

Gospel - Light

"Send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me." Ps. 43:3

«For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation...» (Romans 1:16)

Christ has Been with You...

Christ is with awakened souls. He awakened them. No man is naturally anxious about his soul. It is a work of Christ on the soul. When the lightning has passed through a wood, as you look upon one tree and another that has been split by its mighty flash, you say: Ah! The lightning has been here. So, when you see a heart split and broken under a sense of its lost condition, you may say: Christ has been here. He has awakened the soul!

Christ has been with you! He saw you in your sin and folly. He pitied you, He drew near, and He touched your heart, and made you feel yourself lost, in order that you might seek him as a Saviour. Do not doubt Christ has been with you. He is seeking to awaken your soul... Just as a shepherd goes into the mountains in search of lost sheep, He seeks peculiarly those which are bleeding and torn, making the valleys resound with their sad beatings; He bends over the wounded sheep.

When a good physician enters the hospital, he hurries to the beds of the most diseased; of those who are piteously groaning under their pains; he bends over such. So does Christ seek bleeding,



groaning souls, with a peculiar care? His word is: **"He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted"** (Isaiah 61:1); **"He hath given me the tongue of the learned to speak a word in season to them that are weary"** (Isaiah 50:4). Are you an awakened soul? Then you may be quite sure Christ is with you, bending over you.

Christ is with all people in one sense, and yet in another sense, He is not with them. They are without Christ, and without God in the world. For example, He is with them: **"I know thy works..."** (Rev.2: 2,9,13). He is with them in the house of God.

It is wonderful to me how Christ persuades so many Christless people to come to the house of God; I never could explain it. Crowds followed Jesus when He walked on this earth, and crowds follow Him still today.

What brings you to think about God? It is the constraining grace of Christ. In this, Christ is with you! Christ unlocks His treasure, and says: **"Come, buy, without money and without price"** (Isaiah 55:1). He is with you in providences. Oh, it is wonderful to see how providences awaken souls! Every one of them is from the hand of

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Consider the Majesty of Heaven

"He looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). «Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come» (Hebrews 13:14). Heaven was the city Abraham sought, the «city which hath foundations.» This is «the continuing city» which we are seeking instead of these fleeting and perishable cities and homes of earth. **What sort of a place is this city? What sort of a place is Heaven?**

In answer to the question, I am going to tell you something that is certain. I am going to tell you what God plainly teaches in His Word.

There are many who think we know nothing about Heaven, and that it is all guesswork. That is not so. God has revealed much about it. What He has revealed is very encouraging. It will awaken in every wise and true heart a desire to go there.

If we reflected more about Heaven, it would help us to bear our burdens here more bravely. We would want to live holier lives and be delivered from the power of greed and lust that often attacks us. Our lives would be filled with joy and sunshine.

Shallow philosophers tell us that our business is to live this present life and let the future take



care of itself. You might as well tell the school-boy that his pursuit is to live for today without considering his future report card...

The Reality of Heaven

Jesus said, «I go to prepare a place for you» (John 14:2). Some will tell you that Heaven is merely a state or condition. Doubtless it is more important to be in a Heavenly state or condition than in a Heavenly place. But Heaven is a real place! We are not to be merely in a Heavenly state of mind, but in a Heavenly city as well, «a city that hath foundations,» «a continuing city.»

Christ has already entered into Heaven to appear in the presence of God for us. (See Hebrews 9:24.) He has gone to prepare a place for us and is coming back to take us there. We will not be disembodied spirits in the world to come, but redeemed spirits, in redeemed bodies, in a redeemed universe.

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The Father - "Child of GOD" - Relationship

"And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in Heaven, so in earth" (Luke 11:2).

There are basic relationships that mankind has with God. First, at our birth, we all have a **Creator - Creature relationship**. **"For by Him were ALL THINGS CREATED, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were CREATED BY HIM, AND FOR HIM"** (Colossians 1:16).

When a person receives Christ and is "born-again" into the **Family of God** he enters the **Father - Child of God relationship**. Jesus told the religious leaders in John 8:42 "... If



God were your Father, ye would love Me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me. **Why do ye not understand my speech?** even because ye cannot hear My word. **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do..."** (vs43,44).

We are not born into the family of God at birth! This requires a spiritual rebirth. **"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"** (John 3:6,7). Then we can truly call God our Father which is in Heaven!

When we know the Lord personally, and God IS truly OUR FATHER in HEAVEN, we have special privileges.

1. FAMILY OF GOD; BRINGS PROTECTION BY OUR FATHER! **"...Our Father which art in Heaven..."** When Jesus told the Pharisees that they

were of their father the devil, He explained the falsehood of the teaching that "we're all God's children". No, this is a lie from the Devil. **We are all His creatures, but NOT all His children.**

I have two children and I love them dearly! I will do anything in my power to protect them and to help them. However, I don't have that father/child relationship with the children of my neighbors and friends. **I am not obligated to take care of another man's children...**

2. FAITH IN GOD; PLEASURES THE FATHER! **"...Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done..."**

Faith in God, trusting in the Lord is a form of worship. It honors His name to bow down before Him in prayer. We must have faith that God knows best, regardless of our circumstances. You may have physical problems with your health, but we know and believe that God is in control... You may have financial problems, not enough money to your bills, but the Father will provide, IF you are His child!

We all grew up in our families, trusting our fathers to take care of us. As little children, crawling on the floor among our toys, we never

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Consider the Majesty of Heaven

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The Perfection of Beauty

Heaven is a place of incomparable beauty. This is obvious from the description we have in Revelation 21 and 22. The God of the Bible is a God of beauty. He made this world beautiful. Its beauty has been marred by sin. The weed, the thorn, and the brier spring up. The insect de-



vours the roses, and the lilies fade. Decay and death bring loath-some sights and foul smells.

All of creation, together with fallen man, groans and travails in pain until now. But enough is left of the original creation to show us how intensely God loves beauty. He has told us in His Word that the creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (See Romans 8:20-23.)

Perfection of form, color, and sound will be combined into a beauty that will be indescribable. ALL EARTHLY COMPARISONS FAIL. Every sense of perception in our present state is clouded by sin. But in our redemption bodies, every sense will be enlarged and exist in perfection.

Some of us have seen beautiful visions on earth. We have seen the mountains rearing their snow-crowned heads through the clouds; the vista of rolling hills and valleys; winding rivers and forests with their changing colors; the lake and ocean dancing and tossing and rolling in the moonlight; the Heavens in the clear wintry night jewelled with count-

less stars. We have caught the fragrances that float through the summer night in parks and gardens. We have listened to the indescribable harmonies of piano and violin as they responded to the touch of the Master's hand and the more matchless music of the human voice. But all these are nothing compared to the beauty of sight and sound and fragrance that will greet us in that fair city of eternity.

The Way to Heaven

Is your heart stirred with a longing for that abiding city? Who would not rather have an entrance there than to have the fleeting possessions of any of earth's millionaires? If I had my choice between having all that money could buy, and then missing Heaven in the end, it would not take long to decide which to choose.

When we reach that fair home, the trials of earth will seem small and trifling indeed. «I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us» (Romans 8:18).

Christ is the Door to Heaven

We may all gain an entrance there. There is but one way, but it is simple and open to all. In John 14:6, «Jesus saith unto them, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.» In John 10:9, He says, «I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.»

Christ is the way to God. Accept Christ as your Savior and your Lord. DO IT NOW! If you stood outside the door of some fair mansion where all inside was beauty and love, and the owner said cordially, «Come in,» would you risk waiting for a second invitation? Jesus swings Heaven's door open wide and says, «Come in.» Accept Him at once and gain a right to enter and live forever in Heaven.

There are voices of loved ones who have gone before calling, «Come over here, Father;» «Come over here, Son;» «Come over here, Husband;» «Come over here, Wife.» **Accept Christ at once and gain the right to enter Heaven and live there forever.**

— R.A. Torrey

The LORD Jesus Christ was taken before Pilate

It has been said that death by crucifixion is the most painful mode of torture ever conceived by man. The draining away of the blood brings on intensive thirst. Hunger is painful, but it is nothing compared to the pangs of thirst. No wonder Jesus cried out, «I thirst.»

Let us look at what preceded this cry and we will understand something of His physical suffering. Just the night before He instituted the Lord's Supper in the Upper Room; then He spoke for sometime to the disciples; then He went into the Garden of Gethsemane. There He passed through an hour of great agony. **His soul was exceeding sorrowful unto death.** He was in such anguish that He sweat drops of blood. When He came out of the Garden, Judas, the traitor, kissed Him and the mob rushed up to arrest Him. In the middle of the night He was taken before Caiaphas, where he was examined and condemned. He was held there until the morning without rest; then He was taken before

Pilate where He went through a lengthy trial. After that He was taken before Herod, where He was mocked and ridiculed. Then He was taken back to Pilate. **Pilate commanded Him to be scourged, the crown of thorns was pressed down upon His brow, and the soldiers mocked Him, saying, «Hail, King of the Jews!»**

After another delay He was sentenced to death, the heavy cross was placed upon His bleeding back and the journey to Calvary was begun. Weak from all that He had endured, He fainted beneath the load, and another man was called upon to carry His cross. Soon they reached the top of Calvary, His hands and feet were nailed to the Cross, and He was lifted up upon the tree. He hung there for three hours in the noon-day heat,

then for three hours of darkness. Yet He never murmured, He never complained. **He bore His sufferings in majestic silence.** Now His whole body is racked with pain, His mouth is parched, His throat is burning. No wonder He cries out, «I thirst.»

Not only did He suffer in body, but in spirit. He had just emerged from three hours of darkness. During that time, God had forsaken Him and turned His back upon Him. This spiritual conflict added greatly to His suffering. He had been for a time in a



land where God was not-no wonder a terrible drouth filled His body and spirit. Let us go back to Psalm 42: 3-**«My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.»** So we see here that His thirst was not only physical, but spiritual. He had been cut off from fellowship with God, and now His soul thirsts for the sweet communion which He had enjoyed with the Father for all eternity past.

I have already told you that Jesus suffered on the Cross as much as a sinner could ever suffer in an eternity of hell. He suffered so much that He cried out, (I thirst.) **How much more then will be your eternal suffering in hell if you go through life rejecting Him!** You will go down into the lake of fire and suffer forever even as Jesus suffered on the Cross.

— W. Herschel Ford

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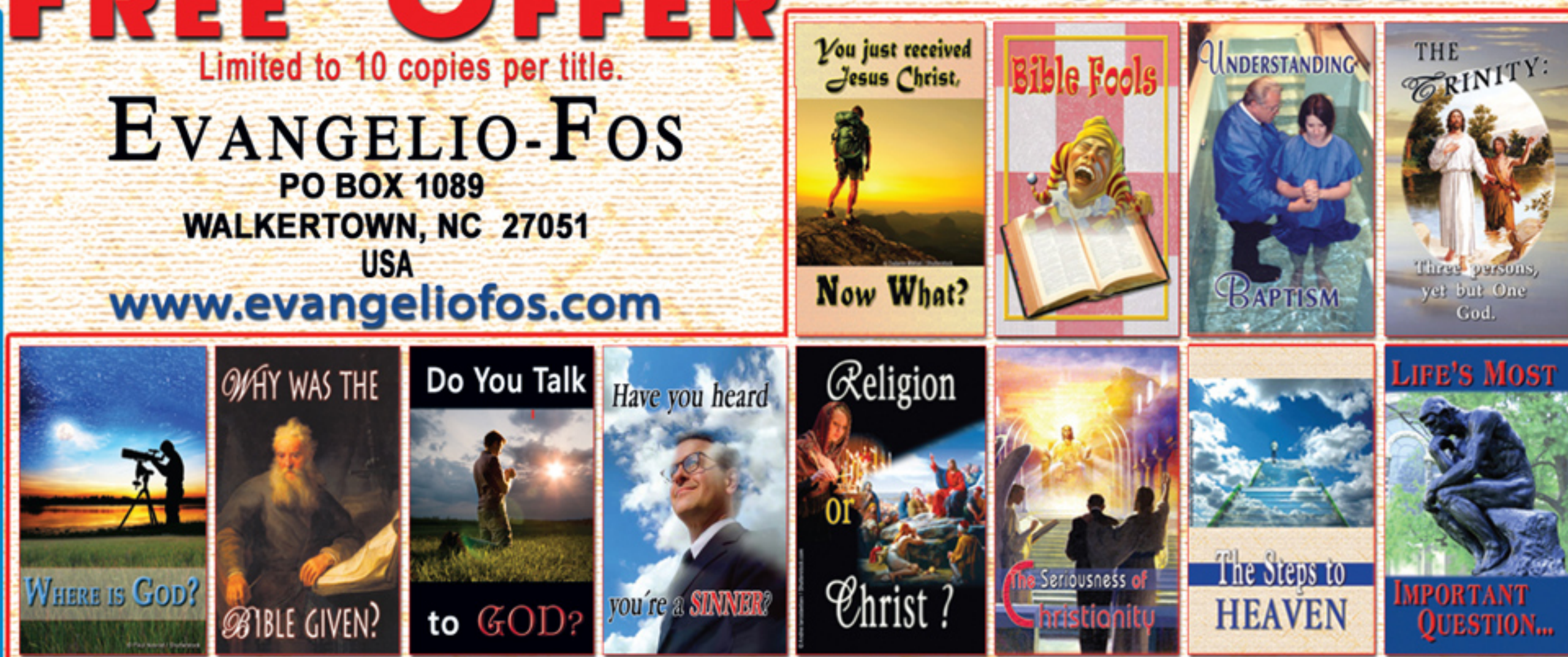
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JESUS CHRIST is Coming Back Suddenly!

“WATCH THEREFORE: for you know not what hour your Lord doth come.” (Matt. 24:42)
 “Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” (Luke 12:40)



I want to press one great truth in this message: the suddenness of Christ's coming. This is emphasized in many portions of the Word of God; and the Lord Jesus tells us that we should be ready, “For in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.”

At any hour - at any moment - Jesus Christ may come! What exhortation does the Bible give through this teaching? The Bible says, “Be ye also ready.” This means the Christian must be ready for the coming of the Saviour. This means that the sinner should come to Christ for salvation and be ready for the return of his Lord.

When we say that His coming is sudden, we mean that Christ may come at any moment. I cannot think of any person who would not be benefited by an understanding of the second coming. This is **for the young as well as for the aged; for the businessman as well as for the housewife; for the wealthy as well as for the poor; for the sick as well as for the healthy.**

The second coming of Christ! This doctrine is **for the man who is a failure;** this should spur him on. If a man is failing in his Christian activities, this truth should challenge him to do still more for the Saviour.

This is the doctrine **for the money-mad Christian.** Christ is coming! What you have will be left behind. The accumulation of much goods will not benefit in the day when Jesus comes to catch us up into His presence.

Here is the doctrine **for the worldly Christian** - the carnally minded one. My friend, you will have to face Him! You must give an account of yourself unto the Lord. This is the doctrine **for the careless and the unconcerned.** Here is the teaching that should send us out to do still more for our Lord. This truth should take away the unconcerned attitude.

This is the doctrine **for the sick.** When He comes, the dead in Christ shall be raised and the living changed, and we shall be caught up into the presence of our Lord. Philippians 3:20 speaks about our citizenship being in Heaven and that we are looking for the Lord Jesus. Then Paul says, “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself” (vs.21).

This is the doctrine **for the discouraged.** “Your redemption draweth nigh.” Have faith in God and look up. Here is the doctrine **for the sorrowing.** How many blessed verses are given to comfort those in sorrow! In John 14 Jesus tells us about the Father's house of many mansions. He told His disciples that He was going to make ready a place for them; then He said, “I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

This is the doctrine **for the dying.** Paul in the last hours of his life stated that he was “Now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.” He says, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” Then the apostle gives us a special word that tells us of his anticipation of the coming of the Lord Jesus: “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” (2 Tim. 4:8).

Yes, Christ is coming again; He is coming soon and His coming will be sudden! “Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” (Luke 12:40)

— Tom Meador

The Bible Speaks of Friendship



Do you have a friend? Are you a friend to anyone? **The Bible has much to say about friends.** A true friend is a treasure that we many times fail to appreciate. It has been said that a man can count on one hand the number of real friends that he has. We have many acquaintances but few genuine friends.

The Bible speaks of friendship with the world being enmity with God, of a friend loving at all times, of Abraham being the friend of God, of Moses speaking face to face with God as a man would his friend, of being betrayed by a friend, and of the ultimate Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ. All of these are a topic

within themselves but let us focus on the value of our human friendships, about which the Bible also has much to say.

A friend is someone to whom you can turn for advice and counsel; **“Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel”** (Proverbs 27:9). Just this past week I have sought the counsel of a friend and it did “rejoice the heart. Too often we take for granted the people whom the Lord has placed in our lives to help us through the journey.

We are helped and encouraged by our friends; **“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend”** (Proverbs 27:17). Appreciate your friends and be a friend; **“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother”** (Proverbs 18:24). And in by doing so we exhibit the love of Christ, the ultimate Friend!

I thank the Lord for my friends and hope that each of you will take time to do the same. I want to also thank my friends for being there!

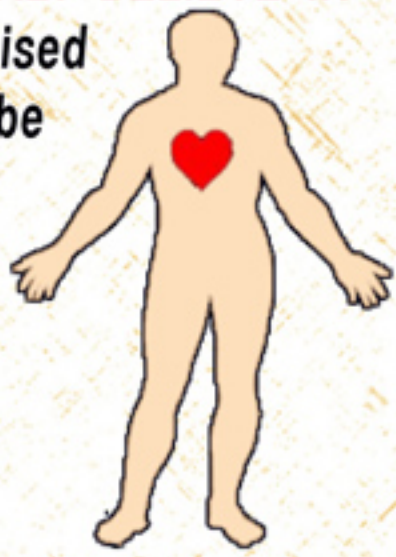
— Fred Barton

FOR WITH THE HEART...

“The HEART is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

What's wrong now? You see the problem with man today is not political. It is not your political party, your program, your system, or “your” personal solution. Our world dilemma is not primarily economical. Money will not solve everything... The problem with all of us **IS WITHIN OUR HEARTS.** According to the Bible, man has a deceitful heart. Man has a desperately wicked heart by nature.

“The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, AND IN THY HEART: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That 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 10:8-10).



Christ has been with you...

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Christ: **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me”** (Revelation 3:20). In the year now past, Christ has striven with you in His providence. To some of you he hath come once and again. Christ is present at all the unholy feasts, He hears all the unholy jests,

He is cognizant of all your desires and knows all that you do! **“I know thy works...”** Do you ever think when you are engaged in some silly game, that Christ is by your side? He sees the smile of satisfaction on your cheek, but He sees also the deluge of wrath that is over your soul. He sees you sporting yourself with your own deceivings, sitting on the brink of Hell. Yet, what does He say? He says: **“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love your simplicity”** (Proverbs 1:22)?

He has been with you a long time. There is reason to think that Jesus strives with the soul from its earliest years, that He strives on to the last.

Some good men have thought that Christ does sometimes give over striving, and leaves the soul to be joined to its idols. But perhaps it is more accordant with Scripture to say that Jesus waits all the day. How long a time Christ has pleaded with some of you! This day, another year of striving with you is finished. Think on this. O the long-suffering of Christ!

Ah! There is reason to think that many of you are as ignorant of Christ as the day you were born. If you knew Christ, it would break your heart with a sense of sin; but your heart is whole within you. If you knew Christ, it would drive you to seek an interest in Him; but you seek Him not. Hark how tenderly the Saviour pleads with you this day. **“Have I been so long time with you”** (John 14:8)? O it will be one of the greatest miseries of Hell, to remember how often Christ was with you in this walk on earth, in your providences, yes, and in your sins; and you would not look at Him! To remember how often He was set forth as your Saviour, preached by His servants, a free Saviour! How often He bended over you, and wept over you, and ye would have none of Him! **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Romans 10:13).

— Rober Murray M'Cheyne

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The Father - "Child of GOD" - Relationship

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concerned ourselves with the family financial problems.

To pray to Him and truly trust in Him to help you acknowledges His existence; "for he that cometh to God must believe that He is..." "But without faith it is impossible to please Him..." (Hebrews 11:6).

3. FORGIVENESS OF GOD; PROVIDED BY THE FATHER! "...And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us..." Forgiveness is the basis of salvation. The Father planned His provision for our forgiveness before He created the world! "... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:7).

He knew that man would rebel against Him and disobey Him in the garden of Eden.

The depravity of mankind came upon us all when the first human, Adam sinned. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Romans 5:19).

In His wisdom, the Father devised a way of forgiveness; salvation for those who would place their faith in His provision! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

Today we have many who mock and ridicule Christians and their faith in Christ! And for those critics we say, "... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34).

Born-again believers must learn to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. This is the solution to many problems of bitterness and strife. "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:15). It is essential to keep in mind that we're all sinners! We all need to be forgiven from time to time. Jesus told the religious crowd, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7).

4. FUTURE WITH GOD; PROMISED BY THE



FATHER! "...Thy kingdom come..." We know the Word of God is true! Jesus is instructing His children to be praying for His Kingdom to come that was promised in the Old Testament Scriptures. We have promises that He will establish His kingdom on earth, and Jesus told His children to pray for this future Kingdom! **Yes, the children of the Heavenly Father have a glorious eternal future with Him!** "...For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen!" (Matthew 6:13).

However, those which have never called upon the Father to receive forgiveness through His Son, they are not God's children.

Jesus warned them and all: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22,23). In

spite of your good works, I never knew you. In spite of your honesty, I never knew you. In spite of your religious fervency, I never knew you! These words were spoken to honest, upright and religious people. People who fully expected to get to Heaven. **Yet, Jesus will profess unto them, "I never knew you, Depart from Me..."**

Dear friend, as I bring this message to a close, let me ask your, "Are you in the family of God?" "If there is any doubt in your mind that all is well with your soul, I beg you to fall upon your knees now and let Jesus fully come in your heart as your personal Saviour. "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

Why not bow your head now and pray while you have the opportunity? "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:14).

(READ PRAYER BELOW) — Tom Meador

Salvation Prayer

Would you like to turn to God right now and begin a personal relationship with Him? Bow before Him in a sincere time of prayer, and ask Jesus to save your soul! If you're not sure what to say, you may use the following words. Remember, God knows your heart, and He not only hears your words, but He also sees your sincerity...

"Dear Father in Heaven, I thank you for sending the Lord Jesus to die upon the Cross for me. I repent with sorrow for all my sins, and ask you to forgive me and help me live for You. Please cleanse me with Your precious Blood. I open my heart and by faith I ask You to come into my life. I now accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior! In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen."

THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:13). He is good and holy.

—James 1:14

In March 2009, a 62-year-old woman was charged with stealing more than \$73,000 from her church in the state of Washington. When the detectives interrogated her, she told them: "Satan had a big part in the theft." It sounds like she was saying that the devil made her do it.



Satan may have played a role in her choices, but she has some faulty thinking about temptation and sin. The devil tempts believers, but he doesn't make us sin. James tells us that God isn't to blame either: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, nei-

ther tempteth he any man" (James 1:13). So who is to blame for our sin? James says, "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed" (v.14). Just as a fisherman uses bait to lure his prey, so our own evil, unchecked desires lead to giving in to temptation and sin.

When we disobey God by sinning, let's not shift the blame or justify our actions with the faulty "the devil made me do it" theology. Instead, let's take full responsibility for our actions, confess our sins to a gracious and forgiving Father, and pursue right living again.

— M. Williams

Lingering Damage

And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

A young teen who was constantly getting into trouble always apologized when his parents confronted him. No matter how much he hurt his parents with his previous wrongdoing, he would soon turn around and do something else wrong—knowing he would be forgiven.

Finally, his dad took him out to the garage for a talk. Dad picked up a hammer and pounded a nail into the garage wall. Then he gave his son the hammer and told him to pull out the nail.

The boy shrugged, grabbed the hammer,



and yanked out the nail.

"That's like forgiveness, Son. When you do something wrong, it's like pounding in a nail. Forgiveness is when you pull the nail out."

"Okay, I get it," said the boy.

"Now take the hammer and pull out the nail hole," his dad replied.

"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!" the boy said. "I can't pull it out."

As this story illustrates and King David's life proves, sin carries consequences. Even though David was forgiven, his adultery and murder left scars and led to family problems (2 Sam. 12:10). This sobering truth can serve as a warning for our lives. The best way to avoid the lingering damage of sin is to live a life of obedience to God.

Our sins can be forgiven and washed away, but their consequences are ours to pay.

— Dave Branon

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