



GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

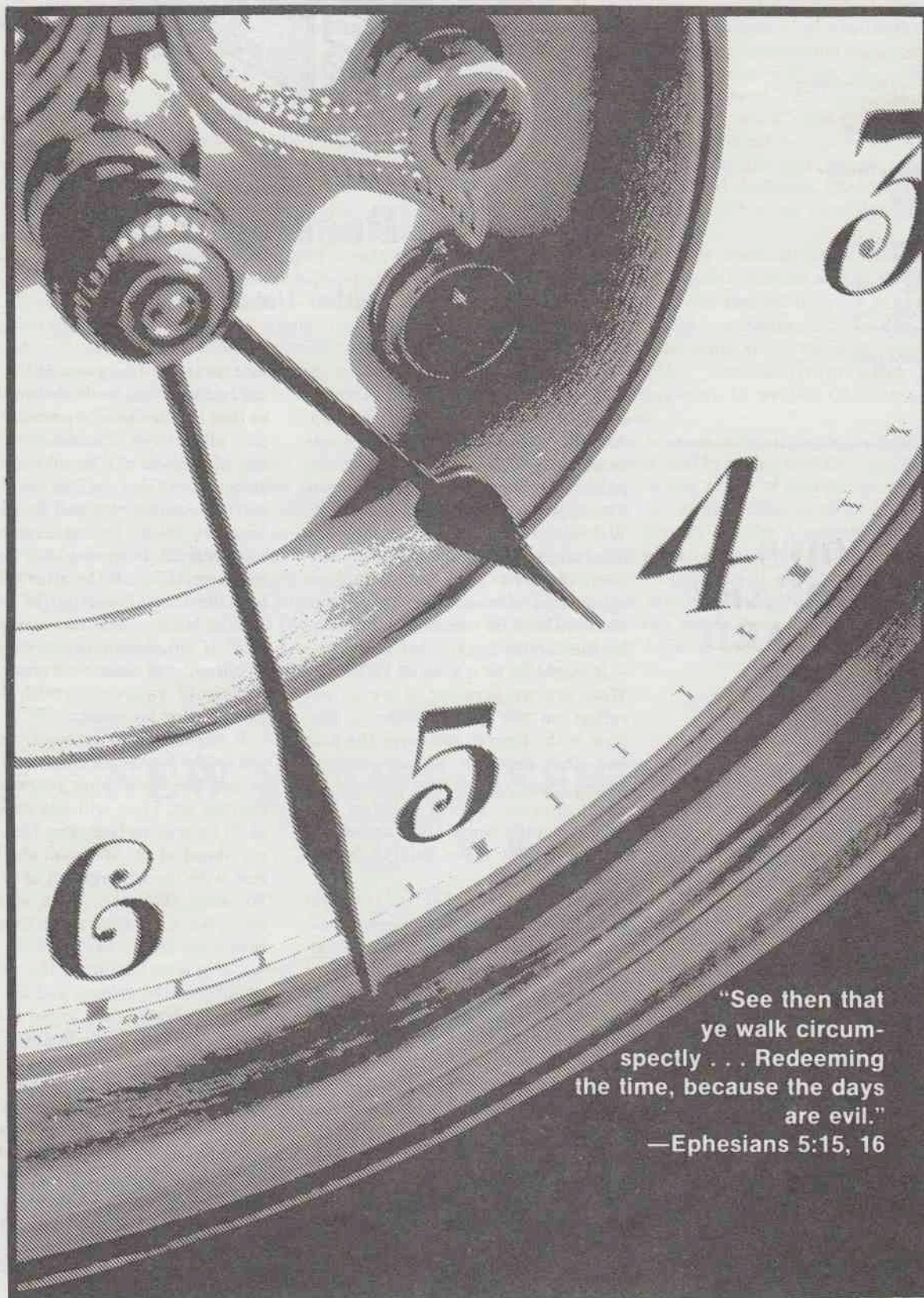
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Penns Creek, Pa.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.

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"See then that
ye walk circum-
spectly . . . Redeeming
the time, because the days
are evil."
—Ephesians 5:15, 16

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GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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Editor —

Rev. David Fuller
Box 1065
Hobe Sound, FL 33475-1065

Associate Editor —

Rev. Kenneth E. Walter
R.D. 2 Box 242
Middleburg, PA 17842

Business Manager —

Rev. David Walter
Box 22
Penns Creek, PA 17862

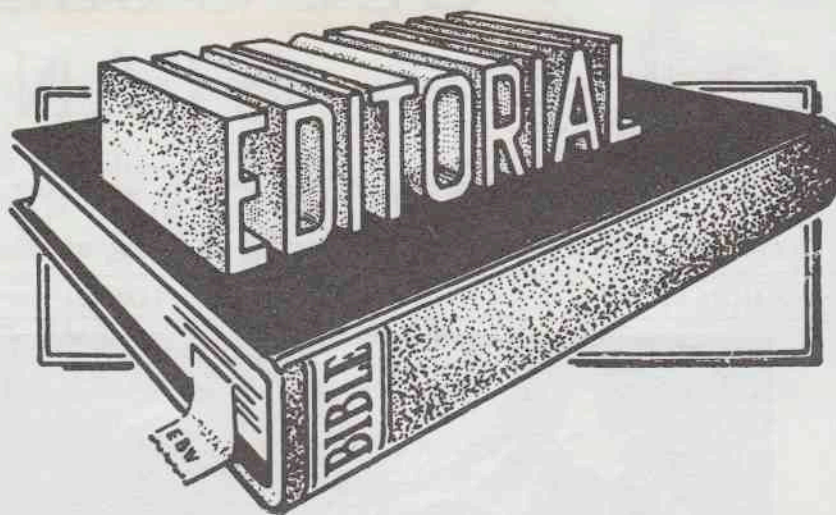
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The Passing Years

Author Unknown

Another cycle has passed. Another segment of eternity has gone by. Another year has fled. There are less heart beats, less throbbings of the pulse, less life history to be written. The time of our probation is shorter. We are just passing another milestone of our course. The Old Year goes, the New Year comes. It is an epoch that demands our attention. Shall we heed its lessons or be like the heathen or the beasts that perish?

It ought to be a time of reflection. What are we here for, if we do not reflect on the great epochs of life? Now is the time to look over the past and the direction of our present course. Now is the time to take account of stock. This is the time that the mercantile world takes account of stock lest they make failure. Can we do any less?

Are we so sure that we are right and secure that we feel no need of examination? We can afford to do earthly business in a haphazard manner if we have to do so, but not in the great business of life. Failure here is eternal failure. We can afford to take no risks.

It should be a solemn time. The race will be short at the longest. If the crossing of the threshold of another year does not impress us with the brevity of life and the imminent future and the Judgment Day, what will? When the sun shall have come around again shall we be here? How many have gone who were with us a year ago? Has it been said of us as of the barren fig tree, "Cut it down, why

cumbereth it the ground?" If this is our last year, are we in those relations to God that we should possess? It will soon all be over. The history of every one of us soon will be all written up. How earnest and anxious we ought to be to make this year tell for eternity! Shall we do it? Let us examine our consecration. Is it complete? Have we taken anything off the altar? We cannot afford to be deceived. Have we the abiding witness that our ways please God? If not, how dare we, in view of the brevity of time, rest another moment until we are right with God and man? Let us be solemn.

It ought to be a joyous time. If we are ready for the Bridegroom, it will be so. The shortening years will not depress us. They will but encourage us to be true to God. The best things are ahead of us. We soon shall be at rest with the Bridegroom of our soul. We soon shall see Jesus whom we love. We soon shall meet those who have gone before us.

There is no portion of the year that so mingles the solemn and the joyful to those who are fully saved as the dying of the Old Year. Thank God we have a treasure which the gnawing tooth of time cannot devour, or the flight of years dim; treasure which is beyond the ravages of moth and rust; a beauty which cannot fade with the flight of years. We soon shall be in the mansions which Jesus has gone to prepare. Let us lift up our heads, for the time of our redemption is drawing near. Nothing can disappoint him who fully belongs to God.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak" (Rom. 15:1).

This text, penned in the second half of the First Century A.D., would not have been accepted in the year 1 A.D., because Christianity had not invaded the human race. Certainly there was no basis for the usage of ought in connection with the strong individuals before Christ began His transforming ministry. The strong were identified as those whose strength was derived from wealth, rank in society, and political or military authority. Such individuals, thus endowed, felt no obligation to anyone. Their self-sufficiency encased them in a very small package. They freely did as they pleased, and felt no need of any assistance from others, or an obligation to give help to those of lesser (?) significance.

There is a false conception in the minds of multitudes relative to this ministry delegated to Christians. It arises from the thinking of the natural man, who believes that the greatest motivational factor he possesses is the "built-in" desire that all people have to please themselves. That is the foundation from which an unregenerate individual operates, and thereby contributes to many of society's ills. However, the renewed mind of a believer is inspired by the Spirit's direction and is led to observe that the Bible teaches that there is a different motivational factor which, if followed, will enable one to develop a ministering mentality, which becomes helpful to those who, as babes in Christ, need spiritual assistance. This is an area in which every Christian shall find one of his New Year's assignments in the will of God.

The omnipotent Christ became man's example in this sort of ministry, when He condescended to lay aside certain of His divine attributes, and limit Himself to a fleshly body upon earth, in order to provide redemption for mankind, and deliver man from his debilitated condition under the reign of Satan and sin. Therein the strong Man bore the infirmities of humanity, and provided a way to help each individual into salvation, if he chooses to partake of the offered deliverance.

Paul's exhortation, as cited in the text above, dealt with

the duties and responsibilities of those who constitute the Church of God, and their interaction within the fellowship of the body of Christ. Especially does the exhortation apply to the stronger Christians, and their ministry on behalf of the weaker ones in the faith.

Those Christians who have recently embarked upon a walk with Christ, need loving consideration by others of the fellowship who are strong in the faith and experienced in applying the Word of truth to the varied needs in the area of spiritual growth. The strong and prospering church is characterized by the consideration of its people for one another.

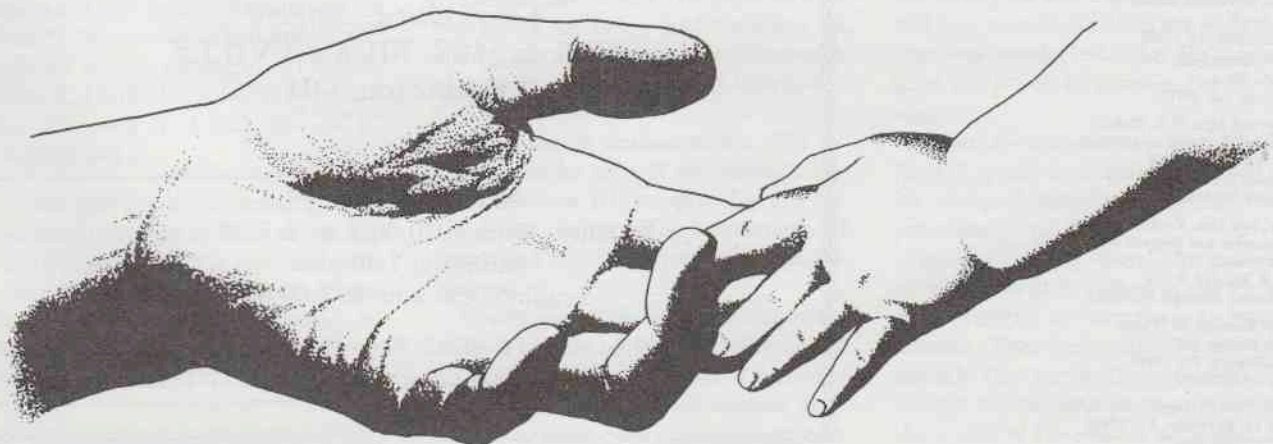
There is scriptural admonition which challenges a Christian to refuse to allow such consideration to degenerate into a sentimental laxity that will not do anything to strengthen the "babes in Christ." At times, rendering of aid to others becomes real "work"; and to keep one's self from drifting into an indifferent toleration of that which endangers the spiritual health and future strength of growing Christians is a real challenge. Christians dare not allow themselves to be caught in this snare during the New Year.

There is a tremendous responsibility resting squarely upon the shoulders of each Christian who is strong in the Lord. Each must exercise himself in order to render the needed assistance and encouragement to the weaker brethren; and at the same time, he must exercise his strength by foregoing some activities which may be legitimate, but weakening to weaker Christians as they seek to please God.

It takes grace, wisdom, and strength to bear with the failings of the weak, and in such a ministry, one's strength is increased for a wider range of usefulness; while in the same experience the failing brother or sister is encouraged and enabled to take on greater strength. A Christian's strength of character, strength of faith, and personal spiritual experience grows as it spends itself on behalf of others. May this sort of ministry be the desired goal of every Christian who reads these lines; and may 1989 be richer and fuller because of each one's ministry in this area!

NEW YEAR'S ASSIGNMENT

by E. W. Roy



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Middleburg, PA 17842
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Rev. Fred Watson
Box 41, Hartleton, PA 17829
Ph. 717-922-1274

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CERTAINTIES

FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Gordon Chilvers

"Since God is unchangeable, He will be as kind in the New Year as He has been in past years. His love and mercy do not change (Psalm 103:17). Those who are kind to us today may be unkind tomorrow. Our Father's kindness is unchanging."

How we all long for permanence! Yet when we look back on last year we are reminded of life's instability. Frequent changes come to us all. This world is a thoroughfare, not a terminus.

Some of life's good things last a long while, but not forever. Social institutions and cultural forms decay; we cannot arrest these processes.

What changes will the New Year bring to us? We do not know. Changes can be disturbing. They can spell insecurity, though national leaders are trying to give us greater security.

Yet we need not be concerned for the future. What is vital is not the changeable, but the changeless.

God our Father will not change. James says He has no "shadow of turning" (1:17), no "variation from a set course, rule or pattern," as J.B. Mayor put it. It is impossible for Him to change. Being perfect, He cannot improve. He cannot become worse, or He would cease to be perfect.

Look at a cube from any angle and it always appears the same. We may turn it this way or that, but the shape does not vary. So it is with God's character: from whatever aspect we examine it, it is always perfect.

Since God is sovereign, no one can force Him to depart from His chosen plans. Our plans are never certain, because forces greater than ourselves exist in the world and can prevent our doing what we purposed. God never faces such an issue. He claims for Himself: "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure . . . I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it" (Isaiah 46:10-11).

"Since God is unchangeable, He will be as kind in the New Year as He has been in past years. His love and mercy do not change (Psalm 103:17). Those who are kind to us today may be unkind tomorrow. Our Father's kindness is unchanging."

God says: "I have loved thee with an

everlasting love." (Jeremiah 31:3).

A young man, who had a devoted father, stole some money from his employer's till. He was detected and given a prison term. This stained the family's good name. Before he began his sentence, his sister visited him in prison.

"What does Mother say?" he asked. "Mother washes her hands of you," she replied.

"What do the others say?"

"They never mention your name."

Then came the vital question. "What does Father say?"

The answer was "Father sends his love and a kiss."

While we are unsure that our love for God will be constant, we are certain that His love for us will never diminish at any time in the year.

The unchangeable nature of God is a foundation on which we can rear the whole structure of our lives in this and every future year.

Jesus Christ will not change. Hebrews 13:8 affirms: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." In heaven there is One who is unaffected by earthly changes. Creation changes, but He does not.

He will not change His plans so that He keeps us today and forsakes us tomorrow. His character will not vary so that He brings us good today, but evil tomorrow.

As Jesus is unchangeable, His intercession for us will not slacken. We shall not lose His supply of grace for Christian living. His tenderness of heart and touch of sympathy will not change.

Every day of the year He will be arrested by the cry of the distressed, will value the poor widow's gift, and will put His arms of love around little children. Our joy is that earth's

changes can only bring the unchangeable Christ and ourselves closer together.

God's Word will not change. For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). No part of it will become obsolete, nor will any additions be made to it. Its truth is unchangeable. It can never become falsehood; God is its author.

In the New Year, the Word of God will give us the same benefits as before. We shall still find the "comfort of the scriptures" (Romans 15:4) when sorrow strikes us. Millions of people like ourselves have had their sorrows. As they turned to its pages and accepted its message, the Word of God turned their sorrow to joy. Ours will be, too.

Dr. Edwin Orr tells of an incident at Westover Field in Massachusetts where he was base Chaplain. It was his duty to go to a girl to break the news of her husband's death. Her father had died five months before, her mother had died at her birth; her husband had been "all she possessed." She wept. He wanted to comfort her. He read the 23rd Psalm till he came to the phrase: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me." She was comforted. The Holy Spirit used scripture to console her in sorrow.

When we commit our lives to God, He will speak to us daily. We shall enjoy unspeakable integrity of God's promises.

In the coming year our personal conviction will be: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Psalm 46:1-2).



Missionary Message

The That Winnech Souls

by J.B. Peyton

One of the greatest joys on earth is to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to have Him say to you as He did to the sinner woman who brought the alabaster box to anoint Him, "Thy sins are forgiven." Luke 7:48. I'll never forget that wonderful night, September 1, 1946, when Captain Jesus stepped on the deck of my soul and took control of my life. Truly a new life began for me and in me!

Another great joy that is almost as great is the joy of leading a soul that is lost to a knowledge of sins forgiven.

Once when I was in Ohio in a revival a young man from the Southland came to the church. The assistant pastor asked me if I had time to talk to him. After talking with him for a little while, he told me of the hard time he was experiencing. He had been unable to find work and was having difficulty with his in-laws. I asked him if he would like to pray and get saved, and he knelt at the altar in the church and soon found Christ. After he had shaved with my razor and had been given some clean clothes and something to eat, he looked like a different person as he walked down the street. Oh, the wonderful thrill of leading a soul to Jesus Christ!

There are reasons why more souls aren't won to Christ. One reason is that the Christians don't have compassion for the lost. Oh, that God would burn on our hearts the hopeless wail of souls damned eternally! How can we fail to shed tears, when our loved ones are on their way to a devil's hell. How can we sing and rejoice about heaven when so many around us are going to miss it unless we get stirred about their being lost.

Another reason why more souls aren't won to Christ is that Christians are too occupied with secular things. In this age of the atom and the jet, it is very easy to get so occupied with legitimate things concerning our own well-being and ease and happiness, that we simply can't find the necessary time to win souls for the Master. Some think it is enough to attend church regularly, to pay tithe, and to be on one committee or another

and expecting that it is the pastor, evangelist or missionary who should actually win souls. However, if you will read John 15:1-7, you will discover that the Lord Jesus is the true vine and that the Christians are the branches and that each one is supposed to bear fruit.

Some would-be soul winners don't know their Bibles like they should and therefore aren't able to lead a soul to Christ. The more of the Scripture you know, especially verses that have to do with showing a person how to become a Christian, the more effective you will be in leading souls to Christ. There is nothing that lodges in the heart like the Word of God.

There are certain things that will help you to win souls more effectively. The first is a heart filled with love for Christ and for the sinner. Do you realize that the first fruit of the Spirit is love? It is doubtful if there is a heart so hard in this dark and dreary world that could not eventually be won by genuine love.

The Great Commission should be our mission. The winning of the lost is more important than having a discussion about the Scripture or conversing on social themes. A director of a missionary group got a magazine returned to him informing him with red ink that the pastor who had received it was not the least bit interested in missions. How can we remain unconcerned when millions have never heard the Gospel once? Well did Dr. Oswald J. Smith express it, when he stated words to the effect that no one has a right to hear the Gospel twice until everybody has, at least, heard the Gospel once.

The soul winner should be filled and led by the Holy Spirit. A minister in London was praying for God to have mercy on the heathen, and he seemed to feel that the Lord was telling him that He had already had mercy on them and that it was time now for the minister to have mercy on them. After getting up from praying the minister began to make arrangements for missionary conferences, inviting speakers to come in and, as a result, money was raised and missionaries

were sent out who were merciful to the heathen.

The Holy Spirit will direct you in your giving. Dr. Oswald J. Smith took a pastorate about the time the church was having a missionary convention. As the envelopes were being passed out, one of the ushers gave him one whereby the recipient was to state what he will give in the following year, by faith. Dr. Smith began to ask the Lord how he could give when he was only getting \$25 a week, and had a wife and child to support. The Lord seemed to impress upon him that He was not asking him what he had, but how much he would give as a faith offering. Dr. Smith thought maybe the Lord would tell him to give something like \$5 or \$10, but instead, the Lord seemed to impress him to give \$50. He pledged it by faith, and God sent it in, and since then the church in Toronto, Canada has given over \$4 million, and has supported 450 missionaries scattered around the world.

The soul winner should be persistent. Many salesmen give up because they don't make a sale the first time. Others give up after several tries. Still others persist until they have made a sale. If it takes that in the world, I believe it works where souls are concerned.

The soul winner should be earnest. Some are too professional in their dealing with souls. A Christian may know the Bible and know many passages of Scripture that are useful in winning souls to Christ, but if he is not sincere, the people will sense it.

You say, "How can I win the lost to Christ?" You can pray, give, or go. A man was listening to the song, "To the regions beyond, I must go, I must go, Where the story has never been told." He was almost rebelliously asking his conscience how he could go when he was too old and had a family and had no missionary training. He was wondering why they even sang a song such as that anyway, when the handful of people there were too old to go to the mission field. And then more of the song was sung. "There are other lost sheep that the Master must bring." Then the sermon was given, and during the sermon the man was still wondering what he could do. In the sermon, the minister told how that when you pray, you are actually a part of those that go and when you give you actually are going. This truth, though old, rang true in the man's heart. He realized he actually could go to many mission fields by praying and giving.

Are you doing your part?

The Scattering of the **POWER** of the Holy People

By Gary E. Bowell

We are told in the Book of Daniel of a man clothed in white linen who spoke of tribulation and a time when the power of the holy people would be scattered. Another translation is as follows: "when he shall have accomplished the breaking up of the power of the holy people" (Daniel 12:7).

Different meanings of this passage could doubtless be found in the various commentaries. Perhaps it partially refers to the Jews in the Tribulation. Whatever the primary meaning may be, the words aptly describe what has happened to God's people today. The power seems to be broken up and scattered.

This power has certainly been scattered when, in spirit of the fact that Jesus prayed for the unity of true believers, sects and groups continue to multiply year by year. The world looks on in confusion. The Early Church possessed Spirit-given unity. They faced issues unitedly on their knees until they had prayed through. Questions came up, but the Church faced the questions together, with the help of the Spirit, until decisions were reached.

Evan at Corinth, where there were carnality and confusion, Paul was not writing to a half-dozen groups, but "to the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints."

The "power of the holy people" has been "broken up" when we today seem to think we can serve God in an easy way, with no cost of discipleship!

I stand in amazement as I read the biographies of holy men of God in the

past. Men realized there was a standard; there was a cross to bear. They were willing to step out in obedience and faith, and to forsake the world. Miracles were recorded until the record reads like a continuation of Hebrews, chapter 11. Finances were provided, sinners were convicted, and the sick were healed. Today, we would like the power without the old-time price!

Past records reveal nights of prayer, days of fasting, and sacrificial giving! But oh, the rewards were great! Many have read of a man in England who bought a place for a Bible college when he had only a few shillings in his pocket! But the price paid, to be ready for this, was ten months of deep, prevailing prayer!

We can understand Satan or any of his forces, such as the spirit of anti-Christ, attempting and desiring to break up and scatter the power of the holy people. But may God keep professed Christians from aiding the enemy in this cause! We should desire to increase the power of the holy people; and to do that, we must take the Scriptures into the heart, and bow low before God in intercessory prayer.

The casting aside of holy standards is another way Satan has of destroying the power of the true Church. There was once a definite line of demarcation between the Church and the world. Then, little by little, Satan has brought the Church and the world closer and closer together. Standards held for years have been flung aside. Then we wonder where the power is!

One has preached: "When the first atomic bomb fell over Japan, they had

all of the deadly atomic material in a bombshell — all of the power — all of the potential was there; but it was not operating. The reason it was not operating was that all of this atomic material with such potential was not close enough together. When they could get this charged material close enough together, there was a chain reaction that blotted out a whole city! If Satan can in some way keep all the segments of the body of Christ so far apart that each one is trying to act uniquely in himself instead of putting our power together, then we are operating as an instrument that has not yet exploded."

We need God's strength instead of our weakness. Let us all pray that the power of the Church shall be increased, and that God will keep us from doing anything to break up or scatter the power of the holy people.



The Battle Call

By Alma White

To the conflict Jesus calls thee;
Fiercer, fiercer grows the fight;
Quickly go in shining armor,
Put the alien bands to flight.
Satan and his host are 'round us,
Never falter, never tire;
Till his forces all are silent,
Never, never cease to fire.

To the battle front He calls thee,
Quickly answer "I will go;"
In the conflict thou shalt conquer,
Victor be o'er ev'ry foe.
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
How the heart-beats quicker grow
When we see the foe retreating —
Broken ranks surge to and fro.

With the Blood-stained banner
waving,
We can never suffer loss;
"Onward," then, will be our
watchword,
'Neath the banner of the Cross.
Jesus is our King forever,
We shall crown Him Lord of all;
He hath purchased our redemption,,
At His feet, O let us fall.

Chorus:

Shout the praises of Jehovah,
He is with us evermore;
Jesus never lost a battle,
Shout His praises o'er and o'er.

Jesus, Our Prayer Pattern

By Victor Glenn

Christ, "Who in the days of His flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared." Hebrews 5:7.

It is a source of comfort to the child of God to remember that our Lord Himself once knew a period which is designated as the days of His flesh. During these days He endured the maximum amount of trial, temptation and testing. In all this He is revealed as the Son of Man.

Concerning His earthly life two things must be remembered: 1) His death was to provide salvation for the sinner and 2) His life was the pattern for the child of God. A pattern can only be given to living souls. The sinner, having been born again, is able to follow the pattern which reaches into every part of the believer's life. Not the least of these is his prayer life.

How Christ prayed

He prayed with intensity, with passion and with a persistence which only a soul completely attuned to heaven can employ. "He offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears." Hebrews 5:7.

This may refer to Gethsemane, but it is also suggested as the general trend of His life. It is edifying to trace His prayer life as it is recorded for us by the Spirit's inspiration.

He prayed early.

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35.

He prayed late.

"And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when evening was come, he was there alone." Matthew 14:23.

He prayed all night.

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12.

You will notice that the context of each of these passages is the record of busy days, yet even then our Lord found time to pray. Never did He allow His praying to interfere with His service, but on no account would He permit His work to crowd out

prayer. He knew that the more work there was to be done, the more prayer was needed.

He prayed before important events.

Although possessing a mind that was at one with God, our Lord felt the need of prayer before making an important decision. "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles." Luke 6:12, 13.

He prayed for His friends.

Speaking to Peter he said, "Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:31.

In His High Priestly prayer, He prayed, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world. . . . I pray for them." John 17:6-9.

He prayed until He was transfigured.

"He took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening." Luke 9:28, 29.

He prayed until Heaven opened.

"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened." Luke 3:21.

He prayed when prayer was agony

until blood gushed through His pores. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44.

He prayed for His enemies. Hanging on the cross in His dying agony, He cried, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

He prayed as He died.

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." Luke 23:46.

The effects of prayer.

The Hebrew writer says, "He was heard." What else could be expected? Could a faithful God turn a deaf ear to such praying? Its immediate result was a calm, quiet, confident assurance in all that He did.

Even in the face of His greatest difficulties and most critical adversaries, He moved with the ease and grace of One who was sure, because of an assurance gained in prayer. His words at the raising of Lazarus are worthy of consideration. "And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always.' John 11:41, 42. 'Thou hast heard me.' He spoke with complete confidence that His prayer would be answered.

This could also be said of His followers. "This is the confidence we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of him." 1 John 5:14, 15.

The effect this praying had on those with Christ.

It deeply impressed them. So much so that many years later the writer to the Hebrews wrote, "Who in the days of his flesh . . . offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears." Whether or not the writer personally knew the life of Christ, this fact is certain: His prayer life had been so impressive that the memory lived on.

It caused others to want to pray. "And it came to pass that as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord teach us to pray." Luke 11:1.

It was impossible to watch Him without wanting to pray. Does it awaken such a desire in your heart? It should. We should pray that within our hearts shall be kindled that same intensity and passion which sent Christ into the solitary places to be alone with God. Then dropping other things, buying up precious moments, pray. Pray until you can say: My prayer hath power with God, And grace unspeakable I now receive. Through faith I see thee face to face, I see thee face to face and live. In vain, I have not wept and strove, Thy nature and thy name is love.



SUPERINTENDENT:
REV. DENNIS McCOY
92 E. Landis St.
Coopersburg, PA 18036

What About Those Prophetic Predictions?

by Timothy L. Cooley

In a recent article, we discussed the purpose of prophecy and concluded that prophecy is given to produce a **response in people**. We acknowledged that prophecy does predict future events, but we nearly glossed over that aspect. We would not be faithful to the whole truth if we did not return to examine the **predictive** purpose of prophecy.

While it is true that the majority of the time the prophets preached and prayed for a definite response from their listeners, we cannot ignore the predictions that pepper the pages of Holy Writ. And is there not a special blessing for reading the book of Revelation?

Let me re-emphasize that the predictions of Scripture were calculated to elicit a change from the people addressed. We dare not allow ourselves to forget that! But what else are we to do with those predictions? Some of them concerned events that, as far as we can tell, did not occur in the days of those who first received the prophecy. In fact, they have not occurred even to this day. Do these predictions hold any value for us today? If so, does God want us to be able to "chart the future"?

Again, the answer is found in Scripture. In reading Isaiah and Ezekiel, for example, we notice that the prophets repeatedly punctuate their

messages with "and they shall know that I am the Lord." Ezekiel says it no less than **sixty-six** times! See, for example, Ezek. 6:7, 10, 13, 14. This is the prophet's point in Isa. 42:5-9; 43:9-12; 45:21; 48:3-8. The purpose of the prophecy is not so much to enable them accurately to predict the events as it is to convince them that God **knows** and **controls** world events. Perhaps Isa. 40-48 is one of the strongest predictive portions of prophecy. The prophet is transported more than 150 years ahead of his times and enabled to write about world rulers and empires that must have boggled the minds of the people who first read his message. However, we are not in the dark about the express purpose of the predictions. God challenges any idol to match His foreknowledge and control (Isa. 41:22-23), then turns to His prophet and urges him, "Comfort ye my people" (Isa. 40:1).

Usually, a prophetic prediction is a little like looking through frosted glass. We can see general shapes and colors, but not fine details. Paul confesses, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part" (I Cor. 13:9). Prophecy is given, not so we can predict but so that when it happens we will know that God is in control. If He knew about it before hand, He can graciously enable us to pass through it with victory. This is how Jesus

treated His own predictions. He told the disciples, "I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe" (Jn. 14:29). His purpose is further revealed in Jn. 16:4, "that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them." Later in the same chapter, He explained, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace" (v. 33). God was providing comfort for His people again! Doesn't that sound like II Thess. 4:18, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words"? Paul's purpose in preaching the Second Coming of our Lord was to comfort the people of God!

Jesus knew very well that preoccupation with predictions of the future could hinder the work of evangelism. In Acts 1, the apostles were quizzing Him concerning the restoration of the kingdom of Israel. He responded with, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power (authority). But ye shall receive power "(dynamite)" after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Let's get on with the work!

Poetry For The New Year

A Year Untried

A year untried before me lies—
What it shall bring of strange
surprise
Of joy or grief, I cannot tell,
But God my Father knoweth
well.
I make it no concern of mine,
But leave it all with Love Divine.

Be sickness mine, or rugged
health,
Come penury to me, or come
wealth;
Though lonely, I must pass along,
Or loving friends my way may
throng,
Upon my Father's word I rest —
Whate'er He sends me will be
best.

No ill can come but He can cure;
His Word doth all of good insure.
He'll see me through the journey's
length—
For daily need give daily

strength.
Tis thus I fortify my heart,
And thus do Fear and Dread
depart.

The sun may shed no light of day,
Nor stars at night illumine my way;
My soul shall still know no
affright,
Since God is all my life and light.
Though all the earthly lamps
grow dim,
He walks in light who walks with
Him.

O Year untried! Thou hast for me
Naught but my Father's eye can
see;
Nor canst thou bring me loss or
gain
Or health or sickness, ease or
pain,
But welcome messages shall prove
From Him whose name, to me, is
Love. — Sel.

The Opening Year

The year is gone, beyond recall,
With all its hopes and fears,
With all its bright and gladden-
ing smiles,
With all its mourners' tears;

Thy thankful people praise Thee,
Lord,
For countless gifts received;
And pray for grace to keep the
faith
Which saints of old believed.

To Thee we come, O Gracious
Lord,
The Newborn year to bless;
Defend our land from pestilence;
Give peace and righteousness;

Forgive this nation's many sins;
The growth of vice restrain;
And help us all with sin to strive,
And crowns of life to gain.

From evil deeds that strain the
past
We now desire to flee;
And pray that future years may
all
Be spent, good Lord, for Thee.

O Father, let thy watchful eye
Still look on us in love,
That we may praise Thee, year
by year,
With angel-hosts above.
— Author Unknown

Step by Step

He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day;
But step by step my path
unfolds—
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know;
I only know this minute,
That He shall say, "This is the
way;
By faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad that it is so. . .

Today's enough to bear;
And when tomorrow comes, His
grace
Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry, then, or
fret?
The God who gave His Son
Holds all the moments in His
hand,
And gives them one by one.

— Author Unknown

Praise to Jesus. .

*"To the only wise God our
Saviour be glory and majesty,
dominion and power, both now
and ever" — Jude 25.*

It is the Father's joy to bless,
His love provides for me a dress,
A robe of perfect righteousness.
O Lamb of God, in Thee.

Now shall my famished soul be
fed,
A feast of love for me is spread
I feed upon the children's bread,
O Lamb of God, in Thee.

Yea, in the fullness of His grace
He puts me in the children's
place,
Where I may gaze upon His face,
O Lamb of God, in Thee.

It is Thy precious Name I bear,
It is Thy spotless robe I wear,
Therefore, the Father's love I
share
O Lamb of God, in Thee.

And when I in Thy likeness shine,
The glory and the praise be
Thine,
That everlasting joy is mine,
O Lamb of God, in Thee.

— Mary Jane Walker

WELCOME, NEW YEAR!

New Year, we welcome thee in
hope,
Soul-cheering pleasures to us
bring,
As thro' the unknown maze we
grope
In willing service for our King.

May Providence our pathway
blaze
Through all the journey of thy
time,
That we may safely tread new
ways
In confidence and faith
sublime.

Come, let us all with godly fear
Keep our year's records clean
and well;
Perchance we greet another year,
Fresh courage will our souls
impel. — Grant Cross



Penn View Bible Institute

P. O. BOX 970

• PENNS CREEK, PENNSYLVANIA 17862



May the Lord grant each of you a most prosperous New Year with Jesus as your Pilot for the new year. I often thank the Lord that His "grace" is given each day in sufficient amount for that particular day. I suppose all of us are rested and ready to take on this new year.

The Lord has given the choir a very good tour in December. Those who were in attendance at the services reported that this was the very best choir presentation. I do know that the manifest presence of the Lord was felt in all of the services; and in many there was rejoicing with shouts of praise given to our WONDERFUL LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Another highlight of December was the annual Christmas concert held in the G.I. Straub Memorial Tabernacle. Here again the attendance was the largest and the love offering received for the faculty and staff was a great expression of appreciation by those in attendance.

Very soon the male quartet will be touring the southern states with the message of the Gospel for all people. This quartet is being used for God in a very special manner and relies upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit for their singing. Please do pray for them with President and Mrs. Martin that this group will have safety in travel and a prosperous spiritual journey.

Another ministry of Penn View is the Visuals Department. Mr. Barry Mason, the director of this department, reports that interest is far above expectations and sales of the previous year. If you need excellent holiness materials for your Sunday school or Junior Church ministry, please do contact the visuals depart-

ment for their catalog. It is not too early to be thinking of Bible schools for the summer; and the visuals department can help you along this line as well.

The intersession studies are in progress here at Penn View. The courses are Music Theory taught by Miss Taylor, General Psych. by Mr. Moon, and Theology of Holiness by Rev. D.R. Kauffman, guest lecturer.

The second semester begins January 31; and by the looks of things our enrollment will be up. The Lord is sending us a fine group of students who are desirous of training for the Christian ministry. I would suggest that you write to us about your preparation for the work of the Lord.

Following are excerpts from students who needed help in the finances for their studies here at Penn View.

"Where God guides, He provides." That well-known quotation brings to mind a verse that is perhaps just as well-known, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

I have seen many proofs of the fulfillment of that promise in my own life. One of those has been in the provision God made available to me for my school bill upon coming to Penn View Bible Institute.

Penn View makes available work scholarships to those in need of financial assistance. Since I'm not an only child but have two brothers and sisters, it was not possible for my parents to "put me through college." God wanted me at Bible School and worked it out so that I was given a work scholarship.

At the present time my two brothers are attending Bible Schools as well. God wanted us at Bible School

and He supplied the needs through the work scholarships. "Where God guides, He provides."

Esther Kunselman

The work scholarship program has made a way for me to come to Penn View. Even though my parents are able to help me some, there would have been no way for me to pay the rest unless it would have been for this. It has also opened a way of new and exciting opportunity to me. In working with P.V. Visuals and Music Hall, I have learned so much. Watching P.V.V. at the start and seeing where it is now is one of the most thrilling things. It's exciting to see how God works in sending in the money and how He works on the other end, as we get letters from people who have been saved because of our stories. I always had an interest in Child Evangelism work, so even in my work hours God has directed to enlarge my learning in that field. I'm glad God directs even in the so-called everyday things of life like work hours. I know God has a special plan for my life, and as the children's chorus goes, "I just can't wait to see what God has for me." I love Him and am trusting Him to lead my life.

Wendy Rhoads

In closing, let me say we are happy that you are part of the Penn View family. We often thank the Lord for our faithful supporters in prayer and in giving. Prayer is a very vital need for the progress of Penn View. Weekly, students and faculty meet at times for group praying for the spiritual and financial needs; and we know many of you, our friends, spend time daily in prayer for Penn View. Thanks so very much. Let us believe God for this New Year to be the best year for the advancement of this part of God's vineyard.

Welcome to the Florida District

CAMP MEETING

God's Missionary Church
Orange City, Florida

JANUARY 19-29, 1989

- Shady camper spaces and hook-ups available.
- For reservations, call or write: **Rev. Jacob Miller** 3320 Forest Drive, Kissimmee, FL 32741
(305) 847-5024 or (904) 775-9786

Florida District Campground
Graves Avenue
Orange City, Florida
(I-4 Exit 54)

REV. PAUL MILLER
Spring Mills, PA
Evangelist

REV. JOHN ZECHMAN
Lewistown, PA
Evangelist

DON AND SHIRL GESSNER
Sunbury, PA
Song Evangelists

DAILY SCHEDULE

Breakfast.....8:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....9:00 a.m.
Morning Service.....10:00 a.m.
Lunch.....12 Noon
Afternoon Service.....2:30 p.m.
Supper.....5:00 p.m.
Praise Service.....6:15 p.m.
Evening Service.....7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL SERVICES

January 21, 10:00 a.m.....
Fort Myers Rescue Mission
January 21, 6:15 p.m....Intercession City
Christian School
January 28, 10:00 a.m.....
Miami Cuban Mission
January 28, 2:30 p.m....Foreign Mission
G.M.C. Haiti Work
January 29, 2:30 p.m....Rev. Paul Miller,
General Superintendent
January 29, 6:00 p.m.....
Penn View Bible Institute

DINING HALL

Meals will be served on the Free Will Offering Basis