

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

**FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL
BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS**



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This magazine is used as an outlet for expression for all those who have a desire for the Truth, for those who have been given to see how needful it is to maintain this perspective: that we are in fact in a battle! Much as the Israelites, who, after having been delivered from Egypt, found themselves engaging in warfare to move into the land promised to their father by the Lord, we press forward in our good fight of faith that we may obtain the prize which has been promised to those who overcome!

Listed here are some of our regular contributors to this work. We are always open to share the good things that the Lord has given the brethren to see. This opportunity is open to any and all. As long as it is edifying and according to the truth as it is in Christ, it may be considered for inclusion in our publication.

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Also, if you would like, you can visit our group on facebook where you can read more insights from brethren that could not fit within the limited pages of this magazine!

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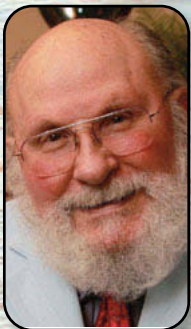
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"These things I Write That Ye Sin Not"

BROTHER MATTHEW COBB



Brother Matthew does the layout/editing for this publication. He also delivers Lords Table Meditations, and monthly sermons at the Word of Truth Fellowship in Joplin, Mo. His desire is that this publication would reach those who are in desperate need of comfort, edification, and clarification about the nature of the good fight of Faith.

What is "TRUTH"?

By: Brother Matthew Cobb

In the culture of our day, it seems that almost on a daily basis there is an erosion and corruption of what actually is true in favor of adopting a new cultural standard set forth by those who love unrighteousness. Especially in this time it seems to me to be a most appropriate question to ask yourself, What is truth? If one didn't know better, just looking at the condition of our society today, it would seem that it is defined by what is most widely accepted, or elected by popular vote. You've no doubt heard men say such things as, "what's true for you may not be true for me". However, despite the whims of fad, trend, and popular culture, the truth remains the same!

Truth is not a position or opinion, it is not an idea or a relative concept. The truth is the way things really are, it expresses the actual condition of reality. It is of itself a standard - it is the fixed point from which we all must reason and conclude. No one is free to exist outside of the confines of its influence. However things may seem in the present, all illusion of control and independence will one day be shattered. All things will eventually find themselves subject to *the* truth.

The situation and circumstance of time has created an illusion for men, in that they believe they truly have a right to form their own opinions and determinations about what is true and what is not. It seems for now, as if they are able to get away with redefining even the most basic foundations of what is and is not true to suit their own preferences and fulfill their own lusts.

This period (this present evil world) of seeming immunity to the demands of truth, is as a man who has taken a flying leap off a mountain side experiencing a momentary weightlessness before being made subject to gravity and plunging to his demise. In spite of any current perception and appearance, eventually everyone will find themselves unavoidably faced with the true reality of things! It behooves us then, to know the truth presently.

But how does one know the truth? Can it be dug up, figured out, found, or calculated? As mere mortal men, we really have no basis upon which we can arrive at a right conclusion without the revelation of the who himself defines what is real and what is not.

After all, we all ourselves were once blind, sitting in darkness, and as lost as any man ever was. Yet, in the midst of the darkness, there was revealed to us a shining ray of light..

"I am the way, the truth, and the life"

(John 14:6)

In Jesus, all things are clarified, made manifest and revealed. He is *"the brightness of GOD's glory", "the express image of his person"*, all things are *"held together by the word of His power"*. **(Hebrews 1:3)**. *"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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist"*.

(Col 1:16-17)

Once you have had an encounter with Jesus, all things which once were hazy and undefined are made clear. You can be sure that regardless of what men may say or do, if you keep your eyes on Jesus, you will never be lost. You will not be confused or bewildered, you will not be deceived, and when all that we see and know in this world has passed away, you will not be ashamed!

As we bring ourselves into subjection to Him, and submit ourselves to his rule and care over our lives, we can be confident that on that day when all things are brought before the judge of all the earth, and all men are called to give an account of the deeds done in the body, you will be able to give a good report.

PRESS THE BATTLE

A COMMENTARY BY BROTHER GENE HUTCHCRAFT

WHO MAY STAND?

"At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep. Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth." (Psalms 76:6-9)

These words provoke the heart of even New Covenant believers though the singer Asaph penned it in the days of King David. Asaph was appointed a minister in the Tabernacle until Solomon completed the Temple. This insightful writer scribed an unusually strong truth for Israel to hear and be exhorted in their faith toward the Most High.

What this text says remains true of God Almighty as he moves forward in his eternal agenda on the earth and among the sons of men. And this statement has strength even in this day of salvation and time of God's favor in Christ Jesus. This reality is one that we believers in Christ must embrace and understand in order to increase in confidence and faith of God's promises. We need the strength of this truth while in the body and in this world of trouble and testing. God expects his people to grasp this intent of his ability and willingness for the sake of his name and their salvation.

Such was also true of God's purpose for Israel after they witnessed the plagues in Egypt. They came out and began to travel away from their slavery. Then the Egyptian army pinned them against the Red Sea where they cried out to Moses.

He spoke these words of confidence to them; *"The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the LORD said unto Moses, 'Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.'" (Exodus 14:14-15)*

Now this reality also applies for us who engage the truth of the gospel to the strength and stability of God's grace and wisdom. Our Savior said, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)*. Also bro. Paul declares, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1)*

This freedom of Christ and liberty of the gospel is for our stability and progress in the reality of God's righteousness, goodness, and truth which we live in fellowship with the Father and the Son. And this is while we are yet in this present world. Faith is not only a defense against the darts of our enemy. It is a shield by which we are able to aggressively move forward in the truth of God's grace and will to enter and abide in his presence. For the presence of God is our destiny and promise.

So, the revelatory words of God's nature toward opposition is a bulwark for believers as they move forward to his appointed end. Even as we stand firm we make progress in God's truth and purpose for us. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)* In this environment then, let us press the battle and remember, God's provision for us in the strength of his might is not primarily for earthly or fleshly involvements.

The supply of God's strength and stability is for our standing in the truth and light while in the present dark world, that we then hold forth the light of his truth in the darkness. Such demonstrates God's superiority, truth, and goodness in contrast to the world, its claims, and its agenda which are not of God.

Our God leaves us in the world for this very reason as well as for our learning and progress in the hope and truth of the gospel. We are now in the school of God's grace for learning from and of him by fellowship in his righteousness. This is critical for our good and God's glory since our destiny is a world where righteousness dwells. So, we must be ready for that environment. In it we will have no opposition but be able to fully engage the greatness of God's righteousness. Such will be a staggering environment and all who dwell there must be strong in the righteousness of the Most High.

God rebukes and often destroyed from the earth those who attempted to interfere with or refused his interest or agenda. Scripture records many instances of those who opposed the Lord and the impact of their folly. It begins with Adam and Eve who had only one negative command. But they failed to believe and so uphold God's intent in them. So, God held them accountable sending them from his presence. Noah's generation also violated God and paid a higher price. Then recall the generation after the flood who attempted to build what was called 'Babel.' Later Pharaoh of Abraham's day and Abimelech paid a small price by comparison. So, let us benefit from this record of those confrontations with God's agenda.

You see good reader, God labors at an agenda of his own, of which the earth is part. In this work men choose to believe and join him in faith or they reject the knowledge of God. If they reject him,

"the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them." (Romans 1:18-19)

We do not want any part in such a sentence from the Most High who aggressively arises to save all the meek from the earth. *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12)*

That sin brought God's curse which cannot be broken. It will find complete fulfillment in its time. However, God has also sent light and truth into the earth, primarily through his dear Son Christ Jesus, the One man appointed to save the meek from the earth.

The message of this salvation is gone out to the whole earth. Scripture calls this the gospel wherein God reconciled man to himself by the man Christ Jesus. By the faith of God one engages the truth of sin, righteousness, and judgment in the earth. And these are not matters of human opinion, judgment, or assessments. It is for hearers to believe, repent, and fully engage in humility. Thus do we evidence the meekness which God values and rewards. Then we continue to live by that faith, walk in the Spirit, and increase in the grace and knowledge of God. Such was the manner of every godly person throughout the scripture record. Yet, now in Christ Jesus we engage more than all we ask or imagine in this knowledge of God and his dear Son.

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"PRESS THE BATTLE : WHO MAY STAND?"

... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 ...

God rewards faith, primarily by fellowship with himself. Then in that fellowship we also have everything that pertains to life and godliness through the knowledge of God. The meek of the earth treasure the possession of this fellowship. Nothing of this present life compares to the exceeding riches of God's grace, specifically in Christ Jesus.

So, dear reader let us then press the battle while in the earth. The enemy of our souls is relentless in his attempts to distract believers while they are in the body. He knows the time of his opportunity is short, limited by God's purpose and grace for his name and those who love him. God rose to judgment in his dear Son of righteousness. He fulfilled this goodness and peace in the blood of his cross. So let us stand firm in that peace and promise of God's riches in the ages to come. This promise of eternal life will not fail to have its fulfillment in those called of God.

God sets his eye upon those who have his favor by their faith. They engage his interests and values even while in this hostile and cursed earth, thus they display the superiority of God's goodness, wisdom, and righteousness contrasted with any and all opposition. Let us then press the battle to enjoin God's grace and truth in which he will reward us forever more. In his light we see light which grows larger and brighter in the perception and strength God works in his own.

Nothing and no one impedes God's intent for his name and his people. He has magnified his word above his name thus granting us the means by which we engage and increase in our capacity for fellowship with him in his agenda. So, brethren, let us then press the battle!

A Soldier's hymn by Brother Isaac Watts

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb,
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His Name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought
to win the prize, And sailed
through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world
a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign;
Increase my courage, Lord.
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

Till He Come

Part 5 of a series of articles on the subject of the Lord's Table

By : Brother Robert Cobb

FOR AS OFTEN AS YE
EAT THIS BREAD, AND
DRINK THIS CUP, YE DO
SHOW THE LORD'S
DEATH TILL HE COME.

(1 CORINTHIANS 11:26)

What does it mean to “eat His flesh and drink His blood”?

Jesus was very direct on this matter as He spoke to a crowd that had followed Him because they had witnessed Him doing miracles, **(Jn 6:2)** and yet, after He had miraculously fed them all, with a boys lunch, they continued the next day to follow Him. However, when it came right down to the deeper reason they followed Him, we learn from Jesus, that it was only for the miraculous bread. Jesus said *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.”*

He proceeded to tell them that He was the bread of Life, and that all who ate of this bread would live forever. But, they could not understand His words. They were still focused upon the bread which filled their stomachs, and they said, *“shall this man give us His flesh to eat?”*

Upon hearing this *“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”* **(John 6:53-58)**

What was the reaction of these disciples that had followed Jesus for food?

“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?” **(John 6:60)**

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” **(John 6:66)**

Faith has no problem with the words of Jesus, even though admittedly, the flesh cannot comprehend what Jesus meant by those words. On the surface I am sure it sounded like Jesus was advocating cannibalism, but is that really what Jesus was talking about?

There have been many who have tried to “re-word” what Jesus said, attempting to make the words fit more comfortably into our mindset, they may say “but Jesus didn’t really mean that we have to eat his flesh...and then they invent some softer way of saying it, but faith does not have a problem with the words of Jesus, “just the way” Jesus spoke them. The Savior wanted us to know that we really do have to “imbibe” His flesh and drink His blood, the life of Jesus must be in you, that is, if you are to have “eternal life” abiding in you. Was He implying that we had to eat His physical body? That is not at all what He meant, because if that were true, than none of us in this generation would have the slightest hope of having eternal life, Jesus is not here in the flesh, Jesus has ascended into the heavens where He reigns’ in His Fathers Throne. Notice however, Jesus does not give any explanation to those who are having trouble with His words!

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“TILL HE COME”
... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 ...

When they strove among themselves Jesus delivers another volley of profound doctrine *“For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. (John 6:55 -57)*

Jesus does not run after them telling them that He is sorry that He has offended them, He simply tells His chosen disciples the reason why the others were offended *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. (John 6:63 -65)*

Jesus gives us the key to understanding what He has spoken; these words are “spirit, and they are life” – Jesus is talking in such a way as to call out the elect of God, to draw those with faith to His side, and at the same time, to dismiss all those who would not believe.

If you can receive it, all of this was for the benefit of His chosen disciples! Jesus then turns to them and asks the most important question of their lives:

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?” (John 6:67)

Will the hardness of the words drive away those whom God has given to Jesus? Will they leave His side because they do not understand all the implications of what He has spoken?

Peter speaks for the group *“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 6:68-69)* Faith extends itself to believe! If Jesus said it, then it is possible, and if it is possible, then the true disciple wants what His Lord has promised!

I bring all this up at this time to show how adequate faith is to receive the words *“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come.”* These words are also “spirit and life” and there is more going on at this table of remembrance than meets the eye! Faith gladly embraces the fact that we are partaking of Christ at this table; we are participating in His death, and in His Life!

It is important for me to say that I am not implying that the wine “turns into Jesus blood” as some theological positions suggest, I am just stating the case as Jesus said it, and I am making the point that Faith can believe what Jesus has spoken, and that same faith will believe the words of Christ that He spoke to His disciples on the same night that He was betrayed -*“take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you”*

Jesus is personalizing salvation at this table. Those who come to this table, with faith that God is pleased in the sacrifice of Christ for the remission of sin, will go away from this table with a blessing, and I agree with the Apostle Peter, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? -thou hast the words of eternal life”.*

Surely there is no other place to which we can resort to impart to us life such as this! Truly Jesus is “The Way, the Truth, and the Life” There is no other name by which we may be saved, no man comes to the Father but by Him!



"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

(2 Timothy 4:2)

A Commentary By Brother Jonathan Blakely

THOSE "OUT OF SEASON" EXPERIENCES

Just about anyone is confident going into something if they are prepared for it. This is especially true concerning sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's easy to speak when you've taken the time to plan what you're going to say and find all the scriptures that confirm what you're saying. It's also easy to answer questions that you know the answer to already. But what about those times when you have had no time to prepare and you have to have something to say at that moment? The scriptures teach us to be ready to give every man an answer for the hope that is within us (**1 Peter 3:15**). Should we only speak when we're scheduled to or when we have time to put something together? It is certainly easy to fall into such a routine, but God calls us to be instant out of season as well as in season.

"In season" means when the time is convenient and the outcome is favorable. "Out of season", therefore, is when it is not convenient. What if someone springs a question on you concerning the scriptures when you don't expect it? Will you have an answer? What if someone is sorrowful and you need to comfort them at that moment? What do you say or do in that case? What if an unexpected opportunity for you to preach arises and you haven't had time to write your sermon out or memorize your scriptures? Will you have anything to say in such cases?

Apply this to our spiritual warfare. Does a soldier only fight when the battle is on a certain date and at a certain time, and then take off his armor and toss his weapon aside after the battle is over? What if there is a surprise attack and you get ambushed unexpectedly? What will an unprepared soldier do in such cases? If he is not ready to fight, he will easily be killed seeing his guard was down. However, a soldier that expects his enemy to attack at any moment will be much more successful in combat should the enemy spring on him without warning.

Believers are to be equipped for any situation, whether they be known about beforehand or not. Be ready to deliver a word to those who seek truth. Be ready to give an answer to those who ask. Be ready to comfort those who mourn. When the schedule is clear, we should expect to speak for God anyway, just as a soldier is ready to fight off the battlefield as well as he is on it. Do not let such a thought overwhelm you. Pray to the Lord and He will equip you with what you need as the opportunities arise. You will find that you can say a lot with a few words when brief moments of ministry come up. You will also find you can cover a lot of ground with very little to no preparation. God can make you ready! You may have an opportunity to preach with little notice, so be ready to deliver a word from the Lord! Likewise, also, learn to say a lot with a few words, because times will come when a few words is all you will have. Be instant brethren!

Whose "well done" are you working for?

By: Sister Nicole Cobb



Whose well done are you working for? This is a good question that we can ask ourselves and examine our lives to be sure we are on the right track.

In our society today there is a constant call for us to give ourselves to this or that, spend our time reading this, or watching that. There's always something else that is seeking our attention. In this environment of distraction it can be easy, if we do not take measures to live intentionally, to become side tracked and find ourselves skewed, moving in a direction that is contrary to that of a life lived in faith, according to the hope of the gospel, and participation in the will and purpose of God in Christ Jesus.

It is important not only for us to think about what we are doing, and how we are spending our time, but also what our motives are in this and who really are we doing these things for?

Why am I doing this? How does this fit into the grand purpose of GOD in Christ? Seeing everything that is going on in our individual lives and circumstances under this banner helps us to have more clarity in things.

What is the sum total, as it were, of my life? Men throughout the ages have asked themselves this question 'Why are we here?'

There have been hundreds of thousands of literary works dedicated to philosophizing about this matter, but without the revelation of GOD they have come to all manner of conclusions that really amount to a whole lot of nothing.

In summary, I think we could put the answer to this question quite simply; Man was created by GOD, for GOD. The true fulfillment of the purpose of our very being is to serve the GOD who made us.

We know through what has been communicated in the gospel, that humanity ultimately is to be a habitation for GOD himself. That being the case, our lives ought to be representative of this in the present. In *1 Peter 2:5*, The apostle Peter speaks of this kind of purposeful involvement in this work - preparing ourselves for our eternal occupation by submitting ourselves to service, or ministry, as it were, to GOD himself in the present.

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5) "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;" (1 Peter 2:9)

In Jesus we have been given the ability to actually minister to GOD things that are acceptable to Him. We don't labor in prospect of being accepted, we labor from a reconciled standpoint. As we are in Jesus and participate in availing ourselves of the divine nature, we have been reborn. In Christ we are able to, by what we say and do, please God. It is not primarily a work of us, but it is Christ in us. Also, from a more practical standpoint there's nobody who has any excuse for why they did not give themselves to the Lord.

Everyone has been given something to use, everybody has been given time, everybody has been given some kind of resource. The question is: are you using it wisely and for the purpose you have been given it for, or, are you using it for yourself, your peers, and to please men?

See that you use it for the purpose for it was intended, to glorify GOD.

Now, consider the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. The master gave three men talents, one 5, one 2, and one 1. The men were expected to do something with what their master gave them. He gave them something and they were expected to take care of it, to be good stewards of it. We have been given talents, so to speak, we have been given gifts and we are to use them for GOD.

The things that GOD gives us are beneficial to us, not only presently, but for the world to come. They are making us more prepared for His Son's return. In the new covenant, as a son of GOD in Christ Jesus, GOD gives us what we need to please Him, all that he requires is for us to use what He has given us. The men with 5 and 2 talents used theirs wisely and multiplied these talents for their master.

They were thinking of how they could please their master, they desired to do good with what they had been given. Because of this, their master was well pleased with them.

But what happened to the servant who did nothing with his talent? He was thinking of himself, not how he could be a benefit to his master. So what did his master do? He took it away and gave it to the other servant. If we don't use what GOD gives us he will take it away. And it won't go to waste, he will give this good thing to another.

This being said, whatever you have been given, whether it be time, resource, intelligence, talent, ability, etc - use it for the Lord.

Colossians 3:23-24 says:

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the

Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord thy GOD"

In everything that you do, labor with this in mind; that our GOD is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

So I want to encourage you, Brethren, to ask yourself each day "who's well done am I working for?" Let us not get caught up in pleasing anyone but GOD. Let's keep looking for His return and be ready so we can hear "well done though good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, now will I make you ruler over many things". And we will happily enter into the joy of the Lord.

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:23)

*"The true fulfillment
of the purpose for
our very being is
to serve the God
who made us"*

CONFLICT IN THE PSALMS



Brother Given Blakely

Part 5 of a series on "Inner Conflict and It's Remedy"

One of the primary values of the Psalms is their precise articulation of spiritual experience. Like Paul, David was a man "born out of due time" (1 Cor 15:8). In relation to his Apostleship, Paul was born after his commissioned peers. David, on the other hand, was born before the formation of the body of Christ. The people of his time simply did not have the appreciation for his spiritual sensitivity that those in Christ possess.

PERSONAL CONFLICT

Unwilling to be reconciled to the deficiencies of his lower nature, David challenged his soul. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance" (Psa 42:5). These are the words of a soul in conflict.

Describing the frustration of inhibiting inner influences, David wrote, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" (Psa 42:1,2).

He was deeply cognizant of the inadequacy of this "dry and thirsty land, where no water is" (Psa 63:1). His spiritual appetite could not be satisfied from the shallow wells of this world. That is the essence of the conflict of which I speak.

Viewing his life from the higher perspective, and in view of his desire to be with the Lord Himself, David wrote,

I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart"
(Psa 38:8).

This was not the expression of a morose spirit that lived beneath the clouds of despair. He had seen enough of God to whet his appetite for more--more than earth could give. His desires reached far beyond the limitations of this world. The Psalmist's "roarings" were similar to the "groans" of the believer (Rom 8:23; 2 Cor 5:2,4). They were intensified because of the lesser light possessed by David.

CONFLICT WITH SOCIETY

Like Enoch and Noah, David experienced variance with his generation. Often the wicked seemed to surround him, tempting him to become reconciled to them. It is then that he would fervently pray. "Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me" (Psa 36:11). "Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity" (Psa 64:2).

Fellowship with God necessarily involved conflict. Its requirements are no different today!

In a unique description of conflict with the wicked, the Psalmist wrote, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psa 1:1,2).

The Bill Of Rights

If Christ Jesus is "in you" then you do have some rights! These rights are not based on gender, race, or political standing. The following is a very short list,, a sampling of the "abundant" bill of rights that every last person can enjoy if they are "in Christ Jesus, the Lord of Glory". Christ has brought His people the right...

- 1- TO "REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL"
- 2- TO "RESIST THE DEVIL"
- 3- TO "DENY UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUST"
- 4- TO "OBEY FROM THE HEART THE FORM OF THE DOCTRINE"
- 5- TO "CRUCIFY THE FLESH WITH THE AFFECTIONS AND LUST"
- 6- TO "SEEK GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART"
- 7- TO "PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD"
- 8- TO "LIVE PEACEABLE WITH ALL MEN"
- 9- TO "PRAY FOR THEM THAT DESPITEFULLY USE YOU"
- 10- TO "WALK IN THE SPIRIT"
- 11- TO "WAIT FOR GOD'S SON FROM HEAVEN"
- 12- TO "BE CONFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF GOD'S SON"
- 13- TO "ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS"
- 14- TO "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT GOD IS LORD"
- 15- TO "SUFFER FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST"
- 16- TO "DO ALL OF GODS COMMANDMENTS WITH JOY"
- 17- TO "ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS"
- 18- TO "BE READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU"
- 19- TO "KNOCK, SEEK AND FIND"
- 20- TO "SIN NOT"
- 21- TO "TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND"
- 22- TO "HUMBLE YOURSELF UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD"
- 23- TO "LIVE IN THE SPIRIT"
- 24- TO "STAND FAST IN THE LORD"
- 25- TO "WATCH" – "OBEY" – "BE READY"
- 26- TO "WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT"
- 27- TO "LET THE WORD OF GOD DWELL IN YOU RICHLY"
- 28- TO "SING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD"
- 29- TO "BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT AND WATCH UNTO PRAYER"
- 30- TO "USE HOSPITALITY ONE TO ANOTHER"
- 31- TO "HONOUR ALL MEN. LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD. FEAR GOD."
- 32- TO "HOPE TO THE END FOR THE GRACE THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT UNTO YOU"
- 33- TO "RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE ENGRAFTED WORD"
- 34- TO "BRING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST"
- 35- TO "WAIT FOR THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY"

ABOUNDING *Consolation*

"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."
(2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

In this world, it is inevitable that we experience some form of trouble, inconvenience, or discomfort. Men, in general, are born into trouble: this is something that cannot be avoided or escaped. When we talk particularly about the trouble, trials, and tribulations that the saints experience, we are not really speaking specifically of this kind of general trouble that applies to all men.

Believers should expect this kind of generic discomfort that comes as a result of living in the world. When these things do come and are experienced, it should not be a great trial of our faith to have to deal with these minor inconveniences of everyday life.

I realize this may be harder for those who are new to the faith, and everyone may have more or less difficulty dealing with these kinds of things, but let's be clear - even people in the world, ungodly sinners, can deal with these things and not be overcome by them. You can go to the psychiatrist to learn tips on how to manage stress.

When we think about the experience of the believers in persecutions, trouble, tribulation, and the trial of your faith - this is something that requires divine resources to go through.

This kind of trial is something that has come as a result of your association with Jesus, a partaking of his sufferings. These are the matters that make the distinction between men who have hope in this world only and men who have faith.



In the case of these sufferings, the Apostle Paul had an encouraging word, which he communicated with the brethren at Corinth: *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."*
(2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

When we are faced with tribulation and trial, it is good to see these things as an opportunity for Christ to work in and through us. It may be a temptation to murmur in these things, to ask "Why me?", "Why can't things just go well for me?" Instead, we should think, "What is the Lord doing in this?", "What does the Lord have for me in this?"

These situations and circumstances are like tools used of the master to form the vessel into the image He desires. They may be designed to create something within you, perhaps for your own benefit to the glory of GOD, or for the benefit of your brother or sister in Christ.

Whatever is being worked, see that you don't despise it as if it were some unnecessary thing. There is no trial you will be called to bear that does not have a direct bearing upon the purpose of God in Christ Jesus! There are times when it is appropriate to ask to be relieved of some thing, for a trial to come to an end, that they Lord may be glorified in the answering of it. However, there are times when that is actually not what you need at all.

Sometimes you must be put in a place where there is nothing that you can do to affect any change in the circumstance. You must be put in a place of need so that you can be upheld in it by the sustaining power of God. Paul testified later on in this very epistle of a circumstance that he found himself in where this was the case:

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." **(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)**

Paul saw his weakness, trouble, and distress as an opportunity for the Lord to show his power in him. The weaker he became, the stronger the Lord upheld him. The more helpless he was, the more he was helped of the Lord.

Paul uses two words in this text **(2 Cor 1:3-5)** to describe Christ's ministry towards his people: "comfort", and "consolation". To Console is "to alleviate or lessen the grief, sorrow, or disappointment of", It is similar to the word "*compensation*." There is something gained that makes up for what is lost.

No matter what you are called to bear in this world, if you are able to, by faith, see the provision of the Lord towards you, you will be equal to it. The comfort that the Lord ministers is adequate to alleviate any suffering. The hope of Glory compensates for anything that we could possibly be called to endure in this world.

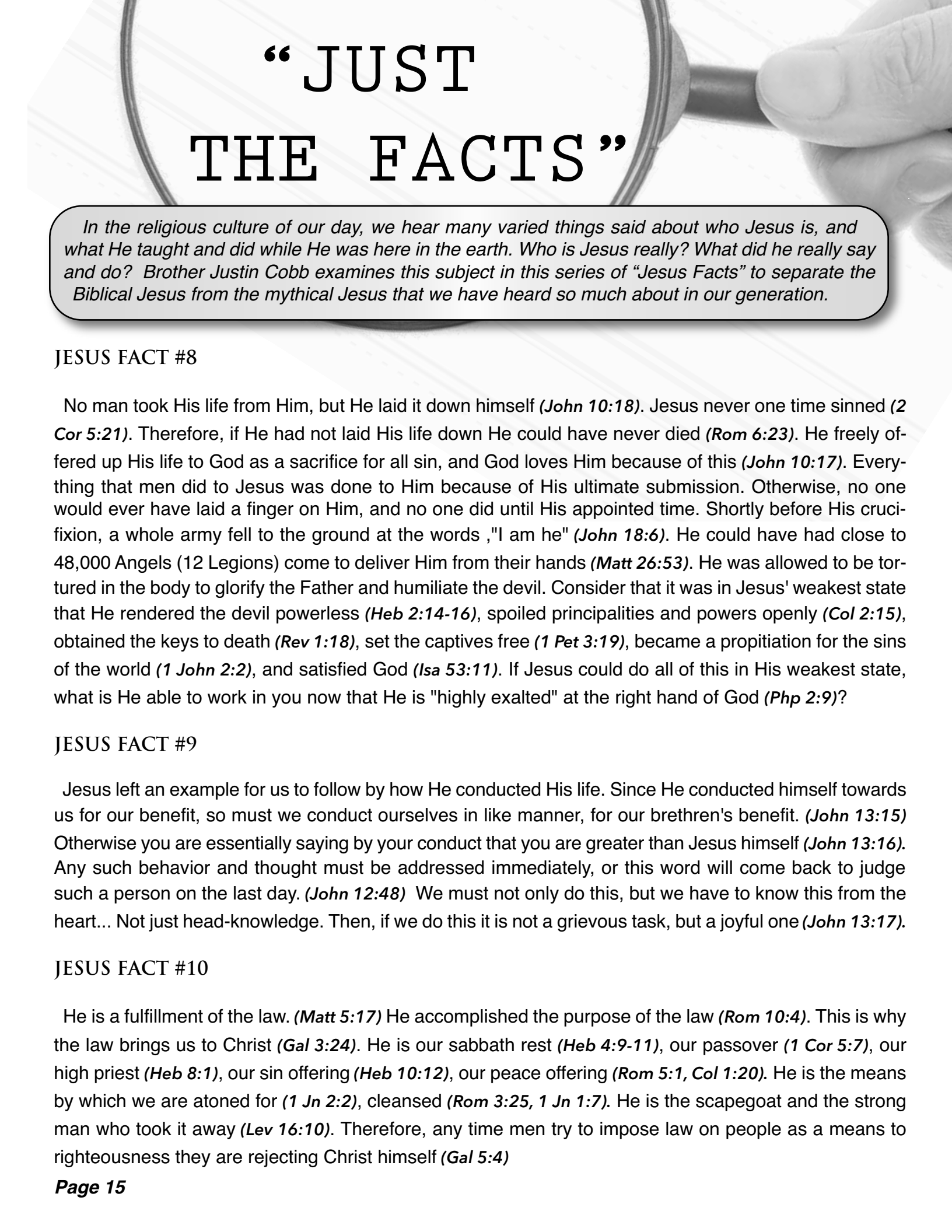
So, reader, I encourage and exhort you to be on the lookout for the comfort and encouragement of the Lord. And even more so than this, seek to be a vessel that is usable to the Lord to minister that comfort to those whom you have been given to see are in need of it,

***"The Hope of Glory
compensates for
anything that we
could possibly be
called to endure in
this world."***

If you find yourself in the heat of the battle this day, His grace is sufficient for you. If you are weak today, His strength is greater than your weakness. If you are suffering, His comfort is greater than your suffering. If you are in tribulation, He is able to minister an abounding consolation that will make it seem more than worth it!

'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.'

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18)



“JUST THE FACTS”

In the religious culture of our day, we hear many varied things said about who Jesus is, and what He taught and did while He was here in the earth. Who is Jesus really? What did he really say and do? Brother Justin Cobb examines this subject in this series of “Jesus Facts” to separate the Biblical Jesus from the mythical Jesus that we have heard so much about in our generation.

JESUS FACT #8

No man took His life from Him, but He laid it down himself (*John 10:18*). Jesus never one time sinned (*2 Cor 5:21*). Therefore, if He had not laid His life down He could have never died (*Rom 6:23*). He freely offered up His life to God as a sacrifice for all sin, and God loves Him because of this (*John 10:17*). Everything that men did to Jesus was done to Him because of His ultimate submission. Otherwise, no one would ever have laid a finger on Him, and no one did until His appointed time. Shortly before His crucifixion, a whole army fell to the ground at the words, "I am he" (*John 18:6*). He could have had close to 48,000 Angels (12 Legions) come to deliver Him from their hands (*Matt 26:53*). He was allowed to be tortured in the body to glorify the Father and humiliate the devil. Consider that it was in Jesus' weakest state that He rendered the devil powerless (*Heb 2:14-16*), spoiled principalities and powers openly (*Col 2:15*), obtained the keys to death (*Rev 1:18*), set the captives free (*1 Pet 3:19*), became a propitiation for the sins of the world (*1 John 2:2*), and satisfied God (*Isa 53:11*). If Jesus could do all of this in His weakest state, what is He able to work in you now that He is "highly exalted" at the right hand of God (*Php 2:9*)?

JESUS FACT #9

Jesus left an example for us to follow by how He conducted His life. Since He conducted himself towards us for our benefit, so must we conduct ourselves in like manner, for our brethren's benefit. (*John 13:15*) Otherwise you are essentially saying by your conduct that you are greater than Jesus himself (*John 13:16*). Any such behavior and thought must be addressed immediately, or this word will come back to judge such a person on the last day. (*John 12:48*) We must not only do this, but we have to know this from the heart... Not just head-knowledge. Then, if we do this it is not a grievous task, but a joyful one (*John 13:17*).

JESUS FACT #10

He is a fulfillment of the law. (*Matt 5:17*) He accomplished the purpose of the law (*Rom 10:4*). This is why the law brings us to Christ (*Gal 3:24*). He is our sabbath rest (*Heb 4:9-11*), our passover (*1 Cor 5:7*), our high priest (*Heb 8:1*), our sin offering (*Heb 10:12*), our peace offering (*Rom 5:1, Col 1:20*). He is the means by which we are atoned for (*1 Jn 2:2*), cleansed (*Rom 3:25, 1 Jn 1:7*). He is the scapegoat and the strong man who took it away (*Lev 16:10*). Therefore, any time men try to impose law on people as a means to righteousness they are rejecting Christ himself (*Gal 5:4*)

JESUS FACT #11

In order to know Him, and to experience His love, you must retain the commandments He has given (*John 14:21*). You must continue to retain His commandments to continue to be loved (*John 15:10*). And unless you do what Jesus commands, He will not so much as be your friend (*John 15:14*).

In order for Him to live in you, you must retain the words that He has spoken (*John 14:23*). Not merely in your head (in the sense of academia), but in your heart (*Psa 119:11*). Being able to look at the situations of everyday life with His sayings in the forefront. This is not optional. You must live in Jesus. If you do not you will lose strength and eventually be cast out and burned with fire. (*John 15:6*).

This is ultimately why a person must be born again, must be given a new heart, and a new mind. The sinful nature of man is incapable of retaining the things of God. Only the part of us that is "*born of God*" is able to know God and perpetually keep in remembrance the things He has said. By which we can do, and if we need help, ask for grace in the time of need to effectually do what He says needs to be done.

JESUS FACT #12

He has promised that those who overcome will inherit "all things"! (*Rev 21:7*) There is nothing that a child of God will lack in heaven. You will not lack any strength, power, resources, sustenance, or wisdom. Your joy will be full and your satisfaction will be complete (*Psa 17:15*), your thirst will be quenched (*Rev 22:1*), your inheritance will be perfect and everlasting! (*1 Pet 1:4*) You will be given authority to reign with Christ! (*Rev 3:21*) You will not be lacking in anything! Now how's that for an incentive to live righteously till He come?

JESUS FACT #13

He is coming again (*Rev 22:12*), in power and great glory (*Matt 24:30*) with the holy angels. He is not coming again in a humbled state, but in His exalted state! (*Mk 13:26*), everyone will see Him (*Rev 1:7*). What will happen to the physical universe that has been corrupted by sin? When the unfiltered, pure holiness and power of God is made manifest to creation, it will be consumed. It will be utterly destroyed. The elements themselves will melt with a fervent, unimaginable heat (*2 Pet 3:10*), the mountains and islands of the earth will flee away from His presence (*Rev 16:20*). The universe as we know it and everything in it will be swallowed up. He will come at a time that people don't expect. (*Matt 24:44*) You have to LIVE in a state of readiness for this coming. You wouldn't want Him to come when you are doubting Him or disobeying Him! (*Rev 16:15*). He expects to find faith in you when He arrives! (*Lk 18:8*) For those who are living by faith, (and as a result, are obeying, laying up treasure in heaven, and living righteous and holy lives before God), only they will remain. They will be raised to life. But the ones who are inordinately attached to this temporal realm will lose their lives forever. (*1 Jn 2:15-17*). They will be raised to damnation. Now that we know this, should we live our lives contrary to God? On the contrary, we should be holy and godly in everything we do (*2 Pet 3:11*).

FAITH AND ENDURANCE IN PERSECUTION

By : Sister Adah Hutchcraft

"So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure. Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:" (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5)

The love and faith of the Thessalonians continued to excel and thrive in the midst of persecution. The evidence of this was of such joy and consolation to Paul, Silas and Timothy that they shared the testimony of their perseverance among other congregations: *"all the churches of God."* Paul and his brethren boasted in this work of God being done in their hearts. His was not a fleshly boasting, or that of taking honor for something one has not accomplished. Indeed, that is too frequently seen in religious circles, but the boasting in such cases is often in fame, riches, education, or other outward appearances of success. One excellent indicator of a godly person is what they 'glory' in: in the works of God. Paul had labored and sowed among the Thessalonians, and their steadfastness was glorifying to the God who saved them, and saved Paul. The Thessalonians demonstrated the power and fruit of the new creation. They were born again and made new in Christ, and their lives adorned the doctrine of God (*Titus 2.10*).

As it is, whenever believers hear and see the grace of God being met out in a person or a gathering of people, it provokes us to love and good works. There are those like the Thessalonians that excel in their faith. Some are noted for pressing in more fervently, hungering more deeply, and believing more fully.

Examples would include Peter, James, and John who received special requests from Jesus (*Matthew 17.1; Mark 5.7; 13.3*) and John who is known as *"the disciple Jesus loved"* (*John 13.23*).

In the book of Acts, the early church selected men to minister to the widows who were *"of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom"* (*Acts 6.3*). Paul also mentions Andronicus and Junia as being *"of note among the apostles,"* and Persis who was noted for laboring *"much in the Lord"* (*Romans 16.7,12*). In such, God demonstrates the efficacy of His grace and the transformative power of His Spirit working in us. There is nothing mediocre about new life in Christ! If mediocrity sets in, it is only through the influence of doubt and distractions. Living together and mutually in the love of God helps protect us from falling into such influences, and helps us in the fight of faith!

Given the nature and origin of the Thessalonian's progress of faith, Paul was compelled to commend them in the churches where this testimony would be received. Other versions read, *"we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God,"* NKJV and *"we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God."* NIV The term *"churches of God,"* or *"church of God,"* is the most frequently used appellation assigned to local congregations (*1 Cor 11:16; 1 Thess 2:14; 2 Thess 1:4; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 1:2; 10:32; 11:22; 15:9; 2 Cor 1:1; Gal 1:13; 1 Tim 3:5*). It is a term of origin: It was conceived by God, and purchased by Him (*Acts 20:28*). The church is comprised of people God Himself put into Christ (*1 Cor 1:30*). *He has placed them in the body "where it has pleased Him"* (*1 Cor 12:18*). What better place to share about God's work in the Thessalonians? There are messages and ways of speaking which are reserved only for the gathering of God's people. This in once reason it is of great importance to meet together.

Before the Thessalonians, their excelling faith and abounding love were commended. Note that the things mentioned before other congregations were their patience and faith. "Patience" is also translated "*perseverance*" NASB or "*steadfastness*." NIV This is the nature of patience mentioned in *1 Corinthians 15:58* as being "*steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.*" They had not left their first love as Ephesus did (*Rev 2:4*) nor had they suffered "*shipwreck of the faith*" (*1 Tim 1:19*). Although the love of many "waxed cold" (*Matt 24:12*), They remained constant in running the race that was set before them (*Heb 12:1-2*). Their faith was like that of Abraham, who "*staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform*" (*Rom 4:20-21*). They did not allow the distractions of pain and personal need to turn them aside from their fervency. They reckoned that the sufferings of this present time were not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in them (*Rom 8:18*).

There are unique temptations that can beset one during persecution. Satan desires to turn people away from faith in order to maintain peace with the world (*Luke 8.13*). But the Thessalonians would not be turned. They were not ashamed of the Lord Jesus, and this was evidenced in their prospering faith and the increase of mutual, Holy love among them. Where faith persists, the devil is resisted and flees.

This is done within the context of spiritual harassment from opposers of Christ. Peter writes to the persecuted church throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia: "*Resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world*" (*1 Peter 5:9*). Satan cannot take territory that God is already occupying. By faith, God occupies our thoughts, our hearts, our desires and our actions. We are established in the faith (*Acts 16:5*),

sanctified by faith (*Acts 26.18*), and given boldness in faith (*1 Timothy 3.13*). The Scriptures state "*whatever is not of faith is sin*" (*Romans:14.23*).

How is this so? It is because where faith is absent, we have left a void for Satan to fill, and he will not neglect a foothold (*Eph 4.27; 1 Peter 5.8*). The Thessalonians were walking by faith, and in every trial they were filled with faith and "grew exceedingly." This commended them before God, before the brethren in their day, and it continues to commend them to us. Let us be exhorted and encouraged in our fight of faith knowing that our God is "*able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.*"

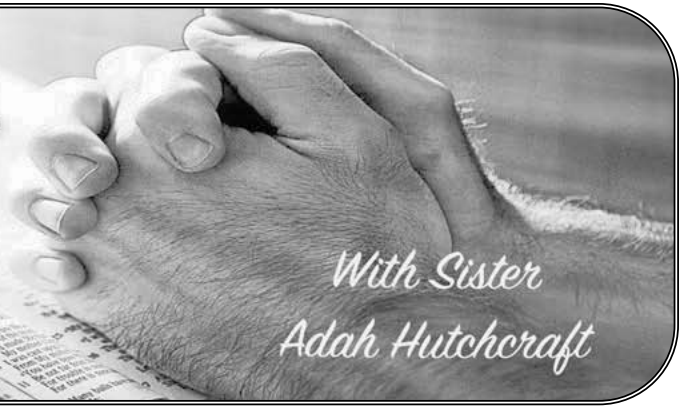
"THE FREE GIFT"

By: Seth Cobb (age 7)

Romans 5:16 - And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: For the judgement was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification

Has God given us a gift of faith and hope? Yes, this gift is Jesus. Why do we have this gift? We have this gift because Jesus died, we have this gift because Jesus is love. God wants us to be strong, that is why Jesus died on the cross. God made Him his sacrifice because God loves us. Jesus is the gift of God's love.

Praying With All Prayer



*With Sister
Adah Hutchcraft*

God, Our Defender,

By faith may we exercise the spiritual gifts You give, that by them we may wage the good warfare, standing by faith and in a good conscience. Our hearts are grieved when others suffer shipwreck of the faith. Let us persevere in supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for all, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For You have told us that this is good and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, who desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

In the name of Christ, Amen (1 Timothy 1:18-19; 2:1-4)

Our Gracious Father,

Thank You for freedom in Christ to follow You no matter what others say or do. In every circumstance, You minister the necessary grace to glorify You in word and deed. You even give us joy in the midst of suffering as we trust You every step of this pilgrimage. We are free in Christ, and we are liberated to rejoice and be rejoiced over! Be pleased with our faith, holy Father, for You are worthy of our adoration. We can be confident of Your promises long before we see their fruition. Your Word is our liberty when we take it to heart.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Our Gracious God,

Our struggles and hardships cause us to realize that without you we would be utterly defeated. You are our shield, our defender, and our hope. Thank you for not leaving us defenseless. Through Christ Jesus we are more than conquerors.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

WORDS CONCERNING WISDOM

A brief exposition of James 1:5-12 by: Brother Jeff Hostetter

So how do we know whether we love Jesus or not? How do we decide if we love anyone or anything? Our attitude towards the object of our affection tells all. Will we gladly sacrifice for it? Do we talk about it, think about it, and have a desire to spend more, not less, upon it? So thus, if we love Jesus, we will want to spend time with Him, to think, talk about, and offer some tokens of love.

For those who do actually love Jesus, all things work out just fine in the end! (**Rom.8:28**) They can be assured of His guidance to make the right decisions based on their love. This divinely bestowed wisdom is only for the pure in heart, who love Jesus with a undying, incorruptible love. (**Eph.6:24**) This type of love is only available to a Christian, in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. (**Rom.5:3**) It doesn't disappoint, or fail those who possess it indeed. It is the thing that is highlighted eloquently by Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13, as the chief of all the three essential and lasting qualities needed by believers. Here too, it is said that such love never fails. (**I Cor.13:8**)

Such lovers of God can persevere through all trials and tribulations, and come out as winners! In this manner the very poor become more gloriously blessed with eternal beauty than the very richest man on earth. He is crowned with eternal life!

Let me end this brief consideration of James famous passage concerning wisdom. In Proverbs 8 & 9, it is personified as a virtual equal in some respects with God Himself!

Rich King Solomon's amazing request for wisdom is the best Old Testament example of such a request. Yet now, more amazingly still, every Christian can also ask for that God-given wisdom! Greater wisdom than that with which the great King of Israel, built the Temple of Jehovah in Jerusalem, and thus fulfilled his great father David's lifelong, unfulfilled ambition, for God's glory! We can ask confidently because the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than Solomon! Being a Christian is really a big deal! It is to be a son of God, a light in this world, an imitator and promoter of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and a builder of His temple, the church, to His eternal glory, which is the fulness of Him who fills all in all. (**Eph.1:23**) It is a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Each living stone must be shaped to absolute perfection to fit perfectly in this House of Christ. (**I Pet.2:4f**)

So are we confidently asking and receiving the divine, heavenly, supernatural wisdom that is readily available to all Christians, but to Christians only. To do what only Christians can do, to glorify Jesus as the true King of kings and Lord of lords in this fallen, dark, corrupted and rebellious present world order. Remember, you don't need God's power, His incredible help and resources, to cross the road, brush your teeth, or flip hamburgers! Nor even to do brain surgery, solve math equations, or invent a better computer! Mere earthlings that still retain vestiges of God's immortal image within their frail bodies can do all of that, thanks to inherited traits in their DNA from Adam, and also by dint of hard study, intuition, high IQ and great educations. But only God can make a man able to be of such a mindset and morally pure state, that he can actually do the will of God in helping build the kingdom of God.

TRANSLATED

BY: BROTHER MATTHEW COBB

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of his dear son" (Colossians 1:13)

When you think of the word 'translate' no doubt one of the associations you make in our mind is one of language. What has not been translated is foreign, it is incompatible. There is no communication, no understanding there. As a result, there really cannot be any fellowship or agreement.

In the kingdom, we are given ears to hear and mouths to speak in a heavenly language, as it were. The language of the people of GOD is one that cannot be learned, or taught - it is one that is given. Just as the Lord confused the language of the people at Babel to cause division and confusion, to prevent men from building what they desired, in Christ, GOD gives an understanding and an ability to communicate in a heavenly language so that Christ may build what He desires. It is a language of freedom, liberty, unity, and reconciliation, a means of effective communication with GOD. It is a reciprocal fellowship. There is no translator that can relate the meaning of this language to the sinner. It is an inside experience.

Have you ever met a brother or sister that you did not know and you feel instantly as if you knew them for years? Have you ever been in some public place and in passing heard someone say something that caught you, and you recognized right away: this is a Brother. What was that? They have been translated too! It's like being in a foreign country and suddenly, in the midst of the crowd, you hear your language. It's familiar, it has a relieving and comfortable sound to it.

In this, there is familiarity. We are not outside looking in, we are brought inside.

Jesus himself is the way, and as we are in him, we have access to where the blessing can be found. It is God opening up and setting us in heavenly places, granting us access to the throne of grace for help in time of need

There are some implications to this: when you are translated into the kingdom you become foreign to the world. They think it strange that you don't run to the same excess of riot. Why? Because they can't understand you. Your translation has made you become foreign to them. There is such wisdom in this; when we talk about his power and dominion, this is the way in which these things are being directed - we have not simply been made to be superior to our enemies without any experience of opposition or trouble, but we are, in the midst of opposition and trouble, given access to heavenly resources to overcome. In this dual experience of acceptance of, and joining to the Lord, and rejection and separation from the world is by divine design, working out an intended result in us.

We are given first fruits of things to come, to become accustomed to the heavenly culture and economy now, even as we are surrounded by the culture of the earth. It not only helps us to develop a greater appetite for the things of GOD, it demonstrates their superiority. It fosters our hope, as we live separate from this world. according to the nature that we have been translated into, it confirms to our spirit the enduring nature of the truth. As men throughout their lives lean on the temporal and find themselves disappointed, and eventually losing all they held dear in their lives to death, we can look forward to the day when all that is seen flees from us - because we have a better and more enduring substance. All of our goods have been transferred, so to speak. Just like us, they have been translated into heavenly currency as it were. We will not lose anything!

Steadfast Saints



BROTHER ROB LAPTAD

I have been blessed to have the pleasure to meet and get to know this beloved Brother in Christ Jesus. Brother Rob has a ministry among his fellow believers that is much needed in the trying times of our day!

He has been given a peculiar spirit of charity, and an evident desire to bless God and His people. He has oftentimes perceived a need and extended himself to provide for it before the brethren even ask for help.

Brother Rob has a quiet and tender spirit that does not boast or exalt itself. He is a shining example of what it looks like to excel in meekness and preferring others over one's self.

He is one that has faced many obstacles and trials in this present world, and although he has had much to overcome, you would not know it by speaking with him.

He maintains a thankful and Godly attitude about life that is contagious when you are around him. It truly is a blessing to see how the Lord has worked in and through him to glorify Him and encourage His people.

I THANK GOD FOR THIS STEADFAST SAINT !



COMMENTS FROM THE FOXHOLE

"The word of God.....

Like a fire and like a hammer - (Jeremiah 23:29) A sharp two edged sword - (Hebrews 4:12)
Man shall live by it - (Luke 4:4) Shall never pass away - (Matthew 24:35)
Joy and rejoicing - (Jeremiah 15:16) A lamp and a light - (Psalms 119:105) "

..... May we receive it with meekness"

- Brother Aaron Hutchcraft

"Feelings are ephemeral, fleeting, wispy wisp's that come and go like clouds.
Faith is substantial, solid and dependable"

- Brother Jeff Hostetter

"Men have to be jarred away from stunted understandings of the things of God."

- Brother Daniel Brueck

"If you say you are a Christian, but you reject Christ's teachings, you are not a Christian."

- Brother Jason Rosselli

"Once God has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light, for those who love God, there is no turning back."

- Sister Nicole Cobb

"Jesus died and now he holds the keys"

- Elisha Jude Cobb (2 years old)

"The Ignorance of God is deadly, progressive and becomes worse. Man does not get better in a state of ignorance of God."

- Brother Jonathan Blakely