

# ACTS

Advocating Christ The Savior  
April--June 2011

## HOPE FOR THE WORLD

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# ACTS

ADVOCATING CHRIST THE SAVIOR

**Our purpose:** The ACTS is published by the Church of God Publishing House to advance the Gospel message around the world and to promote the general welfare of the Churches of God, 7th Day, as a whole.

**General Council Board:** President—Tom Kendrick; Vice President—Rodney Boone; Committeemen—Roger Boone, Jon Hildebrand, Ken Walker, Warner Sheldahl, Don Smith.

**Subscriptions:** There is no subscription price for this magazine. It is paid for by freewill offerings. We are a non-profit ministry and welcome your financial participation. Donations are greatly appreciated. There is no subscription price for this magazine; however, the suggested donation is \$4.75 or \$47.50 annually. Checks may be made out to the Church of God Publishing House.

**Articles:** ACTS accepts manuscripts from freelance writers. Write to us for writer's guidelines and a free sample copy of the magazine.

**Publisher:** Church of God Publishing House / 1827 W 3rd ST / Meridian, ID 83646-1653.

**Staff:** Craig Moore—Editor; Randy Sedlacek—Production Manager; Sherry Sutton—Layout, Graphics, and Secretarial.

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### Statement of Beliefs:

1. The Bible to be the inspired Word of God, God the Father is the supreme Deity, Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, and the Holy Spirit is the promised Comforter.
2. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His virgin birth; His sinless life; His miracles; His vicarious and atoning death; His bodily resurrection late on the Sabbath day; His ascension to the right hand of God in heaven; and His personal return to establish His kingdom and rule this earth in great power and glory.
3. The only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus and obedience to our Lord's command to be baptized (immersed) in the Name of Christ for the remission of sins.
4. That by faith we may receive healing for our bodies.
5. The Scriptures enjoin the observance of the Ten Commandments, including the observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath (commonly called Saturday) to be observed from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.
6. The Lord's Supper and foot washing should be observed once a year at the proper and appointed time.
7. In the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, the just to eternal life and the unjust to eternal death.
8. The dead are in a state of no consciousness.
9. The true church organization taught in the Bible is local autonomy and that the Bible name for the church is THE CHURCH OF GOD.
10. That the tests of Christian fellowship are the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.



## Greetings!

Hope this letter finds all of you living with God's grace and with abundant blessings in your life! For me, I am celebrating the birth of a son, Daniel Carl Moore. God is so good and is teaching me the love He has for us as our Father through the love I am experiencing for him.

Even through the trials of our daily lives, God is there with us. There are some days that I feel that nothing is going the way I want them to, that God isn't "paying attention" to me, but then I realize that God brings "*all things together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.*" This verse reminds me that God DOES remember and is bringing things together in His time. I can see how some of the bad things that happened in my life have molded me into the person I am, enabling me to reach out to people that are going through similar things. Reaching out to them is part of what we are to do as Christians.

This issue brings back an article from someone that has done a lot for our church, Edgar Lippincott. The article was originally printed in the December 1964 *ACTS*, but still has relevance today. He wrote about the hope that we have in Christ and through Christ. With the world we are living in today, this is *pertinent* to read, understand, and believe. Our hope is not of this earthly world, but of new world promised in Revelation 21.

Dennis La Plant brings to the forefront the need to "*wake up*" from our spiritual slumber in our daily lives and awaken the fire that should burn in our souls as Christians. We need to put off the old man, stop loving the things of this world, and realign ourselves to God's standards.

In his article, "*What is the True Word of God in the Bible?*" John Leier presses the fact that we need to read the Bible, search the scriptures, and seek to understand what it says. We need to find out for ourselves what the Bible says just as the Bereans did and were counted as noble in Acts 17:11 and not just take the words of others as fact.

We also have included an article written by a group working on behalf of the *Daughter's of the King* about a fundraiser they have done in their community. We always like to hear what our Christian's are doing around the world and if you have a similar article in mind, send it on over!

Once again, I thank all of you that have written in to us, we enjoy hearing from you. If you would like to contact me personally with an article or a note just to say "*hi*," feel free to contact me at [elremoien@gmail.com](mailto:elremoien@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

May God bless you always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Moore'.

Craig Moore, Editor, *ACTS* Magazine

# The Hope of the World

By Edgar Lippincott—Reprinted from the ACTS, December 1964

There are certain aspects common to all Hope, no matter what kind you speak.

First, *hope* must refer to the future. You can rejoice over the past but you cannot hope anything about it.

Secondly, *hope* involves something that is good, something that we want and long for.

Thirdly, real *hope* can only be directed to that which is possible.

Let's think for a minute about false hopes. The past few years have created a great many hopes because of the seriousness of the times. When things are going along smoothly we do not hope for anything, we talk about the hope of a better world when things are dark and desperate but as the days grows darker the more we need *hope*.

Woodrow Wilson wrote a book which he called "*The Hope of the World*." It was about the *League of Nations*. He thought that was the only hope to save the nations of the world from destruction, but the *League of Nations* died. If that was the hope of the world, the world's hope is dead. The leaders of the nations are today still hoping that they can save the world from destruction, but all who know anything about God and His message to the world know that this is also a hope that shall never materialize. We may have other hopes just as futile.

We want to look into the Scriptures and see what our lasting hope that will materialize really is: there are four different relationships of Christ to the matter of *Hope*.

**First, there is *hope* because of His resurrection.**

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" 1 Peter 1:3.*

Notice that thought for just a moment: "*A lively hope.*" A hope that never materializes is a dead hope but the *hope* in Christ never dies, because Christ is alive for evermore! The Christian's hope is born of this historical event of the past—Christ's resurrection.

**Secondly:**

*"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" Colossians 1:27.*

**Christ's indwelling hope that relates to the present is a *lively Hope* that we can know we shall receive.**

**Thirdly:**

*"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doeth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth."*

**This hope dwelling within you gives you a desire to take the Gospel to others so they too may have a *lively hope*.** This does not say we are going to heaven to receive this hope of eternal life, but according to the many scriptures, Christ is coming to bring our reward to us here on this earth. The hope is: the promise of God, of eternal life with Christ here upon this earth. Therefore, the rich inheritance we hope for is on this earth, redeemed back to its Edenic beauty. Heirs with faithful Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ (See Hebrews 11:9 and Romans 8:17).

**The Fourth *Hope* which we wish to talk about is:**

*"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" Titus 2:13.*

This will be the final fulfillment of our living hope, the second coming of Christ—this is the **Hope of the World**.

This is the only *hope* we have to save the world from total annihilation.

The entire world looked to the summit conference with hope, Hope that it would bring about world peace, no doubt the majority of the leaders knew that a lasting agreement could not be worked out. The people of the nations have doubt but still they have no other Hope, simply because they are not acquainted with God's word. Therefore, they do not know that these very things happening among the nations of the world, strikes, racial uprisings, crimes, earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes, are only signs that the real *Hope* of the world is about to be realized—the *second advent of Christ*.

There is much talk about the second advent of Christ; it implies that there has been a first advent. When Christ came the first time, did He just come part-way to the earth and return? *NO*, He came as a babe born of the Virgin Mary and grew to manhood right here on this earth. Wouldn't it only be logical then that when He spoke of coming back again that He would mean that He was coming to this earth?

When He was about to leave this earth to ascend to the Father, His disciples asked Him, "*Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" Acts 1:6b. His disciples understood that He was to establish a kingdom, that is what He had been teaching them. When Pilate asked Him when He was accused of the Jews, "*Art thou a king?*" Jesus answered:

*"Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world."* See John 18:37.

When He was here the first time He fulfilled His mission, He lived a sinless life and gave His life on the cross for the sins of the world. He returned to the Father to sit as an advocate for you and me, making it possible that when we sin we can have those sins forgiven. When He went to the Father, He sent the *Comforter* that He might

abide with each of us, giving us the power to overcome sin. But, how many people are willing to let the Holy Spirit come into their lives to dwell? Even those who claim to be Christians seem to be afraid of the Holy Spirit.

When He left the earth to go to His Father, He gave a commission to all His followers; to go into **All** the world and preach the *Gospel*, the "*Good News*" of His coming kingdom. He is coming again, His whole theme while here, teaching, was of His coming kingdom that He is going to set up here on the earth. Many of those who say they are preaching the gospel teach that He is not coming back to earth but is simply going to catch the "*Church*" away to heaven. Christ, Himself standing before Pilate at His trial declared that He was born to be King. Isaiah prophesied that He was born to be King. Paul, in I Corinthians 15:23-26 tells us that Christ is to reign until He hath put **All** enemies under His feet. Are His enemies in heaven? In Revelation 12:5 we are told that He is to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Dear ones, do you believe that when Christ said He would come again that He did not mean He would set-up His righteous kingdom here on earth? Daniel in his prophecy said Christ's kingdom would break and subdue all earthly kingdoms. Do you have that *lively hope* that the Scriptures tell about? A *Hope* of eternal life with Christ in His kingdom, right here on this earth? It is the only *hope* for this old world. All who have this *hope* can have peace and contentment that this world cannot give.

If you are fearful of the things that happen in the world, if you are afraid of the destruction that is coming upon these United States of ours, you can have peace and assurance by simply letting Christ into your life today. He has promised to care for and protect you, He is your only *hope*, and His second coming is the only *hope* for this old world.



# WHY HAVE CHRISTIANS BECOME SO BLIND?

By Dennis La Plant

I am writing this paper for the purpose of waking up the bride to get her ready for the marriage that is coming. Jesus said He would return for His bride and He expects her to be ready and pure. The title about blindness has to do with how we can be so easily blinded by our own passions for the world. It can happen to us without us even realizing it because we are just like everyone else in the church. We attend church, praise the Lord, give our tithes and offerings, some may even speak in tongues, but by our actions outside of the church we are really of the world. Through the Scriptures I will show how easily we can get off of the path and why we are deceived by where our hearts are at. I will show that there are consequences for going down that path when the Lord returns. I will show, through the Scripture, the foundation that we are supposed to be following. It will be shown how important that foundation is for us to see clearly. And I will confirm to you what is supposed to be important to us in our daily lives while we are here on earth.

Before you begin reading ask yourselves these questions, are your treasures being stored up in heaven or are you caught up in the world's pleasures and materialism? Are you a disciple of Christ, or do you just believe in the idea of Christ? Do you look at history from the point of view of Christ or from your own flesh? I will show with Scripture, how by not seeing what we need to change, we will continue to be in darkness when we believe we are in the light. That is what happened to the Jews, when they would not listen to the prophets. They lost their land and they were scattered to the four corners of the earth. I will show that when we allow the world to move into our hearts, instead of Christ, we can end up practicing religion and live in self-righteousness rather than being a true disciple of Christ. I certainly hope and pray that you will have an ear to hear what the Scriptures are saying to us and take heed to do something about it in your lives. I also hope and pray when you finish reading the Scriptures and the comments that I am sharing with you, you will be able to see more clearly what Christ intended for us to be like while we are living our lives as believers. Then we can spiritually bloom and we will want to begin living our life for the Lord's purpose and not our own.

I will start with the story of Balaam who is our first example of how we can lose our sight and then begin walking on the wrong path while we still believe we are doing God's will.

## Numbers 22:2-35 (NASB-77)

2 Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

3 So Moab was in great fear because of the people, for they were numerous; and Moab was in dread of the sons of Israel.

4 And Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this horde will lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time.

5 So he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor, at Pethor, which is near the River, *in* the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying, "Behold, a people came out of Egypt; behold, they cover the surface of the land, and they are living opposite me.

6 "Now, therefore, please come, curse this people for me since they are too mighty for me; perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

7 So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the *fees for* divination in their hand; and they came to Balaam and repeated Balak's words to him.

8 And he said to them, "Spend the night here, and I will bring word back to you as the Lord may speak to me." And the leaders of Moab stayed with Balaam.

9 Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"

10 And Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent *word* to me,

11 'Behold, there is a people who came out of Egypt and they cover the surface of the land; now come, curse them for me; perhaps I may be able to fight against them, and drive them out.'

12 And God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people; for they are blessed."

13 So Balaam arose in the morning and said to Balak's leaders, "Go back to your land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you."

14 And the leaders of Moab arose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."

15 Then Balak again sent leaders, more numerous and more distinguished than the former.

16 And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor, 'Let nothing, I beg you, hinder you from coming to me; 17 for I will indeed honor you richly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Please come then, curse this people for me.'"

18 And Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything, either small or great, contrary to the command of the Lord my God.

19 "And now please, you also stay here tonight, and I will find out what else the Lord will speak to me."

20 And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men have come to call you, rise up *and* go with them; but only the word which I speak to you shall you do."

21 So Balaam arose in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and went with the leaders of Moab.

22 But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him.

23 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way.

24 Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path of the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

25 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pressed herself to the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall, so he struck her again.

26 And the angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn to the right hand or the left.

27 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick.

28 And the Lord opened the mouth of the

donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

29 Then Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in my hand, I would have killed you by now."

30 And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?" And he said, "No."

31 Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground.

32 And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me.

33 "But the donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, I would surely have killed you just now, and let her live."

34 And Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the way against me. Now then, if it is displeasing to you, I will turn back."

35 But the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but you shall speak only the word which I shall tell you." So Balaam went along with the leaders of Balak.

#### **Matthew 6:19-24 (NASB-77)**

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

22 "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other." **You cannot serve God and mammon.**

## 1 John 2:15 (NASB-77)

15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

I have chosen the story of Balaam, and the Scriptures in Matthew and 1 John, to show how dangerous it is spiritually to not hear what the Spirit is saying concerning the world and its unrighteous mammon. In the story about Balaam, we find that he lost his spiritual sight just by the temptation in his heart for the gifts the Moabites had offered to him. Balaam knew God's will: That the Israelites were a blessed people; but he asked the leaders of Moab to stay the night again when he should have just sent them on their way. I suppose he thought maybe God had changed His mind, or he hoped He had so he could accept their gifts. We know that he was spiritually blind now, because he did not see the angel standing on the path with a sword. The angel would have killed him if the donkey had not seen the angel and stopped. This story is a warning to us about the temptations that the world throws in our paths, and our desires for unrighteous mammon, so that we become blinded by the world and no longer have our spiritual sight anymore. We believe we are serving Christ, but in fact, we are really serving our own desires and not that which is righteous in the Lord's eyes. We also know in the New Testament that Balaam led the children of Israel astray as found in 2nd Peter 2:15. The scripture in Matthew brings out the issues concerning the eye: Where our treasure is, and our heart. The darkness within us, in reality, is the blindness I am speaking of. You cannot serve God and mammon, very self-explanatory. The third Scripture also states that we are *not* to love the world. I believe there needs to be a serious discussion as to what **the things of the world are**, that we are not to love. In conjunction with what happened to Balaam we might now see that we need to look at our own lives to see how these Scriptures may apply to us. You cannot love God and mammon, and you do not have the love of the Father in your heart if you love the things of the world. I am afraid that a lot of Christians today are really blinded by the world and do not know the difference between being a disciple, or just being a good believing church going member.

The following scriptures will show that there can be consequences for this spiritual blindness. We may believe in Jesus and yet still not truly be a disciple of His. We may be following after our own desires and religious practices, not really doing

His will in our lives because we have become accustomed to *our* traditions and doctrines. Our religion is built on self-righteousness, which has incorporated the world into them. So, our blindness and lawless nature is in conflict with the whole foundation Christ established at the beginning for us to follow. These are the following consequences spoken of in Revelation.

## Revelation 2:4-5 (NASB-77)

4 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

5 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will **remove your lampstand** out of its place—unless you repent.

## Revelation 3:4-6 (NASB-77)

4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.

**5 'He who overcomes** shall thus be clothed in white garments; and **I will not erase his name from the book of life**, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

## Revelation 3:15-16 (NASB-77)

15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.

16 'so because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, **I will spit you out of My mouth**.

## Matthew 5:37 (NASB-77)

37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.

## Luke 12:15 (NASB-77)

15 And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

## Matthew 7:19-23 (NASB-77)

19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

**21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.**

22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

*Comment:* It is important then to search and come to the understanding as to what that lawlessness is. Because as He says “*I never knew you*” do we want to come before Jesus and have Him say I never knew you? Then now is the time to search our lives and see what we need to repent about to put our spiritual lives in order. There are consequences as has been shown, for not observing the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives. The next scripture points this out very clearly.

**Matthew 10:39 (NASB-77)**

39 “He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it.

**John 12:25 (NASB-77)**

25 “He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal.

**1 Corinthians 6:19 (NASB-77)**

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

*Comment:* In the latter Scriptures it says, if you find your life you will lose it but if you lose your life you will gain; this just means if your life is centered on career, material things, wealth, experiencing the comforts and pleasurable experiences in this life, then you will lose your life. You work to provide for the needs of your family, which is of course expected of all of us. But Christ also expects us to work so we will use our unrighteous mammon to serve the needs of others and further the cause of Jesus. Your service is to be a witness for the winning of men’s souls, then you will gain your life for His sake.

In the following Scriptures it points this out very

well. Christ may want you to prosper but not so you can spend it on your own pleasures but to serve the needs of your brothers and sisters in the Lord, and the poor and needy of this world. It is the saving of men’s souls that the Lord is interested in. That is why the “*prosperity doctrine*” churches are teaching a false doctrine, because their minister’s hearts are in the wrong place. They want their treasure on earth and so they are centered on this world and not on the truth. They preach self-righteous sermons tearing down those who need to be loved and saved. They spend their time attacking all of those *sinner*s and *politicians* who do not follow their beliefs. But the worst part is: They do not want to make you uncomfortable so they do not tell you the truth about what Christ really expects of us as believers.

**Matthew 6:19-24 (NASB-77)**

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

**21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

**2 Corinthians 8:15 (NASB-77)**

15 as it is written, “HE WHO *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK.”

*Comment:* In the latter verse some have thought it was a form of socialism that was being practiced by the early church. What was being shown in the book of Acts though, was love. They loved one another, so they were no longer competing for wealth but sharing it with one another so all would be taken care of. There are two people one with an education and a talent for making money and the other one loves to help others. One makes lots of money and the other lives on a small income just making ends meet. The way the church believes today, the one with money deserves a better life than the other because he can afford it. Now, the world believes that this person with the education deserves more in the comforts and pleasures of this world because they have earned it, but that is not how Christ looks at it. This latter verse in 2nd Corinthians is pointing that out: One gathered much and the other gathered little but no one had any lack. Why, because they loved each other and both were working according to their ability and talent but they were sharing with

each other out of love. Christianity has become blind to this and has fallen into the state of Balaam and is blind to this principle of *love for one another*. Remember all of those verses about not storing up treasures on earth; *you cannot serve God and mammon; you ask so you can spend it on your own pleasures; and do not love the things of the world*, well they all apply to these verses (See Matthew 6:24; James 4:3 and I John 2:15-17).

## **2 Corinthians 8:12-15 (NASB-77)**

12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a man* has, not according to what he does not have.  
13 For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality—  
14 at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their want, that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your want, that there may be equality;  
15 as it is written, “**HE WHO GATHERED MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO GATHERED LITTLE HAD NO LACK.**”

## **Ephesians 4:28 (NASB-77)**

28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have **something to share with him who has need.**

## **Luke 16:1-13 (NASB-77)**

1 Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and this *steward* was reported to him as squandering his possessions.  
2 “And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’  
3 “And the steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.  
4 ‘I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the stewardship, they will receive me into their homes.’  
5 “And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he *began* saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

6 “And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’

7 “Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He •said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

8 “And his master praised the unrighteous steward because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.

9 “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

10 “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

**11 “If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you?”**

12 “And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?

13 “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**”

## **James 4:2-3 (NASB-77)**

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

**3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

## **John 13:34-35 (NASB-77)**

**34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

*Comment:* Remember He gave His whole life for us so He wants us to give our lives to each other with the same kind of love that He showed us.

(Continued on page 16)

# “WHAT IS THE TRUE WORD OF GOD IN THE BIBLE?”

## Part One

By John Leier

When I was young I was told about God our creator. I was told that He was our Father and that Jesus Christ, the Son of God was my Savior. I was instructed that the only way to go to heaven after I died was through the church. My parents were instructed, and believed the same. We were told if we left the church, we would go to an ever burning hellfire. At that time, I was told what the Bible said but I was never encouraged to buy a Bible nor was I ever encouraged to read one. All my knowledge about God came through the church and from my parents who never read the Bible, and they belonged to the church. I found out after I came to a little knowledge of the word of God, (after reading the Bible) that the church was not the sole communication with our Holy Father in heaven. It was some time later that I learned that we were saved through the resurrected Jesus Christ. Also, I learned that a church does not save you. One is saved by grace; it is a gift of God and not of yourself.

*“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8.*

I also learned that this gift of salvation, through grace, was not obtained by any work one can do. Since it's a gift, we cannot obtain it ourselves or of ourselves, and we cannot work for it. How then can we receive this gift of salvation from God? The apostle Peter answered this at the time of Pentecost. For all those who were pricked in their hearts, realizing their sinfulness, Peter said:

*“Then Peter said to them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” Acts 2:38.*

This is of course, an action on your part. Because of this, you will be able to receive the remission of sins with the promise that you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Power) from God. Remember, you must first be called by our Father in heaven.

*“So the last will be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen” Matthew 20:16.*

*“For many are called, but few are chosen” Matthew 22:14.*

Then one might ask, who then can be saved? Scripture asks for us to have patience.

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he, is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” Hebrews 11:6.*

Remember that if you diligently seek after God He will reward you. I also learned this, that knowing about God—is not salvation, nor is being baptized as an infant, or even as an adult.

*“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” John 6:54.*

As a very young child, I knew about God, and I know now that God was always there, and that at times He would help me. However, I still needed to **accept** Jesus Christ into my life. I needed to let Jesus be the focal point of my life.

Boy! What a stubborn character I was, and still am. None the less, I seek to know more about God and what He would have of me. I believe He will guide me by His Spirit (power). It is not by any church doctrine, nor by tradition of man.

I find life a struggle here on earth. Jesus said: *“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” Matthew 5:5.* The meek in our society, at this time, just seem to be overrun. Yet, I have this hope that God will help us overcome. He will see us through these difficult times. That is His promise to **any** who call upon the Lord, in Jesus' name. Here the true translation of “name” is, “**authority**.” That is, to believe in His Authority.

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” Hebrews 13:5.*

Given a free will, you must realize that you can leave your Savior; He will not leave you nor prevent you from leaving Him. However, if you leave Him, it will be a very great loss to you.

### **THE NEED TO READ THE BIBLE**

After reading the Bible through, I found that what I had been taught was not quite what the Word of God reveals. One must really be an individual before God and be open to His Holy Spirit (Power) to help us understand what the nature of His being is. Our Father has revealed to us through the Scriptures, that we are the dust of the earth.

*“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” Genesis 3:19.*

*“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust” Psalm 103:14.*

We are dependent on God our creator, but in His divine wisdom He has given us a free will, we must choose the way we should go.

*“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15.*

By reading the Bible with a sincere desire to know more about our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, you will know the truth and it will make you free.

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” John 8:32.*

*“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure*

*will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth” II Timothy 2:25.*

*“I have not written unto you because ye do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth” I John 2:21.*

### **WE TRY TO BLAME OTHERS**

You must choose to do good or to do bad. Now we can reason that since there is Satan, that Satan (also called a serpent) makes us do things which are against the will of God. But, Satan cannot make us do anything, but he tries through temptation. Even Eve blamed the serpent.

*“And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is it that thou hast done? And the woman said, The Serpent beguiled me, and I did eat” Genesis 3:13.*

I ask, Why? Why do I not have the strength always to do that which is right? What is the answer? Satan is present in many forms, he comes as a light to deceive us and to convince us in many ways that which is against the will of God is the very things we ought to do.

*“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” II Corinthians 11:14.*

Many writings and doctrines are simply not true. We must search the Scriptures and pray for wisdom in discerning what the truth is.

*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” James 1:5.*

*“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” Acts 17:11.*

Many churches do not want you to search the Scriptures to see if their doctrines are according to the writings in the word of God, the Bible. And Satan will try to convince us that God is cruel. He wants us to believe that if you don't shape-up you will burn for all eternity (that is to put a false

sense of fear in you, not a respectful fear of our eternal God). Yes, this popular belief is taught by many Christian churches. But consider, that it is also taught by many non-Christian religions and most pagan beliefs. There is a thought here that those who come unto God out of fear of eternal sufferings in hell will not see the Kingdom of God. It is most important that you come unto God out of love. Look at the following verses with this in mind: Perish means—to cease to exist, and in the *Strongs Exhaustive Dictionary*, the Hebrew meanings for #586 and #5487, means to “terminate.” Also, #2704 from the *Greek Dictionary* means, “to destroy fully.”

*“Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish”* Matthew 18:14

*“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”*  
Luke 13:3 and 5.

*“That whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* John 3:15-16.

When you believe, this everlasting life begins at the return of Jesus Christ. It will be given to those who have endured until the end, and it will be according to the will of God at the resurrection of the believers. It is for those that are in the graves and those who are alive at His coming. His coming is described in the following passages.

*“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”* I Corinthians 15:51-53.

The Bible passages tell us that we are mortal and we do not have immortality at this time. Of our existence, many error and say Adam was created with an immortal soul in him, when in fact

Adam was created a living flesh.

*“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* Genesis 2:7.

Look at the last words “became a living soul.” When we look it up in the Hebrew Dictionary from *Strongs Exhaustive Concordance*, looking at numbers 1961, 2416, and 5315, it gives the translation as “became a living flesh.” Also:

*“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”* I Corinthians 15:54-55.

*“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved”*  
II Thessalonians 2:10.

*“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believeth not, when she had received the spies with peace”*  
Hebrews 11:31. (Rahab was saved alive in the flesh but she was not given immortality at that time.)

*“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* II Peter 3:9. (Remember, that perish means “cease to exist.”)

*“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils”* Job 27:3. (The breath, or air that we breathe, which is the “Spirit of God in my nostrils,” is the breadth of life. This is the same that was given to Adam when God created him.)

*“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* Genesis 2:7 (Breathed means “to puff, to inflate, or

*blow hard,” the Hebrew Dictionary from Strongs Exhaustive Concordance, looking at #5301; see also, #5397, meaning “a puff, i.e. wind, vital breath.”*

**PLEASE DO NOT BECOME DULL OF HEARING**

*“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing” Hebrews 5:11.*

All the above I call to your attention because there are so many denominations who have doctrines that say mankind has an immortal part of him. Look at the truth of Scripture. It is Satan that has introduced into Christianity the concept of immortality. He made it appear that our Creator, God, was so foolish that He could do nothing more than assign the rebellious sinner to ever-burning hell-fire. This in turn, would project God as being a cruel being. The Bible states that all who rebel against God, as well as Satan, will be destroyed in the very end because of our loving, merciful Creator, God. But, God is Spirit!

*“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” Proverbs 16:25.*

*“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” John 4:24.*

It is very important to know what the Bible reveals to us. We must know who mankind is in relation to God, our Creator, so that Satan cannot deceive us. Satan, the devil, cannot make you do anything; he wants you to accept his lies. However, Our Father’s Spirit is greater than Satan. I ask you then; Is God cruel? By no means is God cruel. Satan’s deceiving, false beliefs, has made God like a wild beast who would have no mercy on its prey. And, there are churches that sincerely believe that God will condemn people if they do not follow after *their* doctrines. But the Truth of the Word tells us:

*“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things” Romans 1:22-23.*

This inspires me to try to understand just what God’s revelation of Himself, is to us. I find God is a loving God, desiring to have **all** of mankind, **which He created**, to have a free will. He, God, desires that all mankind come to the knowledge of truth.

*“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” John 16:13.*

For this we must read and search the Scriptures, being aware that there are also some mistranslations and misinterpretations, and misunderstood Bible passages, as well as, inaccuracies that may have come from the way we were raised-up to believe—by the doctrines of men.

To understand, we must have love, one for another. This love is an outgoing concern for another person and with our relationship to God and His Word, the Holy Scriptures. What about all those who have lived and died not knowing about the Holy Scriptures, are they eternally lost to an ever-burning hellfire, without having a chance to know the truth? *No!* Through God’s just judgment, none will be forsaken; they will have a chance to choose.

This concludes Part One of *What Is The True Word Of God In The Bible*, Watch for Part Two of *What Is The True Word Of God In The Bible—Our Just God* in the next ACTS, where John will pick up this thread and show how God is just and that His yoke is worth bearing unto eternal life.

The following verses also refer to that calling of God: Romans 8:28, 30; Romans 9:24; I Corinthians 1:24; I Corinthians 7:17; Galatians 1:15; II Timothy 1:9; I Peter 1:15; I Peter 5:10; II Thessalonians 1:11.

John Leier resides in Minnesota. John states *“I asked myself if there was something that made it impossible to perceive God’s relationship to man? Remembering what I read in Scripture helped me to realize that our great God did not leave us to wander around aimlessly, but in fact, gave us guidance in the Bible. These statements are for those who call upon Jesus’ name and God asks us to reason together with Him for He is not far off. Be positive that your spirit is in accordance to the complete will of God.”*

All Quoted Scripture is from the KJV.



# Daughters of the King

**A big Thank you to all!**

**We are looking forward to this year's Camp Meetings!**

**We have received a gracious donation for this year's Annual Camp Meeting at Meridian, Idaho—a donation of beef! This will provide the Annual Camp Meeting with many tasty meals which will be served at Camp Meeting. Because of this, we have the opportunity to help with some of the other expenses for this years' Camp Meeting with our Booth monies. It is a real blessing for us to assist the General Council, our family, friends and church community in this way.**

**As we prepare for this year's Daughters of the King Booth, I encourage you to pray over each of your projects that they may exemplify Christ and Christ glorified, for those around us and that He, Christ may be exemplified within each of us as we serve others.**

**Following is a great fundraiser idea that some other Pawsitively Wonderful Daughters have done, which helped their local Camp Meeting, as well as ours here at the General Council Headquarters'.**

**Also, if anyone has a "favorite" project they would like to find at the Booth, maybe it's of a particular pattern or print, it may be possible to place an order for it. While we cannot do this with everything, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Please note that as the item is ordered during Camp Meeting time, it may take some time to prepare and will have to be received by you at a later date, and postage may need to be added to the overall amount of the cost.**

**Working with you, your Daughters of the King officers...**

*Fundraiser's—Here is what one group did...*

## “Pawsitively Wonderful”

God richly blessed the fundraising efforts of the *Helping Hands Women's Ministry* of the Marceline Church of God Seventh Day, located in Marceline, Missouri. In hopes of raising a substantial amount to donate to the *Daughters of the King*, the group was blessed with a great community response which gave the ladies \$300 to donate. Stepping stones were made and painted black and gold in the shape of tiger paws, which is the local high school's mascot, as well as the mascot for the nearby *University of Missouri Tigers*.

In September, the *Helping Hands Ministry* met to discuss what type of fundraiser they could do to assist the *Daughters of the King* with funds for the next year's (2011) Meridian Camp meeting. A local member offered her tiger paw mold and suggested they could make tiger paw stepping stones for the local homecoming festivities in Marceline for the coming homecoming activities which would begin in October (2010). The ladies began work on creating and painting the tiger paws immediately in order to create several to be sold at a booth before, during, and after, the local homecoming parade.

The stepping stones were made of cement and painted with oil-based paint. Some stones were left unpainted for those that would prefer different colors and small stones were made from the extra cement. Orders were also taken for additional stones that could be made after the homecoming festivities. Large black and gold helium balloons were also sold. Some of the materials were donated which helped add to the profits of the project. An additional \$200 was made and designated for use for the *Midwest Camp Meeting* to be held in the first week of August 2011 in Missouri.

The group members all assisted in various ways to insure the success of the project. The *Helping Hands Ministry* would like to encourage other groups to think of their individual talents that could be used to raise funds for the *Daughters of the King* organization. As this group did, you could start small with a unique idea and watch the blessings of God make the project more than you ever imagined.

(Continued from page 10)  
*Why Have Christians Become So Blind*

But, He even went further by telling us to love our enemies also. I am not sure I have seen much of that in the church. I have met at least one man that I know had Christ living in his heart and I can say I knew him by his spirit. Let us take heed that in the unrighteous steward it was said that he was shrewder with his own kind than the children of light with unrighteous mammon.

*Note:* The following Scriptures are vital for us to judge where we are at in our spiritual maturity and discipleship. They are the primary foundation to understanding what Jesus expects of His disciples. Once we understand these Scriptures it should open up the blindness that has inflicted the church throughout the years. The first part are the promises of the rewards for following His will in our lives, and the second part of the sermon on the mount has to do with people's souls and their importance to God, and why Christ died on the cross for all of us.

### Luke 6:21-38 (NASB-77)

21 "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

22 "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and cast insults at you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

23 "Be glad in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

*Comment:* The following is the warning for those who love the world.

24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full.

25 "Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

26 "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets.

*Comment:* I need to make a very important point about the following scriptures: God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us so that we can have eternal life. Now Jesus is telling us through these scriptures to not let anything of this world, or in our lives, interfere with reaching those souls for Him. Remember, we are all sinners and we're deserving of death. We are not to look at others for what they have done or what they are doing; we are to just look at them as needing the Lord Jesus in their lives. That is what the following verses are saying to us, if we have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying. The following verses also separate us into a special people, because we are showing the same kind of love for the people of the world as Christ had for all of us.

27 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

29 "Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either.

30 "Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.

*Comment:* Why do we turn the other cheek; because we are not to allow our pride to interfere with reaching a person's soul for Christ? This principle applies to all of the latter verses.

31 "And just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way.

32 "And if you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

33 "And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same.

34 "And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, in order to receive back the same *amount*.

35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; **for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.**

36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

**37 "And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.**

### Luke 6:39-40 (NASB-77)

39 And He also spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit?"

40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

*Comment:* I find when I watch many of the television ministers; they love to preach about all of those sinners out in the world. They attack the "gays," and "politicians," those who do not think exactly like themselves. They love to preach self-righteous sermons because they get a lot of amen's from their congregations. But, it is contrary to the word of God to do this. Our mission was to make disciples of all nations and to win souls for Christ, not to be their judge or to condemn them as the latter scripture points out. We can always sit in the pews thinking about how good we are in comparison to those evil people in the world, when we are not even aware that we are in a lawless state ourselves, seeking unrighteous mammon and the pleasures and comforts of this world as our main focus of our lives.

### Luke 6:38 (NASB-77)

38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

### James 4:11 (NASB-77)

11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.

*Comment:* In the latter verse it illustrates judging a brother and how if we judge we are judging the law, hence, we then are not doers. This applies to the Sermon on the Mount also. Jesus lays out a way of life for His disciples to live their lives. He does not expect us to be judges of what He has asked us to do—but doers. *Turning our cheek* has to do with reaching that person's soul for the Lord and to keep our pride from interfering with that.

### 2 Timothy 3:1-17 (NASB-77)

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;

**5 holding to a form of godliness,**

although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

**7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith.

9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those *two* came to be.

10 But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me!

12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13 But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*;

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**

17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

### Romans 12:1-2 (NASB-77)

1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,** acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

**2 And do not be conformed to this world,** but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

*In conclusion:* We have become blind just as Balaam because we have been tempted into desiring the things of this world instead of keeping alert for the return of the Lord. I have divided the word so that I might share with you the plan of how Christ wanted our hearts and minds to be in this current life. He wanted us to concentrate on His foundation for the New Covenant church. Not as the Old Covenant which was laws to follow, but by His example of love for us. He wanted us to have the same love for one another, even a love for our enemies. I started with Balaam to show how we can be deceived by desires for the things of this world. Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden: She stood there rationalizing about the tree:

*"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to*

*the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate” Genesis 3:6.*

Are we not looking at the delights of this world in the same way that she looked at the tree? Do we not think Satan has found a way to deceive us also by keeping our focus on ourselves instead of the Lord’s work? In the modern day church the goal should be the same as it was when Christ told us to *go make disciples of all nations*. Instead, we have gone out and robbed and plundered the nations and have only taught Christ after our greed had been fulfilled.

Today, often the most popular churches are the ones who entertain us and teach us a prosperity doctrine. We become self-righteous on things like the day of the week we keep, or that we speak in tongues, or baptize in a certain way. Are our hearts in the wrong place? We fight over politics and doctrines because we want the pie divided our way. The problem with all of this is that we have not learned how to love one another as Christ loved us. Many wars have been fought where believing nations were fighting each other: when Christ said that you would know *My* disciples by their love for one another?

We can see that there are consequences for our behavior in the body as it was written in the book of Revelations. Christ warned the believer of His day, to watch out for an army that would surround Jerusalem, so if you find your self in the city get out and if you are outside do not go in (See Luke the 21st chapter). This was a warning sign to protect them from the destruction that was coming at the hands of the Romans, which happened in 70 AD. Christ also warned us, the believer’s in this same passage for the end times, but for a different reason. The first warning was to protect them from certain death at the hands of the Roman’s: However, the warning in our time is a spiritual warning, to wake us up and to get us ready for the Lord’s return; He said when you see Jerusalem no longer trampled under the feet of the gentiles, know that your redemption is drawing near (See Luke the 21st chapter).

I feel that I was led to write this paper to show where we have fallen off the path and to wake up the church to see the darkness that has blinded the believer because we have lost our spiritual way. To get back on our path we need to be preparing and judging **ourselves** so that we can become that pure and holy bride waiting for the marriage supper.

Now, it is up to you to judge for yourselves how prepared you are and to see how Christ is reflected in your daily life. I have directed to you the Scripture fundamentals of discipleship and the true foundation we are to be building upon. We should be judging ourselves by the precepts we find in the Sermon on the Mount and by the example of Christ’s life and death which He gave to us. Remember this, that it is about saving souls for the Lord.

Take into account the scriptures that said if you gain your life you will lose it but if you lose your life you will gain it. Are you a believer who is really living for self, or are you living the mission Christ gave to us? Are you a true disciple wanting your life to show Christ—living in the Temple which is you? These are very important questions to ask yourself so that you may enter into the kingdom and serve with the Lord when He returns. Remember this; He can come like a thief in the night as it is written in the word. I hope and pray that we all become prepared for that day.

Dennis La Plant resides in Portland, Oregon and represents *Temple Within Ministries*. All Scripture is from the *New American Standard Bible, 1977*.

*Clarification:* When I use the term *tongues* in this article it is referring to what is called “*speaking in tongues*” which is a part of the Evangelical and Pentecostal movements around the world. On the day of Pentecost the Apostles received the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. There was a purpose for these tongues that day because they were telling all that were there, in their own language, about God’s great deeds. But often today in some churches we hear them speaking in tongues without interpretation which they believe is a sign of receiving the Holy Ghost. However, the word speaks against this when it is spoken openly in churches without interpretation. On the other hand, the word tells me “you will know them by their fruits and their love for one another.”

Many teach that if you do not speak in tongues you have not received the Holy Spirit but that is incorrect. I have heard many speak in tongues and then perform in their lives, in the flesh, like any other person in the world would. I have asked myself this question, if you have received the Holy Ghost and you can speak in tongues then why are you caught up in the materialism of this world? Why are so many of those I have met, who speak in tongues not showing the fruits of the Spirit in their lives which seems to be a direct contradiction? This question is why I have used this term in the article.

*Also:* *The prosperity doctrine* that I referred to in this article is taught by many preachers these days. However, I believe it is not being taught correctly. Christ wants us to of course prosper, but if we follow His teachings it is not so we can spend it on our own pleasures; but to have something to share with others who are in need. There are many scriptures that point this out and I have brought some of them out in this article for you to see and understand the Lord’s will on this subject. It is very clear what He expects us to do with our unrighteous mammon. The Scriptures throughout the Old Testament do speak of prosperity, but those promises were for the Nation of Israel. Remember, they inherited the land of milk and honey. Christ on the other hand wanted us to have our needs met but to use our excess to help others in need. The commission to us was to go into the entire world and make disciples of all nations, to follow Christ and His example: Not to conquer them, use their labor, and exploit their material resources to make us rich, and then teach them about the love of Christ and salvation. That is how we have become so blind in the church about history and the Lord’s way for our lives.

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**If my people,** which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" II Chronicles 7:14.

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