

The Bible Standard

“Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;...”

Psalm 43:3

“LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE”

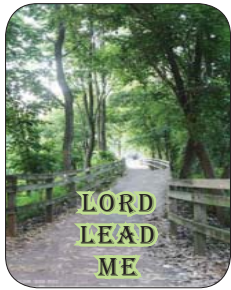
Isaiah 62: 10

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



HOW GOD HELPS HIS PEOPLE

“Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies” (Psa. 27: 11).

Jehovah in His graciousness has invited the called, chosen and faithful of this expanded Gospel Age to sit at His Table of Truth and be schooled by His chosen leaders. A child of God becomes justified through faith in Christ, then goes on to consecrate his life to his Father in heaven by giving up self-will and world-will and accepting God’s will as his own. God encourages his faithful to “Come out of her, my people” (Rev. 18: 4). This thought is given to us in Jer.



51: 6, “Flee out of the midst of Babylon.” As consecrated children of God we no longer belong to Satan in Babylon, rather we know the LORD can direct our course in whatever way He chooses, if we put ourselves under His

care! Yes, like King David we cry out “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psa. 51: 10).

What a blessed privilege the LORD sets before the justified, consecrated and sanctified ones in our text! We can call out for the understanding of His Word with these words “teach me thy way O LORD” and with confidence expect an answer; if we study the Scriptures trying to find the underlying principle of God’s teachings, then commit all to the Father in prayer, asking Him to guide through reason and judgment; then using that judgment and reason to the best of our ability. When we come to the table of the LORD to be fed this is our privilege. Jer. 15: 16 says “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”

The whole world is in a condition of alienation from God. When we inquire why this is so, the Bible informs us that it is the result of Adam’s disobedience to the just law of his Creator. We see, then, that God is not responsible for the present conditions—although for a wise purpose He has permitted them to come about. “Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such

withdraw thyself” (1 Tim. 6: 5). Jehovah created man under favorable conditions and with sufficient knowledge to enable him to take the proper course. Man brought the curse of death and all its results upon himself by taking heed to his own will (like Satan, the original sinner); consequently this course brought the entire race of Adam into Divine disfavor.

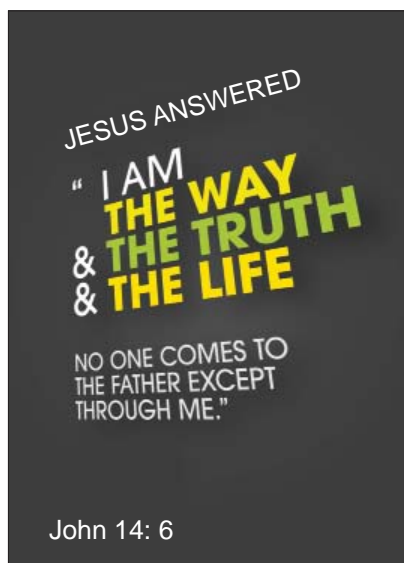
First Satan’s lie in Eden misled Mother Eve to doubt the truth of God’s statement “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2: 17). Adam was not deceived; he deliberately disobeyed the Divine command, and brought the penalty of death upon himself and all of his posterity. Separated from God, mankind gradually came under the influence of God’s Adversary—who has brought them more and more under the power of superstition and ignorance. This is true of practically all classes, in all lands. But while God does not purpose that the veil of ignorance shall remain forever upon humanity, yet He prefers to leave them in this discarded condition for a time, knowing that it is better for them to be in ignorance while present conditions exist. Knowledge would bring a responsibility which natural man in this present condition would be unable to bear.

God has a bountiful arrangement through which every human being will have a full opportunity to receive a blessing through our Lord Jesus Christ; but this will be accomplished in the future. Through the Gospel, God issued an invitation to the Gentile nations. This invitation has appealed only to people who are dissatisfied with present evil circumstances, and are yearning to come into favor with God; as the Apostle said, “Feeling after God, if haply they might find Him” (Acts 17: 27). During the Gospel Age the only ones whom He has invited are those who were feeling after God and striving against sin. The self-satisfied were not invited. All the promises of the Bible are designed for those who come to the point where they long to get away from evil in themselves and others and in evil systems, and to draw near to God. This precious thought is given in 1 Pet. 2: 9 “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 marvelous

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light.” “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile” (John 1: 47).

In dealing with this class whom He has called out from the world, God has used a variety of methods in operating toward them. In Old Testament times He spoke through the Prophets. In later times He has spoken through His Son and through the Apostles. Our primary drawing and calling is of the Father up to the time when we accept His grace in Christ and make our consecration. This consideration is given in John 6: 44 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him [invite him]: and I will raise him up at the last day.” There is a measure of selection or election in this expanded Gospel Age; until the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ begins. There is an exclusiveness about this special invitation. We must recognize and accept that the Father is not drawing all mankind now! That work of drawing the worldly is for the next age; the time mentioned in Rev. 22: 17 when the water of life shall flow freely and whosoever will, may come; has not yet come. With the message to the called-out class, however, the matter is different.



When we consider the work of Christ’s Kingdom for blessing the entire world of mankind under the restitution blessings of Acts 3: 19-21; we look to the words of the Son of God and the Apostles for a clear, succinct statement that God is perfect in Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power; and that in proportion as any come to understand

the character of their Creator, in that same proportion will they come to understand His plans and purposes. While many have a general knowledge of God, only those who approach Him in His appointed way can have any dealings whatever with Him. There must be an introduction, or else they cannot have a hearing with Him, nor will He deal with them. Whoever comes to the Father must come through the Son, as our Lord declares “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14: 6). All who will come in this specified way are privileged so to come, and all such shall know of Him, trust in Him, and be thoroughly



sympathetic with His aims and objects. Moreover, they must lay down their lives in the doing of His will, as did their Head and Example. After God has adopted

them into His family, then He will speak to them as His children. But unless they become His children, He will have no dealings at all with them until Christ’s Millennial Mediatorial Reign.

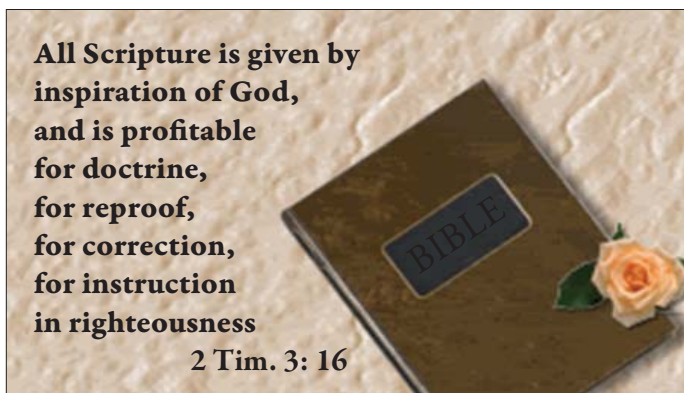
To the wicked the LORD says, “What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction and castest my words behind thee” (Psa. 50: 16, 17). We understand these words to be addressed to those who have come into covenant relationship with God, but who have failed to carry out their part of the covenant promises. In the Scriptures the world of mankind are not spoken of as “the wicked.” On the contrary, the world is described as blind, buried in ignorance and superstition, dead in trespasses and sins.

The class to which these verses refer are those who have become children of God, but who have then become wicked—covenant breakers. To illustrate: In the case of the Sodomites, although they were accounted very reprehensible, yet God does not speak of them as the wicked (Ezek. 16: 44-52; Matt. 11: 20-24). But in the case of those who have been introduced to the Father, those who have come to a knowledge of the Truth and have consecrated their lives to the LORD, it is different. If any such shall live contrary to that knowledge and to that consecration, they will be classed as the wicked. So we see that the “wicked” are those only who have come into the Divine relationship and who have proved unworthy to remain therein.

God has no covenant dealings with the world at large; for all mankind are under the death sentence. All of the children of Adam go down into death under the sentence pronounced upon our first parents in Eden. Mankind are, at this time, aliens and strangers even from the commonwealth of Israel, who were God’s chosen people. But He tells His people not only about Himself, but also about His great Plan for the blessing of all the families of the earth. When the due time arrives, when the Spirit and the Bride shall say, “Come” (Rev. 22: 17), then all mankind shall have the opportunity granted them to come to a knowledge of the Truth as centered in Christ Jesus. “Then the blind eyes shall be opened and the deaf

ears unstopped” (Isa. 35: 5). Any who then are found to be “wicked” will be *destroyed* in the Second Death “And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people” (Acts 3: 23).

Jehovah helps us by the words He has written in the Bible, His Word! The New Testament tells us that in olden times “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1: 21). Our Lord Jesus and His Apostles spoke in similar manner. As a result we have (through the writings of the Prophets, the Apostles, the evangelists Mark and Luke writing for Peter and Paul respectively) the full measure of the Divine revelation. The Word of God is sufficient, that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished (2 Tim. 3: 16, 17). When the holy Spirit came upon the Lord’s people at Pentecost, it enabled them to understand the deep things of God. It did not set aside the Word in any way, but quickened their understanding so that, as pertinent Scriptures became due to be understood, the people of God have been enabled to understand them.



We see that God has a great fund of instruction, laid up long ago, to be used by His people when the proper time comes; and as we come into harmony with Him, He guides us into the right understanding, teaching us how to obtain the blessings which He designs His people to have. This statement does not ignore our Lord’s declaration, that when the holy Spirit should come, it would guide His Church into all Truth (John 16: 13). Since the death of the Apostles, the Spirit merely enables its possessors to understand the things written aforetime. “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15: 4; 1 Cor. 10: 11). We who are enlightened of the Spirit are therefore to expect the clarifying of our understanding “that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and

height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3: 17-19).

As to the influence of the holy Spirit of understanding; God is enlightening our minds and clarifying our understanding to appreciate His Word, and as to how this enlightenment affects our entire Christian life in the battle against the weaknesses of the flesh, we understand that God prefers to operate within His people along the lines of their new will, their new heart. He has given them incentives, suggestions, to enable them to fight the good fight to the very end of the way. Or, as the Apostle Peter says, God has given His people “exceeding great and precious promises . . . that they might escape the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Pet. 1: 4). The mere reading of these promises, however, will never give us that great result. We must set our hearts and our affections on the things above (Col. 3: 1, 2); and if these are properly understood, we are led by them to conform our lives to the conditions attached to the promises.

This course of conduct results in our putting away those things which are displeasing to God. Moreover, we learn to add to our faith fortitude, knowledge, self-control, patience, brotherly-kindness, love—as the Apostle suggests in this connection; for if we do these things, we shall have an abundant entrance into the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1: 5-11). We are to permit the promises of the Scriptures to exercise a controlling power in our hearts and lives. Our Lord prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth” (John 17: 17). This is the power which is to sanctify our hearts.

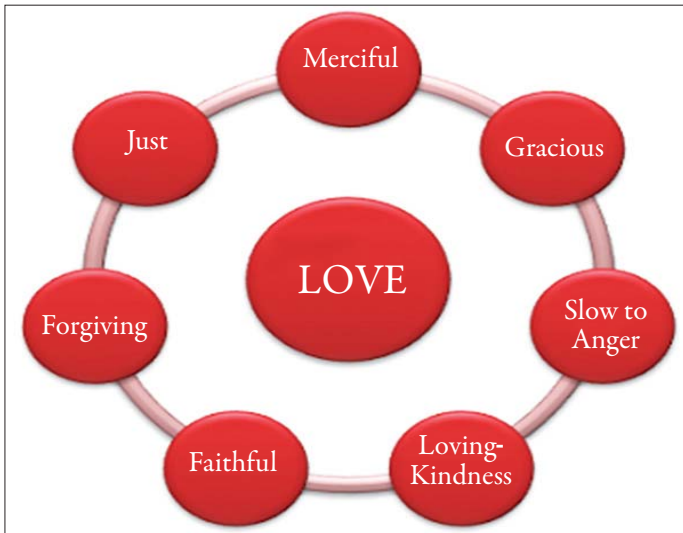
“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth” (John 17: 17).

God helps His people by His Spirit, whereby He energizes us in knowledge, grace and service. God’s Spirit is to be reflected by the disposition in His children. His disposition blends wisdom, justice, love and power in perfect harmony, and sustains us and actuates us. Indeed, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1: 7).

The question, then, might arise, “Does God ever exercise an influence apart from His Word and Spirit, in order to enable us to conquer some weakness of the flesh which we would never have conquered by ourselves?” We reply, If God sees that we will not conquer if we continue to pursue a certain course; He will provide the necessary help in order that we may do so—on condition that we have trusted Him for it. But if He sees that we can conquer

without special outside assistance, He will say, “My grace is sufficient for Thee.” Through using the capacities which God gives us, we will get a greater blessing, and will become the stronger in the LORD.

We should ever seek Divine help to conquer our weaknesses; we should ask the LORD for the needed grace to help in time of need. This will be supplied from the Word or even by angelic assistance “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways” (Psa. 91: 11). The necessary knowledge will come to His people by any means which the LORD may elect to use. We are enjoined to grow in grace and in the knowledge—to grow up into Him. So, too, God helps us through human servants of the Truth!



If we do these things of 2 Pet. 1: 5-8 and develop the beautiful attributes of the Christian character, like those of God's character consisting of Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power, we will never fall “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”

(2 Pet. 1: 8).

While these characteristics support one another, that which shines out brightest among them is Love; the object of the other three is to develop Love, and the ultimate goal of character development is the supremacy of Divine Love, in harmony with, and supported by and flowing out of, Wisdom, Justice and Power. It is the ultimate design of all God's dealings toward and for us, to work such a glorious character in us. May we make much progress in realizing such a character, as we cooperate with Him. God helps His people by placing them in His hands and He knows just what we need for our development unto perfection and the removal of our blemishes. Yes, only Jehovah can shape our experiences to accomplish the necessary growth.

Reading the Bible means a lot more when you know the Author

Whoever does not submit his own heart to the leadings and teachings of the LORD has no

authority from the Father to teach others. Only those who are fully consecrated to God, and who have received of His holy Spirit, are commissioned to preach the Gospel and as helpers from God to serve the household of faith. And only such as continually and faithfully submit themselves to the leading of God (which brings them out of the old paths of sin and uncleanness into the paths of holiness) are both worthy and able to perform the skillful service of ministering to the LORD's house.

How wondrous, deep, wise, just, loving, powerful and fruitful are God's Word, Spirit, and Providences! Surely they should elicit our thanks, praise, appreciation, veneration, worship, adoration and service, now and forever!

THE TRUTH ABOUT JEHOVAH'S CHARACTER

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure’” —Isa. 46: 10.

Jehovah from the beginning had a plan which included placing mankind upon the earth made ready to be inhabited, “I am God and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me” (Isa. 46: 9). Jehovah set a standard for Himself called justice; this implies that God Himself is subject to His law of justice. Justice is, therefore, impressed upon His heart as one of His character attributes. We now define justice: It is the love, the good will that is owed to self and others. It is a matter of obligation to give it! To withhold such a love in thought, motive, word and act is sin; to give such a love in thought, motive, word and

act is right. God's justice, therefore, is the love, good will, that by right He owes to Himself and others. Our text says “My counsel shall stand.” Our Lord Jesus and His Apostles had abiding peace because they believed! Yes, Jehovah promised and they trusted that He would perform. They trusted that His Word could know no failure.

God's justice and love continues with “And I will do all my pleasure.” This promise is the declaration of things that are not yet done and shows that God's original plan is still in progress! Oh, “God will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2: 4). Jehovah

is the God of all Truth and right principle and He has been pleased to reveal this Truth and its principle of love to His called, chosen and faithful. There can be only one Jehovah, one Jesus and one Truth! Belief in God's existence is practically universal but some deny God's existence as stated in Psa. 14: 1 "The fool [one who ignores or lacks reason] hath said in his heart, there is no God." Each mind makes its own god, according to its own development of the qualities of wisdom, justice, love and power; however it is a self-evident Truth that effects must be produced by competent causes.

WISDOM
Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do. And whatever else you do, develop good judgement
Prov. 4: 7

As we consider the millions in Christendom and their united tribute of praise to the Almighty Creator, we are forced to admit that by many He is given little praise, while many others positively blaspheme His holy name by misrepresentations of His character, which they claim to be His own revelation of a plot for the eternal torture of millions of people brought into existence by His power and without their consent. There are general theories in Christendom on the subject—the Catholic, the Calvinistic and the Arminian. They all have zealous, earnest, honest advocates. Each contradicts the others. Each claims to love God and to seek to serve and honor Him. Evidently, at least two of the three are wrong. It is our conviction that all three are in error in some ways. We believe that all three of them have elements of the Truth around which have crystallized distorting errors.

The upholders of these theories are so blinded and bewildered that they fail to discern that their praise and worship toward the Creator is flawed. All three of these views declare that the Almighty Jehovah, with full power to have done otherwise, so created humanity that a person once born into the world can never die—he must live somewhere unceasingly—either in pain or in pleasure. By what authority any make these declarations we have never ascertained. The Scriptures declare that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18: 4, 20), and that eternal life comes only as "the gift of God . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6: 23). We will consider the Calvinistic and Arminian views.

Jesus answered "...For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."
John 18: 37

Seek the Truth...

THE CALVINISTIC VIEW THROUGH PREDESTINATION

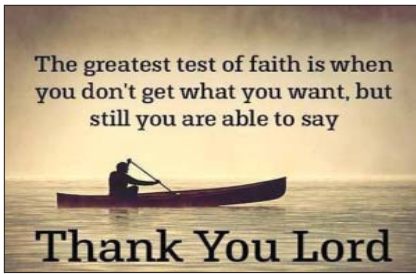
As we consider the Calvinistic view on predestination, is it any wonder that in early life our childish hearts were filled with fear and dread rather than with love toward our Creator and toward His Revelation, the Bible? Is it any wonder that it required all kinds of fighting with our common sense to believe, as we were taught we should, that God lovingly predestinated that all the families of earth would suffer eternally, except a saintly few, because He was pleased to have it so? Because He foreordained that it must be so! Because He made a place of torment called Hell before He made the earth, and made it large enough to hold all the human family! Because He created fireproof demons to inflict torture there on the poor unfortunates who were born in sin. "Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psa. 51: 5). Many of them left without an opportunity of hearing of the "only name whereby they must be saved" (Acts 4: 12)—and that He wisely and with devilish intention laid up fuel enough to last to all eternity for the torture of His helpless creatures!

Are not such evil thoughts and presentations respecting our great Creator blasphemy? If not, pray tell what would be blasphemy? Most assuredly we can think of nothing that could possibly enter the human mind or pass human lips more unrighteous than this doctrine. And yet among those who bow down before this creed are some of the ablest, most intelligent, most educated and most benevolent of our depraved, fallen race. How is it, that we have been so blinded as respects our own conduct and misbelief? The Scriptures answer that Satan has deceived us; he has put light for darkness and darkness for light (Isa. 5: 20). 2 Cor. 4: 4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded 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."

THE ARMINIAN VIEW DEFICIENT

Many thinking Christians hold to the Arminian view. They join with us in saying, yes, Brother Calvin grievously erred and grievously misrepresented the God of love when he taught the doctrine of the predestination of the wicked to eternal torture! These Christian friends say our hearts rebel against that theory of Divine predestination. We claim that the Almighty is Love itself—that He is sympathetic with His creatures and is using every effort to avert the great calamity of eternal torture.

Arminianism is named for its founder Jacobus Arminius. It is a response to the beliefs of John Calvin. Arminius was a follower of Calvin until he was challenged to a



debate to defend his views and found his opponent more able to defend his views. Central to Arminian belief is that man has free will and is capable of choosing

to follow God. This is contrary to the teachings of Calvin and Martin Luther who both taught that man's will was surrendered at the fall.

Calvin stressed man's inability to reach out to God while Arminius believed that God opened the door for man to make the decision. Opponents of Arminianism believe that it is the direct opposite of Calvinism and states that man is fully able to save himself. This is not the case but the view has been adopted by some who have been labeled as Arminians because they do not hold a Calvinistic view. But is this not merely another form of incompetence? If some blasphemed God's holy name by misrepresenting the Heavenly Father as merciless, loveless, have many others not in another way blasphemed His holy name in declaring that He lacks the power and the wisdom to do the good which His loving heart would prompt? Do they not worship an ignorant God, one who blundered in the creation of the race, and who, for over 6,000 years, has been striving to rectify that error and all the while has been allowing many millions of His creatures, whom He loves, to go down to an eternity of torture? It would be nearly as easy to worship an all-powerful and loveless God as to worship an all-loving but unwise and impotent God who foolishly brought many millions of intelligent beings into existence only to cause them to suffer an eternity of agony through His incompetence.

A NEW AGE DAWNING

Thank God for this glorious day in which we are living, with its many evidences that we are in the dawning of a New Age! Thank God that in this day the increasing light of Truth, "The path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4: 18), is showing up the blasphemous errors, such as eternal torment, which have so defiled all the precious Truths of God's Word for years, for centuries! Thank God that the Bible is becoming a new book to those whose eyes of understanding are opening to the lengths, breadths, heights and depths of the love of God which it declares!

Now we are seeing that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6: 23)—not eternal life in torment, nor purgatory. Now we are seeing that Jesus met this death penalty (Isa. 53: 12) as the Redeemer of our race from the power of the tomb. Now we are seeing that the salvation that God has

promised is to be brought to us at the second coming of Jesus and the establishment of His Mediatorial Kingdom for the blessing of all the families of the earth! Now we are seeing that the salvation provided for the non-elect in that Kingdom is a resurrection of the dead—not merely an awakening from the tomb, but a complete uplift out of sin and degradation to the full perfection of human nature in the earthly image of the Creator.

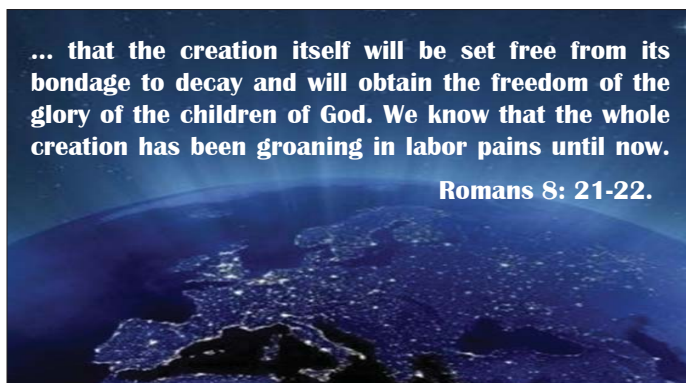
Now we are seeing that this great blessing has been set apart by the Almighty as the work of the great Sabbath Day of a thousand years, in which "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15: 26). Now we are seeing that the whole earth is to be reclaimed from the curse and made to blossom as Eden—that the place of Jehovah's feet, His footstool, will be made glorious (Ezek. 36: 35; Isa. 60: 13) and in every way cheerful to all the willing and obedient, whom the great Messiah will recover fully from sin and death. Now we are seeing that the willful rejecters of Divine grace will not be tormented; but, as it is written, "All the wicked will God destroy" (Psa. 145: 20).



EARTH TO BE FULL OF GOD'S GLORY

Soon the whole earth shall be filled with God's glory (Num. 14: 21; Isa. 11: 9) Ah, glorious day! Then the shadows of ignorance, superstition, misunderstanding and misrepresentation in respect to the Divine character of Jehovah will all flee before the light of the knowledge of the glory of God—the appreciation of the Divine character as manifested in the Divine purpose and plan for human salvation! Could this Scripture ever be fulfilled, could the Divine character ever be properly appreciated by intelligent, honest, just and loving hearts, if in any corner of the Universe there would be such fiendish tortures of His creatures as the creeds of the Dark Ages have set forth? Surely not! On the contrary, in this glorious day will be fulfilled the Scriptural prediction: "We according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3: 13). As we emerge from darkness and praise our great Creator in thought, word and act, we "show forth the praises of him who hath called

us out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2: 9).



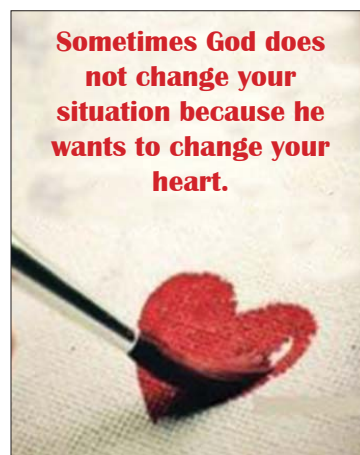
The Apostle Paul (Rom. 8: 21, 22) declares that the groaning creation “shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” The meaning of this is clear. The corruption came upon all through Adam and the deliverance from that corruption is to come to all through the Second Adam (Jesus). All are to be delivered from such bondage, regardless of how they later may use the deliverance and the privileges of liberty. Those who use them rightly will come into harmony with the Redeemer and with the Heavenly Kingdom and will be blessed eventually with eternal life on earth. Those who reject these liberties after they come to understand them fully, and comprehend their lengths and breadths, will be choosing for themselves the Second Death “And it shall come to pass that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people” (Acts 3: 23).

The liberty of the sons of God, their freedom from corruption, death, is here distinctly shown. The angels are not subject to, not bound by such corruption, such dying conditions. They, as sons of God are free from corruption and death. Adam in his original perfection was a son of God, as the Scriptures declare (Luke 3: 38), but he lost sonship for himself and his race and received instead degradation and bondage to corruption. The hope for Adam and for his race is deliverance from the power of sin and death, through Christ, into the glorious liberty proper to them as sons of God.

The entire Thousand-year Reign of Christ on the earth, as the Scriptures show us, will be devoted to this work of setting free the human family from the various bondages of ignorance, superstition, weaknesses, bad habits and heredity, and bringing back all who will, by restitution processes, to the original image and likeness of God, and making them again human sons of God like unto Father Adam before he sinned, with a large and valuable experience gained during the 6,000 years of the fall and also through the 1,000 years (1874-2874) of the raising up, the Resurrection Age (Acts 3: 19-21).

How glad we are to have this Truth from the Word of God in this dawning time of the new dispensation. The light is now shining upon the Divine Word as well as throughout the realm of nature! How glad we are that we no longer must think of the Church alone as the object of salvation and the world as a whole the object of condemnation and eternal torture! How just, how reasonable, how loving are God’s Divine arrangements! To see these things should draw our hearts nearer to God in appreciative love, and we should worship with the greater devotion the One whom we see to be worthy of praise and adoration.

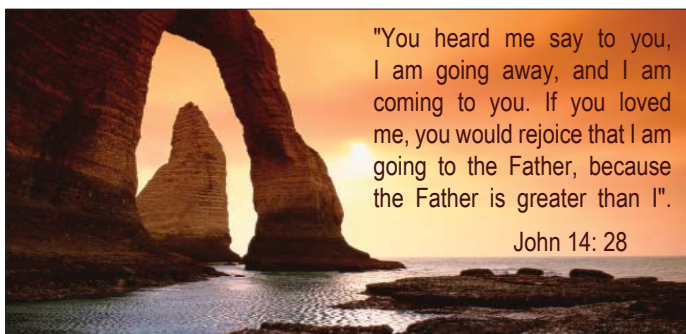
We are not, however, to expect the world to be able yet to realize these things; it is not the Divine intention that they should yet grasp the Plan; as the Master said to the faithful disciples of old and still says to us: “It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given” (Matt. 13: 11-17). He spoke to them in parables and dark sayings, that hearing they might hear and not understand. They will both hear and understand in due time, but now “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear [reverence] him; and he will show them his covenant” (Psa. 25: 14).



Let us whose ears and eyes God has blessed respond with all gratitude and humility, not merely with outward praises of our lips, but also with our hearts. Let us confess His loving-kindness and tender mercy, and let this appreciation more and more sanctify our hearts and separate us from the world, its aims and its selfishness. Let us fight a good fight against sin, especially in our own mortal bodies, because even though the imperfections of the flesh be not counted against us as God’s children, who are justified by faith and stand in God’s sight free from condemnation through Christ’s merit tentatively imputed to us (Rom. 8: 1), nevertheless the fact that we possess the Spirit of the LORD should lead us more and more to desire that perfection which is most pleasing and acceptable to God, and to strive, therefore, to the extent of our ability to gain it, though not trusting to the actual attainment of that perfection in this life, but relying upon the merit of that great Atonement Sacrifice made on our behalf, to make up for our unavoidable deficiencies.

There are many who have personally repudiated

the eternal torment doctrine and who know that the Scriptures do not teach it. One of these is Abraham Lincoln. He was born in Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809. He moved to Indiana in 1816 and lived there the rest of his youth. His mother died when he was nine but he was very close to his stepmother who urged him to read. Lincoln himself stated that he had about one year of formal education. However, he was taught by many different individuals. He loved to read and learn from any books he could get his hands on. Lincoln was quite definite and publicly outspoken in his rejection of the creeds of the Dark Ages, including the erroneous doctrine of eternal torment in a fiery hell. The Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 14, p. 140 (Copyright to 1942), in discussing Lincoln, states: "While still a boy he is reported to have made mock of revivals. Certain it is that the fury, the vindictive theology, the hell-fire creed of those religious primitives deeply offended him. With such theology and such ethics he stood in strong contrast through his amazing power to be, at the same time, passionless in temper while unfaltering in conviction. His religious attitude was put into words in the latter part of his life when he said, 'I have never united myself to any church because I have found difficulty in giving my assent, without mental reservations, to the long, complicated statements of Christian doctrine which characterize their Articles of Belief and Confessions of Faith. When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Master's condensed statement of the substance of both Law and Gospel 'Thou shalt love the LORD thy God, with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself' that church will I join with all my heart and with all my soul.'"



"You heard me say to you, I am going away, and I am coming to you. If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I".

John 14: 28

Bible Standard Ministries teaches in harmony with God's Word that there is one God (Jehovah), one Lord (Jesus) and one holy Spirit (influence, power). "You have heard Me say to you, I am going away and coming back to you, If you loved Me you would rejoice because I said, I am going to the Father: for My Father is greater than I" (John 14: 28). Also Luke 1: 35 "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will

be called the Son of God" (NKJ).

TO US THE SCRIPTURES CLEARLY TEACH

That Jehovah is the Most High God—infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, perfect in wisdom, justice, love and power; that Jesus, His only begotten Son, had a pre-human existence as the mighty Word, or Logos, "the beginning of the creation of God," "the firstborn of every creature," the Father's Agent in all the works of creation (John 1: 1-3; 6: 51; 17: 5; Rev. 3: 14; Col. 1: 15-17).

That the Word "was made flesh," born of "a virgin," and became the man Jesus, "made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death," yet "separate from sinners" (John 1: 14; Isa. 7: 14; Heb. 2: 9; 7: 26).

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!
Luke 11:11-13 (NIV)

That Christ is Divine; that He was "put to death in the flesh, but quickened [made alive] in the Spirit," made "a quickening Spirit," highly exalted, and "given a name which is above every name"; "who only hath immortality" [God being excepted] (1 Pet. 3: 18; 1 Cor. 15: 45, 50; Phil. 2: 9-11; 1 Tim. 6: 16; Heb. 1: 3, 13).

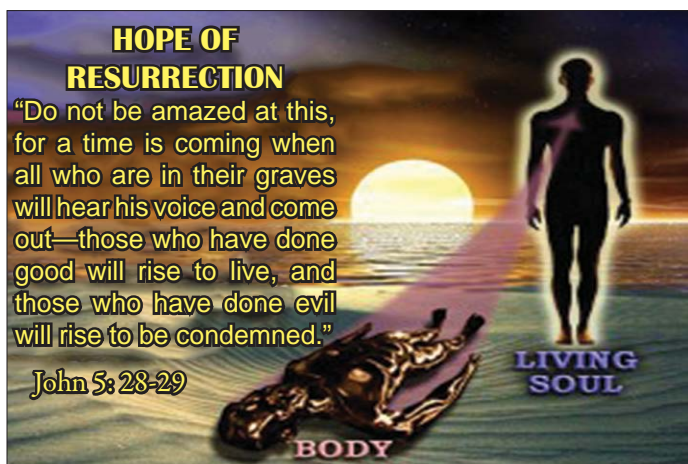
That the holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is manifested in all true Christians (Luke 11: 11-13; John 14: 26; 15: 26; 16: 7-15; 1 Cor. 2: 9-16; 3: 16; Eph. 3: 16; 4: 4, 30; 2 Tim. 1: 7).

That man was created perfect, in God's character image, and that through sin he fell under the penalty—not of eternal life in torment, but—of death, destruction, which he is undergoing by exposure to various evils, permitted by God to teach him by experience the evil nature and effects of sin and the desirability of hating and forsaking it (Gen. 1: 26-31; 2: 17; Eccl. 7: 29; Rom. 5: 12-19; 6: 21-23; 8: 20-22; 11: 32; Ps. 76: 7-10).

That the Church, the 144,000, gathered from among Jews and Gentiles, is God's Temple, "His workmanship"; that "the church of the firstborn" includes the Great Multitude, "living stones" in this great Temple's Court, together with the Ancient and Youthful Worthies Millennially; that this great Temple's construction has been in progress throughout the Gospel Age (29 AD-1874 AD), beginning when Christ became mankind's Redeemer and the Chief Corner Stone of this Temple,

through which, when finished, God's blessings shall come to "all people," and they shall gain access to Him (Rev. 7; Rev. 14: 1; Rom. 11: 11, 12; 1 Cor. 3: 16, 17; 2 Cor. 6: 16; Eph. 2: 10, 20-22; Joel 2: 28, 29; 2 Tim. 2: 20; Heb. 11: 38-40; Gen. 28: 14).

That meantime the pre-Millennial preparation—the chiseling, shaping and polishing—of the Gospel-Age consecrated believers in Christ's atonement for sin progresses; and when the last of these shall have been made ready, the great Master Workman will bring all together in the resurrection; and the Temple, filled with His glory, will become the meeting place between God and men throughout the Millennial Age (Rev. 15: 5-8; 21: 3).



That the basis of hope for everlasting life for the elect and the non-elect is in the fact that God "is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe"; that Jesus "by the grace of God tasted death for every man," "a ransom (corresponding price) for all"; that God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"; and that Jesus is "the true Light, which lightest every man that cometh into the world," "in due time" (1 Tim. 4: 10; 2: 3-6; Heb. 2: 9; John 1: 9; Num. 14: 21; Isa. 11: 9; 40: 5; Jer. 31: 34; Hab. 2: 14).

That the hope of God's true people now being developed is that they will have an abundant entrance into God's everlasting Kingdom, and that their present mission is to develop and perfect themselves and others in Christlikeness, to witness for God and Christ to the world, and to prepare for the work of blessing all the families of the earth in the coming Kingdom on earth (Rom. 12: 2; Phil. 2: 12; Gal. 5: 22, 23; 2 Pet. 1: 5-11; 3: 18; John 18: 37; Acts 1: 8; 1 Cor. 9: 16; 2 Tim. 4: 2).

That Jesus is the satisfaction for the sins of the Church and the world; that the Gospel Age is the Church's judgment day; that God has appointed a Thousand Year Day in which He "will judge the world in righteousness," with Satan bound; that while none of Adam's race get a

second chance, each of them will have one full, free, fair opportunity to gain eternal life through Christ, either in this life or after being awakened from the dead (1 John 2: 2; 1 Pet. 4: 17; Acts 17: 31; 2 Pet. 3: 7, 8; Rev. 20: 2-7, 12, 13; John 5: 28, 29, R.V.; Acts 24: 15; 1 Thess. 4: 13, 14).

That the gospel was preached to Abraham, saying, "In thee shall all nations be blessed"; that the Christ, Head and Body, is the great Seed of Abraham (the rest of God's people are the subordinate seed), through whom "all the families of the earth shall be blessed"; that this blessing of salvation for the world will come during Jesus' Second Advent, in "the times of restitution of all things," when God's Kingdom will be established on earth (Gen. 12: 3; Gal. 3: 7-9, 16, 29; Eph. 1: 22, 23; Acts 3: 19-23; Matt. 6: 10; Rev. 22: 17).

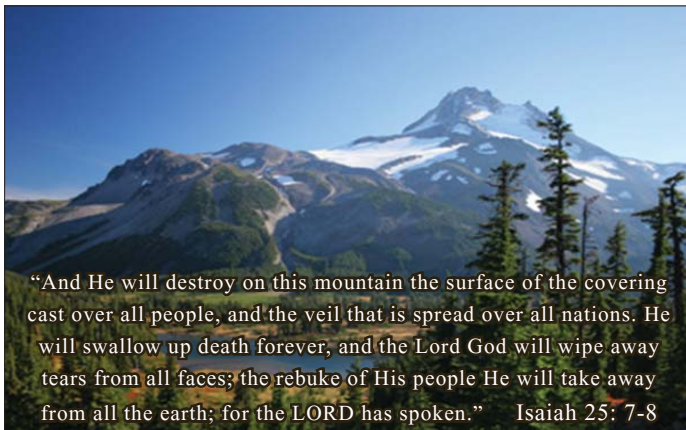
That we are now in "the time of the end," with its unprecedented "time of trouble," the Epiphany, or Apocalypse, period, in which Jesus reveals Himself in His Second Advent; that He is now overthrowing Satan's dominion; that His reign of peace and righteousness is soon to be established; and that Israel's return to their homeland precedes the beginning of His Millennial Mediatorial Reign (Dan. 12: 1, 4, 9, 10; Matt. 24: 21; 2 Tim. 4: 1; Zeph. 3: 8, 9; Dan. 2: 35, 44; Amos 9: 11-15; Rev. 11: 15; 21: 1-8).

<p>Believers are endorsing what God has condemned. God's Word told us this would happen. Beware when men call evil good, and good evil. Isaiah 5:20</p>
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When all the pre-millennial seed of Abraham consisting of all five pre-restitution consecrated classes the Little Flock, the Ancient Worthies, the Great Company, the Youthful Worthies and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers are complete—symbolized by Zion, Moriah, Akra, Bezetha and Ophel—the special means of assisting the non-elect up the Highway of Holiness; God will exalt them for this purpose.

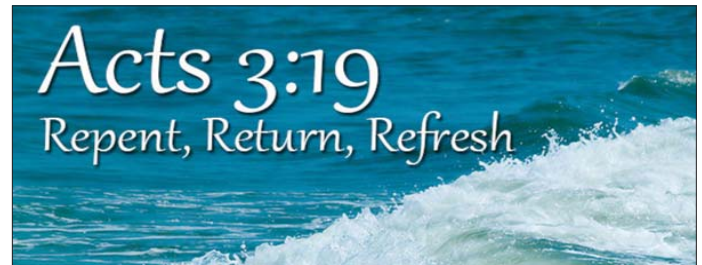
During the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of our Lord, assisted by the subordinate pre-restitution consecrated classes, Satan will be bound and spirited away from the earth, and will no longer be able to tempt the people, and the Christ shall hold full sway, influencing the people to righteousness (Rev. 20: 1-3; Psa. 72: 8). Error shall be banished from the earth and Truth will everywhere wave her scepter (Isa. 25: 7; 11: 9). Sin will be dethroned, and righteousness will be enthroned (Isa. 25: 7; 62: 12). The

human race will be released from the sentence of death and be given the opportunity to obtain full liberty in every respect (Rom. 8: 21). Human sorrow will give way to universal joy (Isa. 35: 10). War will cease and peace will reign everywhere (Isa. 2: 4; 9: 7). The righteous shall no more be persecuted, but exalted everywhere for their righteousness (Isa. 25: 8; 72: 7). The wicked will no more be exalted, but will be abased and striped for reformation (Mal. 3: 15; Isa. 26: 9; Psa. 37: 35, 36). False religions will be no more; and the one true religion everywhere will be accepted (Isa. 65: 15; 60: 14, 15; Zeph. 3: 9). Oppressive governments shall be no more; and the fostering government of the Christ will bless and help all (Isa. 60: 12; Psa. 72: 12-14). People will not labor in vain and produce troublesome works; but everyone will prosper in his undertakings (Isa. 65: 23; 60: 17). There will then be no exploitation and poverty, but everyone will enjoy unmolested his own possessions (Isa. 65: 22; Mic. 4: 4). The removal of the above evils and the bestowal of the above blessings will relieve the race from its curse-derived needs. We see that the Millennial Reign of Christ is intended to relieve the race of all its present needs coming upon it through the curse.



Jehovah is the God of all Truth and right principles and has been pleased to reveal to us His Truth and its principles. Jehovah as a Father gives His children manual

training as well as head and heart training. He requests that we have a character that He can have fellowship with. He invites us to be His friend and develop a mutual friendship with Him. Oh, a friendship of like hearts and minds, but, a friendship can never be experienced by one person alone. It implies at least two persons as its possessors; for it is a mutual regard cherished by like minds and hearts. Friendship is a quality that requires at least two persons before it can be exercised at all. When the God of Justice completes the special calls to justification and consecration under selective salvation the whole world of mankind will be invited by resurrection as promised in John 5: 28, 29 “Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the tombs will hear his voice, and will come forth, they that have done good, to a resurrection of life; they that have done evil, to a resurrection of condemnation.” In Acts 3: 19 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the LORD”; v. 20 “And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you”; v. 21 “Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” Yes, sometime there will be between God and all mankind such loving-kindness of disposition as will make them hold one another in mutual esteem, i.e., when after the Millennium all who after a full opportunity prove that they are worthy of everlasting life are rewarded with it, and all others are destroyed. Let us continue to pray for that glorious day!





THE TWO CUPS



“Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils” (1 Cor. 10: 21).

The Apostle Paul here mentions only two cups—the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils. Whoever would have eternal life must drink of the Lord’s cup. “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26: 27, 28). Jesus at the institution of His Memorial explained that His cup, the fruit of the vine, represents blood, i.e., life—not life retained, *but shed*, given, yielded

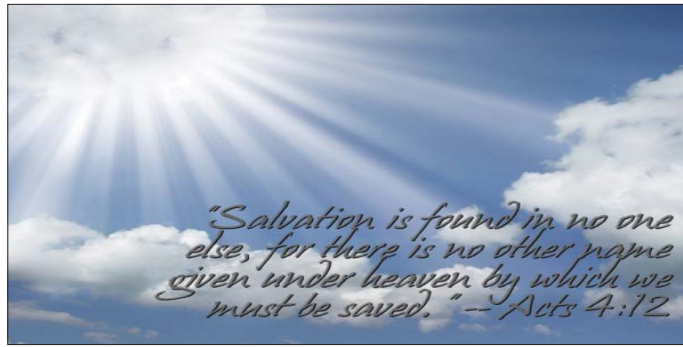
up—sacrificed life; that this life poured out was for the remission of sins, and that all who would be His must drink of it, must accept His sacrifice—must appropriate it by faith. They can receive life from this source alone (John 6: 53-57).

Romans 3: 20 states “therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” It will not do for any to

claim everlasting life outside of Christ, nor to declare that life is the result of obedience to the Law nor to claim that faith in some great teacher and obedience to his instructions will amount to the same thing and bring eternal life. There is no way to attain everlasting life other than through the merit of the blood Jesus shed as the ransom-price for the whole world. “There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4: 12).

Yes, “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15: 3). He “was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death [which is the wages of sin, Rom. 6: 23; 5: 21] . . . that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2: 9). As Adam sinned willfully (1 Tim. 2: 14) and brought death upon himself and the race in his loins (Rom. 5: 12-21; 1 Cor. 15: 22), so Jesus became flesh “was made flesh” (John 1: 14) and “poured out his soul unto death,” giving “his soul an offering for sin” (Isa. 53: 12, 10), as a ransom-price, a corresponding price for Adam and the race in his loins when he sinned. So it was “the man Christ Jesus who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Tim. 2: 5, 6)—to the Church during the Gospel Age (1 Pet. 4: 17) and to the world in its coming Thousand-year Judgment Day (Acts 17: 31; Isa. 26: 9; 2 Pet. 3: 7, 8).

The privilege of drinking of the water of life will be offered to every one of Adam’s race “in due time.” None can obtain everlasting life except from Christ, the Redeemer and appointed Life-giver; and the Truth, which brings to us the privilege of manifesting faith and obedience, and “laying hold on eternal life,” is called the “water of life” and the “bread of life” (John 4: 14; 6: 32-35, 54). Many during the Gospel Age have heeded the Master’s loving invitation: “If any man thirst let him come unto me, and drink” (John 7: 37). After the purpose of the Gospel Age (the selection of the Church, the Bride of Christ—Acts 15: 14) shall have been established in the earth with its reign of peace (Matt. 6: 10; Isa. 2: 2-4), then will come the fulfillment of Rev. 22: 17: “The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”



Jehovah in His graciousness has provided a ransom for all through Christ. However we must also be aware of *the cup of devils!* Satan and his demons offer to mankind a far different cup—not a cup of life, but the cup of death. The agency employed is not faith, but unbelief. Satan, “the god of

this world hath blinded 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). He blinds their minds with unbelief, ignorance and superstition. He it is that has “the power of death” (Heb. 2: 14), and by means of deception and falsification he brought the death sentence upon the entire human race (Gen. 3: 4). “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8: 44). “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning” (1 John 3: 8).

During the Gospel Age, “Strait [difficult] is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”; but “wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matt. 7: 14, 13). Just as it is impossible to travel north and south at the same time, or to travel in

ACTS 17: 31

“Because he has appointed a day, on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

The worlds thousand year Judgement Day

two roads that lead in opposite directions, so, as our text tells us, it is impossible to drink both the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils at the same time. “No man can serve two masters” with conflicting interests, at the same time (Matt. 6: 24).

Only the Lord’s cup guarantees life to the faithful and those who drink the Lord’s cup and devote their lives to Him are instructed and guided by their Heavenly Father and are guaranteed safety for their spiritual lives in God’s hand, where no other creature can pluck them out (Psa. 32: 8; John 10: 28, 29; Rom. 8: 35-39); but those who drink the cup of devils and serve Satan and his cause are instructed by seducing spirits: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4: 1). Psa. 31: 15 states “My times are in thy hand: deliver

me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.” Oh, due to being prompted by “an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (Heb. 3: 12), their lives are like a game of chance, very insecure.

Throughout the Bible Satan is pictured as the great enemy of mankind; and in his work he has the cooperation of a host of unseen spirit beings, all actuated by one common purpose, namely that of hindering the Lord’s people from making their calling and election sure, and of hindering others from becoming the Lord’s people. “Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved” (Luke 8: 12). These evilly-inclined beings are variously referred to in the Scriptures as “devils,” “unclean spirits,” “wicked spirits,” “lying spirits,” “seducing spirits,” “the angels that sinned.” In Matt. 8: 28 “there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way” and in Matt. 12: 45, “Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself.”

“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” (Luke 8: 12)

They obsess or possess human beings, using the tongues and the voices of these unfortunate persons to utter their own lying deceptions. In Matt. 4: 24 “And his [Jesus] fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them” (also Luke 8: 2; Acts 16: 16-18). Satan is repeatedly declared to be their “prince” or leader. The Bible further declares them to be the author of many of the false doctrines extant, and asserts that by believing and teaching these false doctrines the Lord’s people may be unwittingly fellowshiping with these devils. This fact alone should be a sufficient reason why the Lord’s people should be on their guard against such fellowship. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6: 24). “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”(1 Tim. 4: 1). “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup

of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils” (1 Cor. 10: 20, 21).

The cup of devils is usually made to appear very attractive; only when it is drained to the dregs is its bitter end-effect realized. Its surface sparkles with hopes of earthly prosperity, pride, self-exaltation and “honor one of another”; and to attain these hopes, time, talent and influence are sacrificed to the bitter and disappointing end. It is indeed a *cup of intoxication, a cup of deceptions and delusions*, whose awful potency finally is unto death. “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 16: 25).

God Won't Allow Dual Citizenship

“Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and the table of demons.”



1 Cor. 10: 21-22

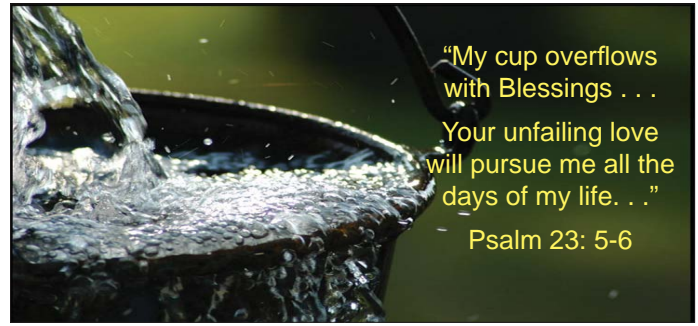
Well does the Apostle say, “The things which the Gentiles [the unbelieving world] sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye [believers, Christians] should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils” (1 Cor. 10: 20, 21).

In other words, we cannot partake of the spirit of the world, the spirit of selfishness, ambition, pride, and sacrifice our lives to these ignoble aims, and at the same time partake also of the spirit of Christ, which is unselfish, humble, self-denying and glad to sacrifice earthly ambitions in the service of Him who bought us with His own precious blood. We cannot partake of both dispositions, for the one is the reverse of and antagonistic to the other.

Again our great Jehovah speaks through James 1: 7, 8 “For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” Since this warning is addressed, **not to the world**, but to those who have already pledged themselves to drink of the Lord’s cup, their partaking now of the devil’s cup implies their turning away from the Lord’s cup. And if any are so foolish as to give the consent of their minds to the partaking in some measure of both the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils—of the spirit of the Lord and the spirit of the world and of devils, of the doctrines of the Lord and the doctrines of devils, they are sure to reap disappointment!

Drinking of Satan’s cup gradually brings more and more

a distaste for the Lord's cup, for its unwholesome and poisonous potion soon vitiates the spiritual sense of taste, undermines the spiritual health, and produces abnormal cravings for that which is not good. Let us avoid drinking of the cup of devils, which eventually brings death. Let us drink constantly, diligently and faithfully of the cup of the Lord, which alone brings true peace and joy and the blessings of life forevermore. It is indeed the cup of blessing!



"My cup overflows with Blessings . . .
Your unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life. . ."
Psalm 23: 5-6

TEN SCRIPTURES THAT TELL US HOW TO LOVE

1. Listen without interrupting

Proverbs 18: 13 He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.

2. Speak without accusing

James 1: 19 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

3. Give without sparing

Proverbs 21: 26 All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

4. Pray without ceasing

Colossians 1: 9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

5. Answer without arguing

Proverbs 17: 1 Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

6. Share without pretending

Ephesians 4: 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

7. Enjoy without complaint

Philippians 2: 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,

8. Trust without wavering

1 Corinthians 13: 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

9. Forgive without punishing

Colossians 3: 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

10. Promise without forgetting

Proverbs 13: 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

QUOTES THAT ARE GEMS

Other people may have more talent, education, or experience but God's favor can cause you to go places you could not go on your own

The Things you take for granted someone else is praying for.

DEAR GOD,
TODAY I WOKE UP.
I AM HEALTHY.
I AM ALIVE.
THANK YOU.

THE INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING IS NOT THE RESULT OF NEW LIGHT, RATHER THAT THE LIGHT OF PRESENT TRUTH IS CONTINUING TO GROW.

God Has a Great Plan For Your Life.
Trust Him.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT MULTIPLE CHOICE

God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves
Dwight L. Moody



King Belshazzar's Feast (The Fall of Babylon) Lesson 51

Pride overbalanced Nebuchadnezzar's judgment, and, in the plain of Dura, he was led to erect a great image of himself as Earth's Ruler, to which all people were required to bow down in obedient reverence! If the people could regard him as a god, they would be the more sure to obey him. But among them were three Hebrews who refused to bow the knee. Their religious scruples were not respected. It was enough that they were defying Emperor Nebuchadnezzar. A great furnace was heated seven times, or as hot as possible, and into it the three servants of God were cast. The men who threw them in inhaled flame and died. Nebuchadnezzar and his lords, looking over toward the furnace, saw the three unhurt and with them One like unto the Son of God. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the God of the Hebrews and commanded all the people to worship Him. Although God's people today may be subjected to fiery trials, they will probably not be literally burned in a furnace. Nevertheless, God's power can keep their hearts in every trouble.

It was after this that Nebuchadnezzar became insane and beast-like lived upon herbage, seven years, after which his reason was restored and he gave glory to God.

Later on came Belshazzar's Feast, the handwriting on the wall and the fall of Babylon, when the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, represented in the Image by the silver, and by the Bear in Daniel's vision, took possession of the dominions once ruled by Babylon. Cyrus' army turned aside the Euphrates, marched in through the riverbed and captured the city supposed to be impregnable.

Babylon is the symbolical name in Revelation for a great Ecclesiastical System. Its fall is described as accomplished through the drying up of the symbolical river Euphrates, that the way of the Kings of the East might be prepared—a Royal Priesthood, of which Christ is the Head. The river represents people and wealth.—Revelation 17:15.

Questions for Lesson 51

- 1* What overbalanced Nebuchadnezzar's judgment? What was he led to do?
- 2* What was required of the people?
- 3* Did all the people do as the king had commanded? Why not?
- 4* What did the king order done to those who refused to bow before the image? How many were there found who refused to bow down to the image?
- 5 What happened to those servants who threw the Hebrews into the fire?
- 6* As the king and his lords looked into the furnace what did they see?
- 7* What did the king then order those in the fire to do? Dan. 3: 26 How badly burned were those three who had trusted in Jehovah?
- 8* After seeing this demonstration of the power of Jehovah, what did Nebuchadnezzar say? What did the king do with these three brave Israelites? Dan. 3: 28, 30
- 9* What lesson may we learn from this historical narrative? Par. 1
- 10 What happened later to King Nebuchadnezzar? Dan. 4: 19-37. Par. 2
- 11* During the reign of Belshazzar, what happened at his great feast? What was seen upon the wall? Dan. 5: 1-5
- 12* Who interpreted it for the king? Dan. 5: 14-24
- 13* How did Daniel interpret it? Dan. 5: 25-29
- 14* How was the prophecy fulfilled? Dan. 5: 30, 31. Par. 3
- 15 What does Babylon represent in Revelation?
- 16 How will mystic Babylon be overthrown? Par. 4
- 17* Do you know of any facts which tend to show that the symbolical river Euphrates has begun to dry up? Studies, Vol. 2, pages 208, 209
- 18 Should we lend our support in anyway to Great Babylon which has been doomed by God to destruction?

* The questions marked with an asterisk are especially for children.



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ERRATA: Bible Standard #887, page 19, please change date **FROM** "29 AD to 1874 AD" **TO** "33 AD to 1878 AD".

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