-I AM-

1. I AM the Bread of Life. Jn. 6:35. Man may imagine that all he has to do is to eat bread(food) and he will live indefinitely, but a man does not live by bread alone. He must live by EVERY WORD OF GOD. Lk. 4:4. Christ is the WORD or expression(LOGOS) of God. He is the only true and living way. Lazarus came forth at the WORD. Some day He will call and all that are in the graves will answer. We understand the ALL here to mean all that are in Christ. None others can hear or answer. Those who have life here and now have it by the WORD of God. The bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth LIFE unto the world. Jn. 6:33.

2. I AM the Light of the World. Jn. 8:12. The follower of Christ does not walk in darkness. He has light, a living light, which shall never fail. The follower of Christ should walk as a child of light in all his ways thereby testifying to the TRUE LIGHT. Without Christ, there can be no light. He, as the Creator in the beginning, said, LET THERE BE LIGHT, AND LIGHT WAS. The wicked do not love the light. They prefer darkness because their thots and deeds are evil. But when they reject light, they also reject life and the giver of that life.

3. I AM the Door of the Sheep. Jn. 10:7. Quite often the fold had an opening on one side for the sheep to enter. The shepherd would lie down across this opening at night. He was literally the door of the fold. Altho the sheep refer to Israel, any others who would enter into life must enter by the same door. There is no other entrance. All other doors lead but to destruction, not to safety(or a fold).

4. I AM the Good Shepherd. Jn. 10:11. The Good Shepherd gave His life for the sheep(Israel). But it is also revealed that His life was also given for us Gentiles. He included us in His great work on Calvary. This is a finished work. No man can pluck His sheep out of His hand. Today the saints and the faithful are sealed by the HOLY SPIRIT until their day of redemption. Eph. 1:13,14.

5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life. Jn. 11:25. There are two classes represented here. To the dead believers Christ is the resurrection. To the living believer He is the life. Some who live and believe (up to His coming) shall never die. To them He will never be the resurrection, but the life only.

6. I AM the True and Living Way. Jn. 14:6. A way (Lat. VIA) is a path or road. Those who have partaken of the Bread of Life have the strength to walk. Those who have the Light of the world can see the way. Christ is God manifest in the flesh. He that hath seen Christ hath seen the Father. There is no other way to see the Father. There is no other way to the Father. For no man cometh unto the Father but by the true and living way, Christ. Where Christ is not preached, there is no way. Man may try to find or invent some other way. Man's way may seem right, but the end of any other way is death.

7. I AM the True Vine. Jn. 15:1. The picture here is a vine and its branches. The branches sometimes need pruning. He chastizes those whom He loves. The object of that pruning is more fruit. Abiding in the vine is a necessity. We are expected to be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:11.

The I AM of the NT is the I AM of the OT. The One who said, I AM at the burning bush also said, Before Abraham was, I AM. Jn. 8:58. To the Jews He said, If ye believe not that I AM (Jehovah), ye shall die in your sins. Jn. 8:24. No man or creature of any kind could say this. In the Rev. of Jesus Christ it is declared that He is the I AM, the ALPHA and OMEGA, the first and the last, the One Who liveth and was dead. Rev. 1:11,17,18; 21:6; 22:13. He said to the Jews, When ye have lifted up the SON OF MAN, then shall ye know that I AM. Jn. 8:28. In whom do you trust?

-ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES-

In Rom. 9:3-5 we have a list of the advantages of the Jew at that time. Rom. was written during the early church of the apostolic or Pentecostal period of time, or during the time of Acts. Then the Jew had whereof he could boast. Also compare with Paul's advantages in Phil. 3. Here in Rom. 9 the list is as follows;

1. According to flesh. KINSMEN,
2. Who are ISRAELITES,
3. To whom pertaineth ADOPTION,
4. And the GLORY,
5. And the COVENANTS,
v. And the giving of the LAW,
iv. And the SERVICE,
iii. And the PROMISES,
ii. Whose are the FATHERS,
i. According to flesh, CHRIST.

Notice that the central members refer to COVENANTS and LAW. The law was given to Israel only. All covenants pertain to Israel except the covenant given to Noah at the end of the great flood.

Notice how GLORY OF GOD and SERVICE OF GOD are paired. Also ADOPTION and PROMISES. They are ISRAELITES and from the FATHERS. Since promises and covenants are so promenant, the fathers must be limited to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But at the same time the Jews have these advantages, the Gentiles have disadvantages. The wall of partition is up during the time of Acts. So when Paul writes to the Eph. in 2:11,12, he refers back to this time spoken of in Rom. and so enumerates the Gentile disadvantages thus;

1. Gentiles. In the FLESH.
2. Without CHRIST.
3. ALIENS from the COMMONWEALTH of Israel.
iii. STRANGERS from COVENANTS of promise.
ii. Having no HOPE.
i. Godless. IN THE WORLD.

Again notice the pairs of expressions. Gentiles in the flesh and Godless in the world. Without Christ, and (therefore) having no hope. And the central portion, strangers from the covenants of promise, and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.

These advantages and disadvantages are not TRUTH FOR TODAY.

-WHO IS HE?-

In the beginning He was ELOHIM, the Creator. A little later we hear of the SEED OF WOMAN. Then when we read of covenants we have the name JEHOVAH. This is used in several combinations. Also the term ADONI, Lord, is used. All these we find in the OT.

One interesting bit of Scripture is Isa. 25:9; AND IT SHALL BE SAID IN THAT DAY, LO, THIS IS OUR GOD (ELOHIM); WE HAVE WAITED FOR HIM, AND HE WILL SAVE US: THIS IS THE LORD (JEHOVAH); WE HAVE WAITED FOR HIM, WE WILL BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN HIS SALVATION. Evidently the two, ELOHIM and JEHOVAH, are the same. He is the coming One. He is to be a Savior.

The SEED OF WOMAN is again spoken of in Isa. 9:6; FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. This is echoed in 1 Tim. 1:17 by; THE KING ETERNAL, IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, THE ONLY WISE GOD. Following this in 2:16 is the mystery of Godliness, GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH.

In Rom. 9:5 we read; CHRIST.... WHO IS OVER ALL, GOD BLESSED FOREVER. When Thomas saw the risen Lord, he exclaimed, MY LORD AND MY GOD! Now the Babylonians had gods many. They were thot of as mediators between the chief God and men. They were created beings. Now the question before us is this; Was Christ Jesus one of those created Gods of Babylon? What is Satan's answer to this question? What is God's answer?

In the LXX the word KURIOS is used consistently for the Heb. JEHOVAH. Satan's lie will be exposed and forever over when Phil. 2:10, 11 will be fulfilled. For the time is coming THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW...AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD (KURIOS), TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER. The time is coming when all will have to admit and confess that Jesus Christ is Jehovah. Without it is no salvation. Rom. 10:9,10.

-TWO MYSTERIES-

The word MYSTERY occurs 6 times in Eph. If these be placed on a structural outline, the two central members are found in 3:4 and 9.

The first is the MYSTERY OF CHRIST. This had been known in former times, but not as fully as now. The reason for this was that Christ could not be fully known untill all dispensations had been made known. In no other dispensation was He ever known as Head of an assembly or church which was called His Body. Until that fact was revealed, Christ was never revealed in all His fulness.

The second MYSTERY is the fellowship (Dispensation, R V) of the mystery. This had been hid in God from the beginning of the world. This mystery or secret was that God would deal in grace with all nations on an equality (Jews included in the equality).

In the dispensation of the KINGDOM, the Jew is first. The gospel is preached to the Jew first. To him pertains the service of God. The Gentile, when he was admitted, was just a wild olive branch grafted in. He had to depend on Israel for all blessings. By faith he became a spiritual child of Abraham.

But in this dispensation of the mystery in which we now live there is no priority of the Jew. Service of God is open to the Gentile as well as to the Jew. There is no command to preach to the Jew first.

Also in this dispensation, the blessings offered are different. In the dispensation of the kingdom blessings were limited to this earth. The kingdom is to be here. The meek shall inherit the earth. But in the dispensation of the mystery we have all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Our hope is to be in the heavenlies when Christ, Who now is hidden, will be made manifest to principalities and powers in the heavenlies. We are to be manifested when He is manifested in His glory. People of other dispensations will be manifested and receive their glory at His coming to the earth.

The two mysteries are inseparable. One depends on the other. Neither can be revealed alone.

-TRADITION AND TRUTH-

When the Lord was training His disciples, He differed with the fundamentalists of His day in three very important points. These were in regard to (1) Fasting, (2) Ritual ablutions, and (3) Sabbath observance.

TRADITION is ever the GOD of the multitudes, so when the Lord broke with the traditions of the elders He was a blasphemer of the worst sort. One can come up with all kinds of heresies and doctrines of demons and it will not receive much notice, but just let one speak against the traditions of men, and there will be plenty of notice taken. Have you found that true?

1. Now FASTING did have a place in the Jewish life. It was a sign of sorrow and repentance. But when it became a set ritual that had to be observed at stated times or days of the week, then it became of no effect. Further than that, some would paint their faces under the eyes to make them look sunken so that people would observe and give them praise for their great religious zeal. But Christ said that the friends of the Bridegroom did not need to fast while He was present with them.

2. It was a duty to wash after being contaminated with dirt or with dead bodies. It was a health measure. But when the traditionalists said to wash at stated intervals because they MIGHT HAVE been contaminated unawares and also that one should wash in a certain prescribed manner, it became just another dead work. It was for the praise of men.

3. The SABBATH was instituted for man. It was a day of rest. It was not long till men began to make it a ritualistic observance. They limited the Sabbath day's journey. Rubbing out a few grains of wheat in the palm of the hand constituted threshing. Our Lord had little use for such foolishness.

The ritualists may have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. Being ignorant of the righteousness of God, they go about to establish their own. But by the deeds of the law or by the observance of rituals no man is justified.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY Radio Bible Class each Tue. nite at 7 over station WASW at Warsaw. You will find it at 107.3 on the FM.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Fellowship meets each Tue. nite for Bible study at my home 6 miles west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center Rd. 7:45.

TRUTH FOR TODAY, a monthly paper sent freely without any subscription price. Just ask for it. Send in names and addresses of friends who might be interested. We now print about 700 a month.

We finished two years of radio ministry Sept. 26. We wish to thank all our friends for their support of this work.

Receipts for August: A74 $45., A75 3.02, A76 $5., A77 $40., A78 $40.. A79 $1. Total expense was $32.64. Thanks a lot for your help. Watch for a larger paper in the near future.

Got last cutting of alfalfa (Lucerne to you folks in England) baled and in the barn. The corn is all topped and ready to haul in. Have to use some corn fodder as the hay crop was quite short this year. Put out one field of Ladino (A large white clover) mixed with alfalfa. Also sowed 10 acres of wheat. Now you can see why this paper is late again.

Just got a few COMPANION BIBLES in. They are $10.50 each plus 30¢ for postage. These are bound in blue buckram.

Let me know if you would like a sample copy of THE BABBLER. It is published by A. J. Harrop, 5 Scutari Rd., E. Dulwich, London, S E 22, England. You will like it.

If you would like a sample copy of BEYOND THE STARS by Thos. Glendinning of England, write to Frank M. Smith, 515 N. Fulton St., Fresno, Calif.

I can take your subscription to the BEREAN EXPOSITOR by Chas. Welch. It is 85¢ per year. I also have in stock bound copies of Vols. XXXIII (1945-46) and XXXIV (1947-48) at $1.25 each.

I have a complete stock of the publications of C. H. Welch that are now in print. A set of 10 of his pamphlets, $1.37. Books: JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER, $1.90. DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, $1.25. THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD'S PRISONER, $1.25. MIRACLE, PARABLE, AND SIGN, $1.40. THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS, 75¢. Add about 10% to cover postage.

There is an opportunity now to add another radio program to our ministry. It is on a local AM station operating in daylight hours only. This would cost about $5 a week extra and of course take some time. We have been having more expense than contributions, but we dig down into our own pockets for the deficit. Shall we take on this extra load? Let me know what you think about it. I need advice.

Thanks for all the fine letters. Keep on praying for us.

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