

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

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



Brother Matthew Cobb:

"Knowing The Hope" - Page 2

Brother Gene Hutchcraft:

"Press the Battle: A War of Words" - Page 3

Sister Adah Hutchcraft:

Praying with All Prayer: A Prayer for Clarity and Protection - Page 7

Sister Susan Brueck:

"The Manner of The Father's Love"- Page 8

Brother Robert Cobb:

"He Rolled It Away!" - Page 9

Sister Carol Maquire Mattice:

"The Way" - Page 10

Brother Matthew Cobb:

"Lay Hold" - Page 11

Brother Robert Cobb:

"Dear Flesh" - Page 14

Brother Justin Cobb:

"The Piquant Parallel: Are We There Yet?" - Page 15

Sister Mattie Blakely:

"Letters From the Bridegroom"- Page 17

Brother Ricky Sims:

"Leaving Your Waterpot" - Page 19

Sister Eva Blakely:

"Concerning Death:"- Page 21



Brother Matthew Cobb
Layout and Editing



Brother Robert Cobb
Printing and Distribution

**Contact
Information**
E-Mail - [battle@
rwrenewals.com](mailto:battle@rwrenewals.com)
4730 Jute Road,
Seneca, MO 64865
417-776-4777

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list for this publication may send their requests to the above physical and email address. These magazines are provided free of charge, however anyone wishing to make a donation to cover the cost of printing the cost is approximately 2 dollars per issue. Anyone wishing to make a donation should make out their checks to the word of truth fellowship in joplin, mo. All gifts are tax deductible, and a tax receipt can be sent upon your request. All gifts may be sent to the address above.

Our Regular Commentators:

BROTHER GENE HUTCHCRAFT



Ministered for 33 years to churches in OK, KS and MO. Currently works as a warehouse manager with ARM prison ministry, as well as ministering to youth at juvenile detension in Joplin MO. Author of "Press the Battle",

SISTER ADAH HUTCHCRAFT



Acting Chaplain @ Via Christi Hospital. Adah has experience ministering to people in need of spiritual encouragement in their final days. The Lord has blessed her with a peculiar ability for intercession. Author of "Praying with all Prayer"

BROTHER JUSTIN COBB



The Lord has laid it on the heart of this brother to write to you concerning spiritual parallels that we can see in every day life. To avoid the dulling effects of the activity of every day life this perspective is essential! Author of "The Piquant Parallel"

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.



Visit our active group on facebook where you can read more insights from brethren that could not fit within the limited pages of this magazine!
[@https://www.facebook.com/groups/fromthefoxhole/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fromthefoxhole/)

KNOWING THE HOPE

By: Brother Matthew Cobb

Ephesians 1:18- *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saint*

Referred to as this "blessed hope" (Tit 2:13), this is a hope which is, in its nature, "not seen." It is a hope which is rooted in things that are yet to come to pass. This is a hope "eternal, in the heavens" - it is "the hope of eternal life" (Tit 1:2). The anticipation of the day when we will shed this body of flesh and put on "our house which is from heaven." (2 Cor 5:2) The anticipation of being delivered from "the bondage of corruption" (Rom 8:21), to be able to be brought to a state of glorification in which we will be able to without hindering influence serve our God. Eternal life is, by definition, to know God and Jesus Christ. This is the hope for the day when we shall know as we are known, and be able to be forever with the Lord. It is the "hope of the gospel" (Col 1:23), this is the primary message of the Gospel, hope. We notice in this text that the apostle did not pray for the believers at Ephesus that the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened that they might know how to be good to their neighbors, and how to minister to the poor. How to be good to their spouses and how to raise their children. How to prosper in their finances. Although I think that is what a lot of people would probably pray about today. He realized that this is the primary need for the people of God, that all of these other seemingly important matters are worked out under the banner of pressing toward the mark for the prize. That is the important matter, - a joyful and intelligent expectation of what awaits us beyond his world. Not improving your life here, having a better family, or a better job, not better circumstances in the world. A hope of Good things to come,

"the hope of Glory" (Col 1:27), "the hope of salvation" (1 Thess 5:8) which we have been given as a helmet by the Lord. In Hebrews 7:19, It is a "better Hope", because it is one by which "we draw nigh unto God". It is a hope which we have as "an anchor of the soul" (Heb 6:9)

This is not as the world uses the term, a vain "i hope so" kind of hope, it is a sure and anxious expectation of something that is sure to come to pass, something which we can and do have confidence in. It is as solid as God himself, for he is the one who is going to bring to pass these things, and make our Hope, one day, a present reality. Hope is imperative for the child of God, hope is everything, We are "saved by hope" (Rom 8:24), that is, that Hope is the prime motivating factor for us to press forward in our walk of faith. Hope is what enables us to reason rightly concerning the sufferings of the present time. As we are able to see, and to hope in the reality of the glory that shall be revealed in us, we can reason that these sufferings are not worthy to be compared with what awaits. This must be seen!. If one is to live according to his hope, they must first understand it. You cannot and will not give up life here for something that is vague and misunderstood. A shallow view of these things is not enough to sustain you through the tempestuous sea of life in this world. You have to have a firm grasp on the eternal to be able to let go of the temporal.

This is what enables us to be able to consistently cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, a view to the end of these things. As long as we have the hope of salvation on our minds, we will not be in danger of being bested by the enemy. This greatly simplifies life. As we are looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and walking in the spirit, we are saved from all manner of blunders which we could otherwise be led off into if we had put our minds on other things.

PRESS THE BATTLE

A COMMENTARY BY BROTHER GENE HUTCHCRAFT

“A WAR OF WORDS”

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.” (Hebrews 4:12)

Scripture is an account of God’s works, in the earth, to reveal and enroll people in His purpose, which is eternal. It is amazing that God is willing to engage the sinful human race in this unsearchable but knowable endeavor of His purpose. God is righteous and just, so, He values or treasures that which highlights and contributes to His nature. Truth is always in His mouth to bless and make a blessing of and for those who respond to Him by faith, He gives life and peace in His ways, and everything in His house declares ‘glory.’ But, then there is man: here is one section of the scripture testimony concerning him...

“As it is written, ‘There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:’ (Romans 3:10-18) These texts are a series of quotes primarily from the Psalms by which Paul drives home his point of the condition of the human race. Yet, to them God extends His word as testimony which proves God as just and the Justifier, that sinners might hear and turn to Him for wisdom. That they may look for his mercy and kindness, in the provision of his word which is *‘quick, and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword.’*

At the opening phase of this ‘war of words’ God spoke to and directed Adam in the right way while he still dwelt in the garden prepared for him and his wife. He granted them all good things for their benefit and even provided them His word by which they could increase in these good things of His grace. That word was a provision and a warning... *“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)* It was scant information, but it contained enough for the man and woman to rightly choose, in line with God’s revelation, and remain pleasing to the Most High. They understood that God expected their submission to His warning.

So, creation itself, and God’s direction for Adam and Eve sets a circumstance in which decisions would be made in accord with God’s revelation. By God’s word they would choose to remain in, or turn from, that way revealed to them. Then, on the scene another being appears, *“...the serpent ... more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.” (Genesis 3:1)* This introduces someone opposed to the Lord God Who made all things in the earth and spoken the truth. Then the ‘subtil’ serpent ‘verbally’ engages the woman, at or in sight of the forbidden tree:

“And he said unto the woman, ‘Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ And the woman said.....God hath said, ‘Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.’ And the serpent said unto the woman, ‘Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.’” (Genesis 3:1,4-5)

These words were the first open challenge to God's authority in this world created by Him. Until this statement all things were in accord with Him and 'very good.' Yet, it was God Who set the door of potential conflict in the earth and He guarded the way by His words, despite the opposition posed by the doorway in the garden.

As those made in God's image 'man,' both male and female, had a key role in displaying God's glory and wisdom by an enterprise of living beings interacting with God's truth and that which opposed God in a 'war of words.' This environment, 'the earth' with its inhabitants made in God's image, is where God's word unfolds His purpose and engages opposition, which is a puzzling arrangement since God is 'All Mighty!' Yet, He allows this 'token' opposition to work in the arena of His creation. And the primary weapons of engagement are words, the weapon of God's choice, for the battle is the Lord's as He presses forward in His purpose and exposing opposition by displaying His sovereign wisdom and truth in word and deed.

God's 'word' began this enterprise called earth and the human race made in His image. However, it appears, at times, God's word is not sovereign since other words seem to effectively oppose God, introducing chaos into His earth! How can it be, since God created all, that something which came from His mind, mouth, and hand would reject His purpose? Is God all wise and powerful? Is God able to manage or control what He makes? Does the opposition have some means by which to derail or contradict the Most High?

These beings, of God's image, listened to another and plunged themselves

into a whirlpool that quickly became a cesspool of corrupt human desire with and by words going from bad to worse. How will they now proceed since they turned from Him to their own way? Is the earth and the human race a failed enterprise?

So, the war of words in the earth proceeds by this 'subtil' one speaking in direct contradiction to God. And those made in God's image chose to listen to the deceiver and follow their own desires by which the serpent enticed them. They were unwilling to withstand even the first attack but went down to defeat!

The record does not indicate how much time, hours or days, passed until this decision, which changed all things for those made in God's image. Their own contradiction of God changed them and their thinking about the Most High. Yet, God did not change nor alter His word to them which came to pass in its time.

Our written record continues for many generations of the race until God began to reveal how He would resolve this matter of human sin and rebellion against His word. His primary instruments, in pressing forward with His purpose, were also His words, those of promise to grant and provoke faith and hope in those to whom He revealed it. By God's word Abraham turned from his home and extended family to follow God's promise as He led Abram and his clan to an alien land promised to them. The apostolic writings expound heaven's view of or the spiritual reality of this human engagement in God's promise, expressly in the 11th chapter of Hebrews.



(By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: (Hebrews 11:9)

God values and rewards faith in His word. He continued to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob extensions of the promise to buttress or strengthen and expand their faith. To which they responded in ways that God favored and encouraged by His words. The scripture record continues for 2000 years highlighting others who trust God's promise to fulfill what He revealed for His namesake.

Recall that God did this in the earth, a realm of rebellion against His word and ways. Such a work would glorify His name and then magnify His word even above His name. So, it is the word of God that enlightens the eyes of the heart and mind to see and understand God's thoughts and ways which tower over those of men. God's thoughts and ways contrasted with those of men, even before sin. That is why God has embarked on this war of words as weapons which demonstrate His might and wisdom toward those opposing Him. He has created an arena of competitive thought and words where men must choose whom and what to believe. God speaks and engages men in the warfare of righteousness and wickedness, of truth and deception. Men must believe someone or something, they are not free moral agents charting their own course. God made them to fellowship with Him, anything else is corruption of the soul leading to condemnation by the Judge of all the earth. God's word gives faith in God while also revealing those who reject His promises. His revelation is truth unveiled, that which is unsearchable or undiscoverable except that it be revealed by Him. And God's word is of such a nature that it reveals both the speaker and the hearer, as our primary text declared. ***"...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*** (Hebrews 4:12)

Through the ages, God asserts His truth at chosen times, in chosen places, and to chosen people. We have a brief record of its assertions of truth granting or generating faith in the willing heart, one made willing by that same word of God which does His will.

His word provokes one to act in the obedience of faith to what God says or to turn from God's revelation as their appetites lead them to alternatives. God made people with an appetite. Sin entered the human race by their appetites which words provoked or stirred. God's word generates an appetite for truth, wisdom, and understanding according to that from Him. So, men must reject the truth for deceptive words! God's enemies provoke the appetite for human interests of flesh.

God intends this aggressive warfare for good to His name and those who love the truth. He will provide opportunity for His people to show that they love Him for Himself. His enemies can only stand by and react to God's aggressive and progressive enterprise. They cannot turn it aside with any weapons raised up against the knowledge of God. They have not the power, wisdom, or understanding of God's words or ways. They are deluded to think they can subvert God's righteousness and goodness; which cannot be effectively shaken or thwarted. It is God who shakes all things to remove that which is temporal and reveal that which is everlasting. Nothing and no one can effectively challenge His will or way in these things. Antagonists can only nip at His heels as an angry small dog does to someone who invades its space. However, God's agenda moves forward at His will and those with Him, believers, are His called, chosen, and faithful!

Scripture highlights those who choose the way of righteousness, God's righteousness, over every other earthly offering, even what they manufacture for themselves. These abandon all else and trust God's words, promises, and agenda as He leads them forward to His promised destination or destiny. Such people fend off enemies on the right and left and move forward, armed by God's word of promise to their souls. Noah, Abraham, Rachel, Joseph, Moses, Hannah, David, and Daniel are only a few who did not see the promise fulfilled but lived in hope of its fulfillment. Later the apostles and a multitude of nameless saints lived in the greater light of that promise at the beginning, forsaking earthly rewards of family, finance, and comfort for that which God provides in the promise of life and His pleasure evermore. They suffered every kind of maltreatment that they might have God's approval at the end. His approval of their faith sustained them while suffering in the earth for a 'little while.'

Brethren, let us do the same whatever our circumstances! Trust God's word and reject any words or thoughts that challenge it. Let His word have its way in your heart to establish and confirm you in its truth and power as God has His way in you. Think of what Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica:

“Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12) That is a prayer any believer can embrace or engage for themselves as God's provision for His people. Consider the divine potency declared in it. This is what God does in and for believers as His will, and His calling, His good pleasure, His goodness, His faith, and His power provide for them to walk in the light of His truth!

Scripture is a primary instrument of God's revelation and provision for us to walk with Him by understanding of His thoughts and ways. Such was the ministry of the Lord Jesus while in the earth. He spoke the word of God, affirming its validity for living in God's approval.

It is, as the Psalmist declared centuries before Jesus, ***“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalms 119:105)*** Psalm, one hundred and nineteen, is a powerful declaration of devotion to God's revelation and its provision for the life in every and any circumstance. The writer chose to walk in its light, which faith does, and so they realize its potency, wisdom, and delight. Let us do so as well that the 'sword of the Spirit' might do its work as an effective instrument for us while we progress with the Lord. The world advocates personal satisfaction supposedly found in many places. Also promotes that, especially as Americans, we can choose our path, work diligently, and obtain the prize of our choice. They claim that the America system of enterprise and education will obtain our prized personal goals.

Yet, what if some unforeseen event intervenes, an illness or accident, then what? Or how do we know we are making right choices, even on a human level? Claims and counter claims for courses of action come from every direction, and that is only in America. Outside of our land there are countless other claims and points of view. All of which contradict God's revelation since they are of sinful man whose aim is to satisfy the desires of the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life. These all rise up against the knowledge of God Who is over all, through all, and in all! Also, these challengers resent God's claim over all things, His demand to have our all, allowing Him to supply for us what is right, good, and true as opposed to offerings of the earth, others, and yes, self!

So, we then choose what and whom to believe... other men, ourselves, or God Who made us for Himself! We will choose and must deal with the attempts by spiritual forces of wickedness to deceive and allure us as he did Eve, only now there are a multitude of corrupt forms he can and does use that men have invented for their pleasures. Our only hope, to pass safely through this world and obtain God's approval, is to trust His revelation provided, tested, and proven through the ages. Cast our cares on Him and press forward in the fray, over which God rules. If

He (God) has created an arena of competitive thought and words where men must choose whom and what to believe.

you want to know Him and His ways He will teach you to learn and engage Him through His dear Son Who walked the earth as a man, though not just a man. He was 'the Man' Who saw and knew the Father, appeared in the earth, did a work, and returned to the Father to administer God's redemption in the earth. That is the salvation of believers and their arrival at God's judgement with our faith intact while He also makes enemies a footstool for Jesus' feet.

So then believer, engage God's truth with confidence. God is willing and able to work in you that which pleases Him. The prayer of Paul in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 is for us as well. That we might 'press the battle' in this war of words. It is God's warfare and God's word over all through all and in you all for victory in every hazard of battle!



A Prayer for Power and Protection

Mighty God and Holy Father,

As we rally together, unified in Your Will and purpose, You fight for us. We are not alone. You go before us, You are with us, and You are our rear-guard. As we put our hands to Your work, we keep guard over those blessings You have given us. We press in for more, knowing that although we daily face oppression from the evil one, he is already defeated. We need only patiently endure his threats. We will fight the good fight of faith in full assurance of the victory You have won through Christ's Own blood. Our Enemy conspires against You, but we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Make us valiant through confidence in Christ's victory over sin and death. Hope does not disappoint. In the Name of Christ,

- Amen

A prayer for Clarity

Our Gracious God,

Heighten our sensitivity to the subtleties of our foe. May we rely ever more upon Your Grace and the leading of Your Spirit to turn from thoughts and preoccupations which defile the conscience and dull our spiritual alertness. Teach us to turn from every form of pride and empty religion, humbly offering ourselves as living sacrifices, our lives being an outpouring of Christ Himself. In the Name of Christ,

- Amen



The Manner Of The Father's Love

By: Sister Susan Brueck

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not”
(I John 3:1)

Behold! This one word signals our attention to take notice. It alerts us to consider what is being said. Something grand and impressive is about to follow. It calls us to take hold of and to engage ourselves in this revelation of the greatness and lofty degree found in this statement: "what manner of love" and the result of "this manner of love" that the Father has bestowed upon us that we, you and I, should be called the sons of God. This is not some small trifle to be considered of no value. You have been sanctified of God and preserved in Christ Jesus for it.

God is expressing an exalted, gracious love toward us by giving us an undeserving title "sons of God." Save for the death of His Son Jesus we would have no title at all other than illegitimate children. But, *“as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”* **(Rom. 8:14)**

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” **(Rom. 8:15-17)**

Therefore, the world knoweth us not. How can it know us? The world does not know Jesus and therefore is cannot know or understand His children. This should not surprise you, are you not a stranger in the earth? The natural man cannot understand these things. The natural man considers the things of God, including His children, foolishness.

To some it looks like you have given up everything for Jesus. Have you? *“If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and figure out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. If you don't, you will not be able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will mock you, saying, 'You began to build but can't finish the job!' they will say”* **(Lk. 14:28-30)** There is a great cost in following Christ.

In Matthew Henry's commentary, he writes: *“(1.) They must be willing to quit that which was very dear, and therefore must come to him thoroughly weaned from all their creature-comforts, and dead to them, so as cheerfully to part with them rather than quit their interest in Christ, Luke 14:26. A man cannot be Christ's disciple but he must hate father, and mother, and his own life. He is not sincere, he will be constant and persevering, unless he love Christ better than any thing in this world, and be willing to part with that which he may and must leave, either as a sacrifice, when Christ may be glorified by our parting with it (so the martyrs, who loved not their lives to death), or as a temptation, when by our parting with it we are put into a better capacity of serving Christ.”* There is a marvelous exchange that occurs when one abandons his life in the world for Jesus. The scriptures say: *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God”* **(I Jn. 3:2)** By virtue of our new birth it has secured for us the entitlement to be presently called His children, sons of God. That is a position you currently hold. *“and it doth not yet appear what we shall be.”* *We know and have confidence in knowing that we are the sons of God. “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”* **(II Cor. 3:18)**.

Right now this has not been made fully visible to those that look on from the outside, but there will be a day when all will know and that will be at His appearing. At Jesus' appearing will God make known to all creation that we are the sons of God and we shall be like Him - *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body”* **(Phil. 3:20-21)**.

HE ROLLED IT AWAY!

By: Brother Robert Cobb

Joshua 5:9

And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.

This was a monumental day for Israel. God had been longsuffering with them in the wilderness, He had utterly consumed the "men of war" that had refused to obey the Lord and now Israel had submitted to being circumcised as a nation! They had cut off the flesh from them and this was pleasing unto the Lord.

This circumcision revealed a genuine desire to follow the Lord and submit to His leading. They had wandered out in the wilderness for forty years and they had never been circumcised! Now, however, before the Lord uses them as His people, they must submit to the will of the Lord.

This day I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you:

Israel had suffered significant loss because of their long stay in Egypt. Even though they began to cry unto the Lord for deliverance, until this day no one had connected this reproach to their disobedience. Circumcision was not an "optional" ceremony, it was required by the Lord.

It was given unto Abram as a "sign of the covenant" and now the Lord has brought this word to Joshua saying "At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time." -(Joshua 5:2) They had all been circumcised, that had come out from Egypt, but the children that were born in the wilderness, they had not circumcised. Now the Lord will sanctify unto Himself a nation of people, a people that He will lead into His promised land.

The pictures and shadows that are to be seen in this are very edifying. The fact that their parents had been delivered from Egypt did not insure that these that were born in the wilderness would be delivered from the "reproach" that had been passed down on them. They would have to be delivered all over again from the defiling elements of Egypt.

God is making a name for Himself in the earth, He is demonstrating that sin, and its effects must never be allowed to manifest itself in His people. Sanctification unto the Lord is absolutely required in all those who draw near to God. His covenant with Abraham required that those who were apart of the covenant were to be "set apart" from the people of the world as a "separate people" unto the Lord. It is to be noted that they did not arrive at this understanding on their own. Joshua didn't decide to circumcise the people, God told him to do it.

God knows that He has made His people willing in the day of His power and the complete deliverance from Egypt can now be experienced in His people.

Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day:

It should not surprise us that man cannot seem to understand this word Gilgal. It has been hard for some to just take the scripture at face value. When I read "wherefore" I conclude that this is why its there. But, alas, some do not. They probe into what "they think" it means, and others follow them instead of the divine revelation that God has given. For me, and my house, we have decided that the name of the place is called Gilgal, unto this day!

When you consider what we have been called out of, and into, we can see the need for a new name to be given. We who have turned from the defiling influences of the flesh and have been made new in Christ Jesus are longing for the day when Christ will reveal to us "our new name" that will make any "pain and suffering" seem like a small thing compared to the joy that we will be experiencing then.

Consider what joy these "Children of Israel" were experiencing at this time, they had just crossed the Jordan, they had submitted to being circumcised unto the Lord and now they are keeping the passover feast! what a wonderful picture we are given to consider of the time when we too shall be united with out King of Kings! forever to live in His presence, unhindered by the reproach of the flesh.

THE WAY

By: Sister Carol Maguire Mattice

For the Believer found in Christ..the choices that we have set before us all ; is either LIFE OR DEATH. As with every choice for the children of the most high; it is always between LIFE OR DEATH and not between good or best.

It is THE WAY of contending and not pretending. It is THE WAY of the foxhole or the dug out.. where men are dependent upon one another to have their backs. It is THE WAY of being ready, willing, and able to face the enemy face on and not run into the cave and prison of our own selfish ways of the flesh. It is the way of the CROSS; of humiliation, shame, suffering and death to all that we have held dear to us and to let it go for another country which is our homeland that soldiers long for.

It is the WAY and in many a soldier's wallet are the pictures of what it will be like when he is done his race: Pictures of hope and pictures glory that are now hid in many a heart of the true soldier of the cross. It is called THE way and we thank our GOD that HE has given to us the power and authority to contend for righteousness for HIS name sake, for HIS kingdom within and soon coming kingdom to be manifested.

SOLDIER, the war is not forever as Joy does come in the morning when your pictures of hope in wallet and in heart will soon be realized. THE KING IS COMING !!!



1 TIMOTHY 6:12:

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH, LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

EPHESIANS 4:22-24:

...PUT OFF CONCERNING THE FORMER CONVERSATION THE OLD MAN.... PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS.

Our action in the kingdom is a kind of dual warfare. These actions of fighting the good fight, and laying hold on eternal life, putting off the old and putting on the new are connected to one another. We cannot lay hold on the things of heaven without releasing our grip on the things of earth. And if we do not have a hope for things to come, we will have no reason to let anything go.

Our fight is one that is an a sense indirect. Really, we do not fight against Satan just to avoid falling and being overtaken, we cannot adequately fight this good fight without a reason to fight - without a powerful constraining pull towards something higher and better than this world and this present life. We haven't been called to not die, we have been called to live. We haven't been called to be forever strangers in the world, we are strangers in the world in prospect of our eternal home in glory. As we lay hold of and set our affection on the things above, as we press towards the mark, and put on the new man, we set ourselves in array for the battle that lies between us and the fulfillment of this purpose in our own experience.

This text in Ephesians 4 is an exhortation that is peculiar to the redeemed. You cannot tell someone in the flesh to put off the old man. Our sinful nature is not an old man until there is a new man.

There is more involved in this than I think is commonly perceived. When we talk about putting off the old man, or fighting the good fight, we aren't talking about merely suppressing the outburst or expression of sin, that is involved to be sure, but we are talking about crucifying the flesh - which involves thoughts, desires, intentions - every area in which it could potentially have successful influence over us. This putting off in this context is something that is only able to be performed initially by God himself. This is in fact performed by God in all those who come to Jesus.

Colossians 2:11-12 *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

All of those who have come in Faith to Christ, in their baptism this operation was performed. The old nature cut away from them in identity and personal experience. They are given a new heart a new mind, (A new nature) new affections, new holy desires. They enter into a new and living way. This is why it really can be said "if any man be in Christ he is a new creature"

Colossians 3:9-10 *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

However, that being said, the old nature. although Separated, was not destroyed. This putting on of the new man and putting off of the old from one standpoint has already been accomplished In you, yet it is not a fixed state from which there is no jeopardy of going back.

Just by means of an example, Paul told the Galatians: **Galatians 5:24** *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* Yet, he exhorted the Romans who were believers concerning this very thing: **Romans 13:14** *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

That is, continue to put on The Lord Jesus Christ, continue to make no provision for the flesh. To use the picture of Crucifixion, as he did in his word to the Galatians, crucifixion is a process, it is not a quick death, rather a slow, prolonged one. As it concerns us, we must die daily. We continue to die to the world, that we may live to God. The flesh is not eradicated, and it will call down to you to let it down off that cross for just a little while.

There is a continuous warfare to not allow our flesh to have the power over us that it once had. Jesus set us free from the Prison cell and self and sin, but the door yet lies open, and the enemy would call you to return to the cell. He may paint up the cell walls a real pretty color, he may call to you as you are laboring out in the battlefield, why do you submit to such harsh conditions? Was my prison really so bad? Did you know that while you've been gone we've put some new pads on the cell cots, we even got some new pillows. You could just come by and rest a while!

But, let me tell you brethren, if you walk back into that cell, the door slams shut with the same amount of force as before, and the lock is just as strong as it ever was. This is an area that is kind of a gray one in a great number of professing believers today. When we talk about crucifying the flesh, putting off the old man, as I said earlier - we are not primarily talking about conduct. This warfare is fought first and foremost in the region of the mind.

If it boils over into the actions of those professing Christ it is evidence that they have already lost the battle within. To put it simply, If you think wrong you'll do wrong.

Again, this has to do with the nature of the kingdom - what I said earlier about our warfare in a sense being indirect. As it concerns temptation, desire, affections. We don't overcome our flesh and our old nature by talking about what we shouldn't do and say and how we should not act. We overcome while obtaining. That is how we are able to overcome even the most deceptive wiles of the devil, by faith as we lay hold on eternal life.

PUTTING ON, LAYING HOLD

This can be seen from two different perspectives, both of which are valid and necessary. This laying hold that we are speaking of in our text is something that will not be done automatically, it requires our involvement and participation. We can not hold out confidence for the person who does not give themselves wholly to the pursuit of

this life, that God will give it to them regardless. Yet it is also necessary to see that our part in this work, is undergirded from start to finish by divine help.

This putting on and laying hold is a calculated, intentional action, a stretching forth as it were on the part of the believer motivated by a desire to obtain

that which has been put into their reach. It is absolutely necessary that believers reach this point of maturity where they understand somewhat the import of what is being accomplished in salvation. In order to really enter in, to be workers together with God in this matter they must, as the apostle Paul testified of, recognize the reason for which they have been apprehended.

Philippians 3:12-14 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

“LAY HOLD”

.. CONTINUED ON PAGE 13..

"LAY HOLD"

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12...

It needs to be seen in some clarity the reason why we have redeemed. Only to the degree that we are able to perceive the nature and intention of God in redemption will we be able to enter into it with any kind of success, and for good reason.

This is the manner of what God is doing in salvation - it changes men, transforms them, enables them, creates in them something that would otherwise not be possible, for them to be changed into the image of Christ, to be willing, and profitable, to actually have fellowship with him in Christ.

God is not creating a race of spiritual robots that he has programmed with the gospel for the purpose following Christ and working for him. He is calling men, who have been MADE willing in the day of his power. Men who were at one time alienated in their minds by wicked works, who now themselves choose to follow Christ. Who desire to glorify him and want nothing more than to be with him throughout eternity. A mature people who do not have to be constantly given specific orders, but who know him, who are familiar with his ways and his manners, who can without commandment choose the good and refuse the evil. Ones who will in the end in aggregate be a complete image of Christ, his body, a habitation for him in the spirit, the heavenly Jerusalem.

These exhortations in scripture to press forward, to keep the faith, to endure, and overcome are really encouraging us to prepare ourselves for the manner of the kingdom throughout eternity. It is making those who will be given to reign with Christ appropriately acclimated and experienced in this type of labor before they arrive at that day. It is God making us worthy to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light

These are things that cannot be accomplished by a commandment, when we are exhorted to "lay hold on eternal life", "keep the faith", "press toward the mark" we are being exhorted to do things that are beyond the ability of a mere man to do.

These are things which require divine resources to accomplish. Lay hold on **ETERNAL** life. Does that sound like something that can be accomplished by men?

To lay hold on eternal life is to fervently and with spiritual violence take the kingdom by force. It is to walk in the spiritual life you have been granted. And live according to it that you may experience it in its Fulness. It is to experience the living out of what our saviour promised when he said


John 15:5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

To lay hold on eternal life is To live up to what you presently know of The Lord, to set your affection and preference, your hearts desire on the God of heaven who has revealed himself to you in Christ, in expectant, joyful hope of being able to see him face to face on the day of The Lord that we may glorify him and fellowship with him throughout eternity,

That brings us to the second perspective of this. This action, this pressing forward, moving on to perfection, entering into the purpose of God in Christ, is accomplished in submitting ones self to the work of God within them. From this perspective, We see that this work is not primarily one which we are accomplishing, it is a work of God in which we are participants. This perspective gives us confidence knowing that the accomplishment of these things does not rely wholly upon our own power and wisdom.

So, I exhort the who one who will read this concerning these things, to put off the old,man and put on the new man. Throw yourselves ever more into the eternal end of the saints of the most high God. Knowing that as you run, you run by the power of God, as you fight, you fight with the armor of god that cannot be pierced, as keep the faith, do so with the confidence that it is as a shield unto you that is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. - **Bro Matthew Cobb**

Dear Flesh



I am writing this letter to inform you that I have filed for divorce. We cannot live together in harmony anymore. I always knew that you didn't have the best of friends and your heart wasn't towards anything good, but I figured that since I had to live with you that I should make some allowance for you; This however, has changed, I met another man.

This new man told me things that I had never heard before. He has revealed things to me that I cannot, and shall not, deny. I had thought all men were the same, but to my delight, I have found this new man to be perfect in every way. He always encourages me to love God and is always quick to edify me. I am looking forward to the wedding, when I will be joined forever with the groom.

I know that the divorce will not be finalized for some time, so, until then I have been advised by my councilor to deny you any and all access into my life. I have decided to crucify, kill and destroy your evil and wicked lust. Even as I purpose to do this I feel a wave of resolve that strengthens the new man. I will soon be free from your defiling influence forever, until then, I have been told that you have a condition that does not allow you to live at high altitudes. The thin air in this environment causes you to lose consciousness for hours at a time. I have decided to move to the highest mountain I can find.

Soon someone will be showing up at your door with the final papers. You do not need to sign them, just know that parting is not sweet sorrow. I will not miss you; I do not even like you. It is in light of my new home that I can finally find the strength to express my true feeling for you. I hate you. You are everything I have come to loath. Until the papers arrive I suggest that you keep still and quiet, or I will be forced to read more from that book you hate so much. I promised my new man that I would come up higher, so you probably wont be able to join us. Even so, I like it that way. I always make more progress when you are not awake.

Goodbye, or should I say, until then....

Your former slave, Brother Robert Cobb



THE
PIQUANT
PARALLEL

The piquant parallel, is the beginning of a new exclusive column that gives you, the reader, pleasant things to consider. In these series, I will connect everyday experience with a thought that pertains to spiritual life, and gives the reader food for thought, to assist you in setting your thoughts on higher things in the midst of the hum-drum of everyday life.

- Brother Justin Cobb

ARE WE THERE YET!?

Many of you with children have probably at one time noticed that they exhibit certain behaviors and mannerisms that remind us of the relationship we have had and are having with our heavenly father. This parallel reminded me of the longsuffering of our gracious God, and how important it is to trust His goodness, regardless of the things that Satan attempts to sidetrack us with along this journey.

I was traveling in the car with my wife and 2 boys a few years ago. We were headed to an amusement park to spend the day. Our children had never been to one, (ages 7 and 3 at the time), and so they did not know what to expect. I had prepared the day off, spent time and money on tickets. My wife had packed up the van early in the morning, and with all the necessities for the day. At first the children were thrilled, even though they did not fully understand where it was we were taking them. We told them that it was going to be a long ride, and that once we got there we would have to cross a long parking lot and wait in long lines before we got in the gate. We all got in the car, and started the 30 minute drive.

Along the way, we stopped at a stop sign and slowly passed a small park. There was a toddler's sized slide with rainwater at the bottom, rusted-up jungle gym equipment and some beat-up teeter totters. The kids became really excited!

"YES!" They exclaimed, "WE KNEW YOU WERE TAKING US HERE!". I replied, surprised, "No, we are not going there! We are going to the surprise place, remember? We're still a ways away!" All of a sudden they began to cry, whine, and complain. "We want to go there! There!" As time went on, the complaining increased, and as the complaining increased, I began to become very agitated and offended. After all I had prepared in advance, my children would rather spend the day here at this run-down park! If they only knew what was waiting for them, I thought! Eventually their complaints grew into impatience. "When are we gonna get there!?", and "I'm bored". I thought to myself, I'm going to turn this van around and leave my ungrateful children at home, because they don't even want to go where I'm taking them, and by the way they are acting they don't even deserve to go!

I was on the verge of turning the car around when I thought it may help to remind them of the things that are waiting for them at the end of the drive. I told them of the rides, and the food, and the time we would have together as a family. I noticed that their attention became turned. The more I spoke of the joys to come, the more they began to talk about getting there! As we neared the destination, the kids could see through the window the shapes of the attractions. One of them said how they were going to go down the "biggest slide ever!"

LETTERS FROM THE BRIDEGROOM

Dearest Bridegroom, *by: Sister Mattie Blakely*

Your bride remains true. Such a small sentence, and yet, how greatly we have fought in order to be able to write these words to you. The enemy does not cease day or night in his attempts to overcome us, capture and make us his prisoners. Every morning they line up outside the camp to begin anew their assault. They shoot fiery darts over and over trying to catch some piece of something that will burn. However, we have made a thorough search of the area and have removed all wood, hay, and stubble. When their arrows come over the Shield of Faith quickly quenches them. The enemy eventually sees that their arrows of fire are finding no place to catch us and they quickly change their tactics and begin trying to get at us in another way.

Thanks to your thoroughly fortifying our perimeter we have been able to fend them off at every turn. They have tried assaulting our walls, but in your great wisdom you have made our city strong! Our walls and bulwarks are built of salvation and the enemy shall not prevail against her!

They have tried speaking lies and fables to our guards in an attempt to discourage them from their loyalty to you but they have wisely kept upon their heads the helmet of Salvation. It keeps them from being deceived by the enemy's lies and enables them to watch circumspectly for your imminent return. A sense of urgency has permeated throughout the company. No one is careless to go about without keeping upon them the armor you have so graciously provided. We all know that if for one moment we let our guard down the enemy will have an advantage over us, and he never misses an opportunity to gain control. He has even tried to gain control by sending in his spies concealed as tradesmen and women. They come around daily seeking to gain entrance into our camp promising some

great benefit if only we will pull down our defenses, open our gates and welcome them in. Their disguises, however, do not fool us. They bear the mark of their master, the father of lies, and we have the truth on our side. The saying is true: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." You, the Son of the Most High God, have shown us the way of truth and we are free indeed! We are fighting to keep the faith every day but we each still have our jobs to do, and we labor diligently. Even so we must never forget that we are in the middle of a battle. Daily life continues even though we are at war and even though we are not permanent citizens here. We have become strangers and pilgrims here in this world. We have no permanent city, but we are seeking one to come. We must each work out our own salvation daily, with fear and trembling. While doing so we continue to trust in you completely. The ministry of your perfect peace has enabled us to keep our minds stayed more fully upon you. Our faith in you, the Captain of our Salvation, is strong and will keep us through the days to come. We are all spending our days watching for your return, we are all diligently laboring to do the will of our Father in heaven, and are keeping our garments unspotted by this world. We are giving none occasion to the enemy for him to come and find some place in us. In this we are striving to be pleasing servants to you so that you will be pleased with us all when you return for your faithful bride.

Your bride has been true to you and she will continue to be so. Love is a powerful motivator and your bride has great love for you, just as you have great love for her, and because of the love you have shed abroad on her, she will surely keep herself pure and blameless before you at your coming. We are always watching for your return and it is our greatest desire that we might soon put aside our implements of warfare and instead live in an environment of eternal peace and forever be at your side, as your faithful wife, and go no more out! With great love and loyalty,

The Bride

LEAVING YOUR WATERPOT



By:

BROTHER

RICKY SIMS

The woman, being arrested by the fact that Jesus spoke to her at all, said *"How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria (v9)?"*

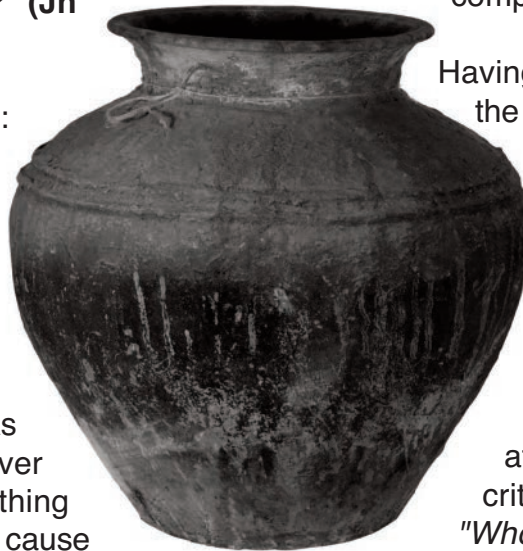
Jesus' words do have a way of capturing the minds and hearts of those who are *"appointed"* to *"obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 5:9)."*

"The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (Jn 4:28-29)

Let me ask you a question: Have you left your water pot or are you still grasping onto it?

Jesus was passing through the region of Samaria to fulfill yet another divine appointment. As you must know Jesus never went anywhere or did anything without there being a divine cause in it. He told his disciples, *"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work (v34)."* Being about His Father's business, He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar (v5). The journey to Sychar must have been quite challenging because Jesus was "wearied with His journey" and finding the well that Jacob had given to Joseph, He sat there upon that well (v6). It was at that time that a woman from Samaria came to draw water from the well.

Jesus did the unthinkable among Jewry. He spoke to the Samaritan woman. The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans because they were half breeds, the result of some Jews intermarrying with those outside of Jewry around the time of the Babylonian captivity. They were thus a rejected race by the Jews.



There is something wrong with a person who professes to be saved, but has no driving inward compulsion to hear the words of Jesus.

Having her full attention, Jesus gets to the root of the matter. He will not enter into distracting discussions about tangential matters. He answered her, *"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water (v10)."* He draws her attention to who He is. The most critical question to answer is this, *"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am (Mt 16:13)?"*

Any light of hope that men should be saved would not shine forth from Adam's race, but from one Man sent by God who was of God, the Man Christ Jesus and the very light of the world. As it is written, *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men (Jn 1:4),"* and again, *"to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up (Mt 4:16)."* If, like Peter, we are turned from beholding Christ to primarily focusing on ourselves, we shall sink in hopeless despair into the dark abyss of human inability with regards to salvation. You see, we all have been "Samaritans" in this regard, unworthy of the least of God's mercies, ignorant of God's provision, turning to our own way and were

"dead in trespasses and sins (Rom 6:1)," beyond any hope of saving ourselves. When this reality settles in the souls of men, they must then turn from themselves to that "name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12)."

The God of our salvation calls from heaven for our attention, *"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else (Isa 45:22)."* Jesus, by His words, is calling for the attention of this woman away from self to the only true hope of salvation and eternal life-- Himself. *"If thou knewest...WHO it is that saith unto thee."* No man shall be saved until he or she is looking singularly upon the Savior through the eye of faith. God was not moved to save us upon the basis of who we were, but upon the basis of who He is. Thus, the saying is true, *"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion (Rom 9:15)."* Jesus is providing the "I will" view of things.

"If thou knewest the gift of God." She came to obtain water that supplies a temporary need. Jesus Himself said, *"Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again (v13)."* Jesus came to provide for a need in men that is eternal, the need for living water, the need for eternal life. *"but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life (v14)."* You see, the fundamental need of men is not supplied by things that are temporary in nature. As it is written, *"Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them (1 Cor 6:13)."* Salvation brings to men an everlasting possession that shall never be destroyed!

How often do men spend themselves in pursuit of things that have no lasting consequence? God said to Israel, *"Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm;*

and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes (Hag 1:6)." Earthly life is nothing but a bag filled with holes!

Legion are the men in this present age that come to the end of life with a bag that is empty! Enough talk about the riches of this world that pass from our hands like the vapor of smoke! Speak no more about the health of the body as if this were the great object of salvation, for it shall be destroyed! It is the heathen that converse after this manner, saying "let us eat and drink" engrossing themselves in the limited circumference of fleshly desires and the appetites of the body. We shall make the things that shall not perish the subject of our consideration and the object of our heart's quest because that is what Jesus came to give men. Hear ye Him, "the water that I SHALL GIVE him shall be in him a well of water springing up into EVERLASTING LIFE (v14)."

"If thou knewest...thou wouldest have asked (v10)." Oh, that men could see the superiority of things that are everlasting to the things that are temporary! If they saw it, they would seek for it. If they knew about these things, they would enquire further. It is part of the deceitfulness of sin and of earthly riches to compel men to seek after the things that they must part with when they pass from this life. Behind all earthly pursuits is the compelling influence of the "god of THIS world" who blinds "the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor 4:4)." If the "light of the glorious gospel of Christ" did "shine unto them," they would do just what this woman did when that same light shined unto her: *"The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way (v28)."* She forsook the pot, not because she was commanded to do so, but because she was preoccupied with something better! So, let me ask you again, have you left your water pot or are you still grasping onto it?

HOW THE BELIEVER SHOULD THINK ABOUT DEATH



By:
Sister
Eva Blakely

For the children of the most High, death is a blessing veiled in a dark disguise. It is as if our entire lives on this earth, we are walking toward a closed door. Age is when we grasp the handle. Dying is when we open the door, and death is seen as walking through it. In short, death is the portal used by the Soul to enter into Glory.

For the Believer who is left a while longer on this earth, our grief is married to joy. Grief in being parted, joy in knowing that they are now in the presence of Our Great high Priest, and that we too shall join them --along with the Brethren of all the ages.

Heb 9:27a *"And it is appointed unto man once to die. . . "* Death is something we all know must and will take place many times during our lives. And I would indeed be a liar if I ever attempted to say that it will never be sad. But we should not be overcome with sadness. Death is temporary for the believer.

For people of this world, it is true that their life will end in death, but the believer in Christ Jesus --Praise GOD!--, our death will END in LIFE! The believer looks upon death with confidence, knowing that it too is included in that select group of things that "come to pass." There are many Brethren that I have known who have gone before me: Brethren Fred and Rubye Blakely, Harold and Nelle Lohse, Judy Parsons, Russell Cole, George and Tasci King, Dean Boelt, Jo Dodson, Leah Oney, Pam Brewer. Brother John Hill, and host of others, entered into Glory.

I have always found comfort in the fact that the parting is temporary, but the joining together will be eternal. When we have entered into Rest, we shall nevermore be parted, Never! Death will not win. When a believer finds themselves in times of grief, it is comely to endure the trial with Eternity in view. Do not be given over to wallowing in the sludge of despair, but rather. . . continue to keep your eyes on Christ Jesus, for in Him is fullness of joy. If the Lord tarries, and I too am called to taste death, I hope that I will be counted worthy to be among these Godly men and women who have gone before us. I end my thoughts testifying to the fact that all these upheld the name of Christ, endured their trials, increased my joys, shared my burdens. encouraged my faith, and died well. I thank GOD for them!

STEADFAST SAINTS



In this issue of the Battlefield Magazine we are beginning a new section that highlights brethren who are faithful in following our Lord, and have a desire to bless his people. In the day in which we live I have found that it is rare to find genuine people who have no competing interests, who really truly desire above all else to glorify God and edify the brethren. As such, wherever these people are found, it is appropriate to thank God for them!

I am thankful to have been given the pleasure to have met the acquaintance of this wonderful family, brother James, and Sister Emily Arnold.

These Brethren are sensitive souls who have received a love for the Truth, and have expressed a desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have witnessed in them an exceptional tenderness and spiritual gentleness that is most becoming of one professing Christ. They live out the doctrine in the way in which they conduct themselves in their conversation in a way that is glorifying to God and refreshing to his people. In a generation full of professing Christians who only say that they believe, these brethren back it up with their lives!

These Brethren have been faithful with what the Lord has given them in raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, as their children are very well behaved and spiritually inclined. I have had the pleasure of partaking of the ministry of the scripture songs they have memorized by the direction of their mother and grandmother.

This year has been a very profitable one for the family, in August they celebrated both the addition of a precious baby girl, as well as the celebration of spiritual progress and new strides in the Lord.

They have both demonstrated growth in their ability to express themselves in writing and speaking for the Lord. Sister Emily is a gifted singer and Piano player as well.

I would ask those who read this to pray for these precious brethren that the Lord would continue to bless them, and increase them, that the peace of God would rule in their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and they would increase and abound in hope.



COMMENTS FROM THE FOXHOLE

“Those who keep toiling in rowing will eventually get to the other side - because Jesus will come to them and stop what is impeding them.”

- Brother Given O. Blakely

“Faith is the great Enabler of men”

- Brother Robert Cobb

“If you can know in your affliction that God is favorable toward you, then it makes you to be able to rejoice in them”

- Brother Al Stoner

“Life is the exclusive property and prerogative of God - and he grants it at his discretion”

- Brother Michael Blakely

“God allows us to suffer, to endure trials, to have weaknesses in the flesh to teach us that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. That is what difficulties and weaknesses can do for me, if I consider the need I have to rely on Him rather than myself. I thank God for such things.”

- Bro Jeff Hostetter

“When Jesus calls you to go into battle, then he will equip you with the things you need to win the battle. He will lead you to victory, He is our captain”

- Sister Nicole Cobb

“Hope empowers us to endure and overcome temptations and trials”

- Brother Aaron Hutchcraft

- Jesus is the only way to Get to God!! - Seth Cobb (age 5)