and to live unto Him that we can go through as more than conquerors by His grace and power. To them who believe He is so precious. He will become more precious day by day. When you die to carnality you find real joy and thrill in the life of the spirit.

We want a new view in the spirit. This does not come by making a pact or drawing up a contract. It will come when “I learn to die, give up my own wants and wishes. The more I see this, the more I love the believers. Not a day passes but I pray for Baptists, Methodists, Brethren—because we are all in the same family, in the same ministry of our Gospel, and because Ivor Lewis has died not only to himself but to his view of others, not seeing others after the flesh but in Christ.

There are certain individuals one does not take kindly to. We find in our hearts impatience, likes and dislikes for this one and that. My own father turned me out on the street when I was 15. I not only had bitterness in my heart but a real dislike for my own father. I prayed for him but in the wrong way. A man with his opportunities and his talents, I thought of how he had wasted his life. One day I came to see that my father’s mind and heart were blinded by the God of this world, and I began to see differently and pray differently. I asked God to forgive me and to help me battle against the evil forces that were battling him. Today I love my father. There are many who are blinded by the God of this world, and it is so easy for us to become impatient, to think hardly of them or to get discouraged in prayer for them.

Not only do we need a new view of ourselves and of others, but we need a new view of Christ. Not the carnal but the Spirit’s view. Altho we have known Him after the flesh, henceforth know we Him no more. I died: I am nothing. I have seen Jesus by the eye of the spirit. Oh, so many live in a carnal view of the Blessed Lord. Do not be satisfied that you have entered into blessing.

A woman who had the same name as mine, Mrs. Penn Lewis was having a mission and she sent for some one to come. When this one came she said to Mrs. P. L. after a few days, “I shall have to send to London for a friend to pray; there is no one who knows how to pray here. Mrs. P. L. thought, “Don’t I know how to pray” but she did not say it. However, she felt pretty hurt about this remark. No, altho Mrs. Penn Lewis was a spiritual woman and had entered into blessing, yet she did not know how to pray. She fought a battle with herself for a few days and then recognized what was in her own heart, so she got down before God in repentance and Mrs. Penn Lewis died to that thing. There was a wonderful revival. What God did for Mrs. Penn Lewis, and for others also, He can do for you, if you are prepared to die.

A vessel is nothing. It has no feelings, no desires, no will, no plan. It is wholly in the hands of the One who owns it.

—Herald of Hope

YOU GOT TROUBLE?
BE THANKFUL!

Be thankful for the troubles of your job. They provide about half your income. Because if it were not for the things that go wrong, the difficult people you have to deal with, and the problems and unpleasantnesses of your working day, someone could be found to handle your job for half of what you are being paid.

It takes intelligence, resourcefulness, patience, tact, and courage to meet the troubles of any job. That is why you hold your present job. And it may be the reason you aren’t holding down an even bigger one.

If all of us would start to look for more troubles, and learn to handle them cheerfully and with good judgment, as opportunities rather than irritations, we could find ourselves getting ahead at a surprising rate. For it is a fact that there are plenty of big jobs waiting for men and women who aren’t afraid of the troubles connected with them.

I signed the death certificate. Yet there is channels of mercy to those who are still do this because they are overcomers. They are to be streams of living water, representatives from heaven to in the world.

Betsy prayed until everything was peace­ful and then Betsy said, “Amen!” stories are told.” I said to him, “Do you know what I do when I come upon such a book. I first look at the last pages. There I see they all live happily ever after. Then I can return to the front and read the entire book with joy.”

OVERCOMERS: Sometimes I get frightened as I read the Bible, and as I look in this world and see all the tribulation and persecution promised by the Bible coming true. Now I can tell you, though, if you too are afraid, that I have just read the last pages. I can now come to you shouting “Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” for I have found where it is written that Jesus said, “He that overcometh shall inherit all things: and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. “That is the future and hope of this world. Not that the world will survive—but that we shall be overcomers in the midst of a dying world.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand the secret of God’s plan for this world. But one thing I know, God did not make a mistake when He drew His eternal blueprint. God never makes mistakes. He knows exactly what He is doing.

Betsy and I, in that concentration camp, prayed that God would heal Betsy who was so weak and sick. “Yes, the Lord will heal me,” Betsy said with confidence.

She died the next day and I could not understand it. They laid her thin body on the concrete floor along with all the other corpses of the women who died that day. It was so hard for me to understand, to believe that God had a purpose for all that. Yet because of Betsy’s death today I am traveling all over the world telling people about Jesus.

Her story and mine told in “The Hiding Place,” has been read by millions of people and now it has been made into a movie which will bless generations. Now, everyplace I go across the world people tell me how much they love my sister Betsy. Let me tell you, she is a blessing for more people because she died than if she had lived. God makes no mistakes.

I see the plan of God as an embroidery. The back side, which is the only side we are allowed to see here on earth is a mass of tangled and knotted threads. It has no seeming purpose or pattern. But on the other side is a crown.

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me, I do not choose the colors, He worketh steadily, Oftimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride, Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside. Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly, Will God unroll the canvas, and explain the reason why. In the skilful Weaver’s hand. As the threads of gold and silver In the pattern He has planned.

I like to think God has no problems—only plans. There is never a panic in Heaven.

The Holy Spirit is working in the world to make us ready for the soon return of Jesus Christ. That is one of the things I discovered while reading my Bible. Jesus is longing to come back here and make everything new.

That is the reason the Holy Spirit is busier than ever before. All over the world people are being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is happening to prepare us for the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit opens our ears so we can hear God’s voice. In the concentra­tion camp we had to go to roll call at 4:30 a.m. We often had to stand for many hours. One morning our supervisor got us up an hour early. Instead of huddling against the side of the building like the other women, Betsy and I took a walk around the camp.

It was still pitch dark and we had only the light of the stars. But it was a time of walking in the light for we were talking with the Lord, First Betsy would say something, then I would say something, then the Lord would say something. How? I do not know. But we both under-
stood Him. The Holy Spirit opened our ears that we could hear. His voice. And in just the same way, as tribulation intensifies in this dying world, so will the voice of the Lord be heard by those who are filled with Holy Spirit.

FALSE TEACHERS: There are some among us teaching there will be no tribulation, that the Christians will be able to escape all this. These are the false teachers Jesus was warning us to expect in the later days. Most of them have little knowledge of what is already going on across the world.

I have been in countries where the saints are already suffering terrible persecution. In China the Christians are told, “Don't worry, before the tribulation comes, you will be translated—raptured.” Then came a terrible persecution. Millions of Christians were tortured to death. Later I heard a Bishop from China say, sadly, “We have failed. We should have made the people strong for persecution rather than telling them Jesus would come first.” Turning to me he said, “You still have time. Tell the people how to be strong in times of persecution, how to stand when the tribulation comes—to stand and not faint.”

I feel I have a divine mandate to go and tell the people of this world that it is possible to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are in training for the tribulation, but more than sixty percent of the Body of Christ across this world has already entered into the tribulation. There is no way to escape it. We are next.

When my family, my eighty year old father with all his children and a grandson were arrested in Holland—along with fifty of our friends—we were herded into the police station before being put in the prison. My nephew Peter came to me and said, “Auntie, what have you in your shoe?” I said, “I have Romans 8, and Ephesians 1, but do you know what Mom have you?” He said, “I have Epesians 8, and Romans 12.”

When I was in the concentration camp—a camp where only 20 percent of the women came out alive—we tried to cheer each other by saying, “Nothing could be any worse than today.” But we would find the next day was even worse. During this time a Bible verse that I had committed to memory gave me great hope and joy. “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ happy are ye: for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on your part he is evile spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” (1 Peter 4:14). I found myself saying “Hallelujah Because I am suffering Jesus is glorified.”

In America the churches sing, “Let thy congregation escape tribulation,” but in Africa the tribulation has already arrived. This last year alone more than two hundred thousand Christians were martyred in Africa. Now things like that never get into the newspapers because they cause bad political relations. But I know. I have been there. We need to think about that when we sit down in our nice houses with our nice clothes and eat our steak dinners. Many, many members of the Body of Christ are being tortured to death at this very moment, yet we continue right on as though we are all going to escape the tribulation.

Several years ago I was in Africa in a nation where a new government had come into power. The first night I was there some of the Christians were commanded to come to the police station and register. When they arrived they were arrested and that same night were executed. The next day the same thing happened with other Christians. The third day it was the same. All the Christians in the district were being systematically murdered. The fourth day I was to speak in a little church. The people came, but they were filled with fear and tension. All during the service they looked at each other, their eyes asking “Will this one I’m sitting beside be the next one killed? Will I be the next one?” The room, was hot and stuffy with insects that came through the screenless windows and swirled around the naked light bulbs over the bare wood benches. I told them a story out of my childhood. “When I was a little girl,” I said “I went to my father and said, ‘Daddy, I’m afraid that I will never be strong enough to be a martyr for Jesus Christ.’ “Tell me,” Father said, “when you take a train trip to Amsterdam, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Three weeks before?” “No, Daddy, you give me the money just before we get on the train.” “That is right,” my father said, “and so it is with God’s strength. Our wise Father in heaven knows when you will need the strength to be a martyr for Jesus Christ. He will supply all you need—just in time. . . .” My African friends were nodding and smiling. Suddenly a spirit of joy descended upon that church and the people began singing: “In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore.” That week half the congregation was executed. I heard later that the other half was killed some months ago.

But I must tell you something. I was so happy that the Lord used me to encourage those people, for unlike many of their leaders, I had the Word of God. I had been to the Bible and discovered that Jesus said He had not only overcome the world, but to all those who remained faithful to the end, he would give a crown of life.

FEED ON THE WORD: How can we get ready for the coming persecution? First we need to feed on the Word of God, digest it, make it a part of our very being. This will mean disciplined Bible study each day as we not only memorize long passages of scripture, but
personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Not just the Jesus of yesterday, the Jesus of history, but the life-changing Jesus of baptism in the Holy Spirit. We will never be able to stand in the tribulation without the Holy Spirit was on us. That mighty inner strengthening of the Holy Spirit helped us through that horrible suffering. No, you will not be strong in yourself when the tribulation comes. Rather, you will be strong in the power of Him who will not forsake you. He will always be with you. For 76 years I have known the Lord and not once has He ever left me, or let me down. Job 13:15. For I know that to all who overcome He shall give the crown of life. Hallelujah! Rev. 2:10.

THE BIBLE

"Think of it carefully, Study it prayerfully; Deep in thy heart Let its oracles dwell. Ponder its mystery, Slight not its history; None can e'er love it Too fondly or well."

—Author Unknown

House of Prayer

(From Page 7)

money to pay our rent. I wanted to send a little present to our grandson. And, after all that was taken care of, if it was the Lord's will, I wanted to give my wife a ticket to Des Moines, Iowa for a Christmas with our daughter and grandson. And this last money would have to be "personal" money that I could feel free to use for that purpose.

Each day I thanked God for all that He had done and all that He was going to do that day.

The postage money came in. The last day to pay the rent arrived, and the day before Freda must start to Iowa if she were to arrive there Christmas Eve. I went to the postoffice at 12:30, as I knew the noon mail was put up by that time. A number of Christmas cards were in the box, but only one check, and that for $2.00. And I had prayed for $100.00, as that was needed for rent and for Freda's ticket!

What should I do?

I thought, "Well, I'll just wait until I'm weak, then I shall be strong, according to the Bible says. When Betsy and I were prisoners for the Lord we were very weak—but we got power because the Holy Spirit was on us. That mighty inner strengthening of the Holy Spirit helped us through that horrible suffering. No, you will not be strong in yourself when the tribulation comes. Rather, you will be strong in the power of Him who will not forsake you. He will always be with you. For 76 years I have known the Lord and not once has He ever left me, or let me down. Job 13:15. For I know that to all who overcome He shall give the crown of life. Hallelujah! Rev. 2:10.

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