

-THE WALK BY FAITH-

We walk by faith, not by sight. Our walk is here on this earth, but our citizenship is in heaven. Our hope is not seen. It is something that is related to the unseen. Our hope is not something related to a limited time, but it is eternal in its character. The things that are seen are temporal. They are related to time and its limitations. The things which are not seen are eternal. They have no limitations as to time and quality.

The things that are seen are made of things that are not seen. All matter is made up of atoms which are made of invisible energy. This matter is temporal in that this energy may be released at any time. The energy cannot be destroyed. It is said to be temporal only while locked up in the atom and seen. Then it is not eternal in that it can be released and cease to be that which is seen.

The things we see, handle, and touch will pass away. They are temporal. But our hope is in the Incarnate Word of God exalted in the heavenlies. He is the eternal one. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the Word of God will never pass away. He is from everlasting to everlasting.

This walk by faith is a pilgrim walk. The pathway is a lonely and separate one. But God has made provision for this separate walk. The great and sufficient provision is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is the WAY.

The life of the believer is a wilderness journey. There are dangers. There are needs. But in our Lord all these needs are fully met. He is our sword in time of danger.

Faith is believing what God has said and setting our course accordingly. It is no longer our way. It is God's way. If there has been no change in our way, then there is no faith. To walk worthy of the calling, one must walk the way of faith. The way of faith is bounded on all sides by the good works which were before ordained that we should walk in them.

-WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?-

All too often those who profess to preach the gospel put all the emphasis on the manward side. They talk about what man must do. They make much of water baptism. They stress the importance of observing the LORD'S SUPPER. They are sure that in preaching the gospel they must not forget repentance and an emotional experience of some kind which passes for salvation. In their presentation of the gospel, man has the prominent place.

What is the gospel all about? Some would say that it is about our salvation and our forgiveness. That is all very true, but it is only a small part of the truth. It is a common failing of the flesh to forget to magnify Christ and to give due honor and glory to God. In Rom. 1:3 Paul speaks of being separated unto the GOSPEL OF GOD. This gospel is concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

There can be only one answer to our question. The gospel is all that has been revealed about our Lord. That we must teach and preach if the gospel is our ministry. Christ comes first and last. He is the gospel.

The Galatians were soon removed from the gospel of Jesus Christ. They preached another gospel. If any one should preach a social gospel instead of the gospel of Jesus Christ, him would Paul have accursed. There are some who pervert the gospel of Jesus Christ. They say that He is merely the way-shower, not the WAY. Such ones are trouble makers.

Any perversion of the gospel, any watering down of the gospel, any substituting of anything for the gospel, is playing right into the hand of the evil one and becoming his servant.

There are of course several aspects of the gospel presented in the NT. In this respect they might be called different gospels, being about 8 in all. But regardless of the aspect, the gospel is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

-APOSTASY-

Apostasy is a falling away from truth. It is substituting the vain philosophies of men for the sure Word of God. Like pseudo-science, it is the following of theories instead of known and proven facts.

We know that a great falling away or apostasy is coming just before the Great Tribulation. But that concerns Israel. There is also an apostasy foretold for the end of this present dispensation in 2 Tim. 3. It is well that those who claim to have TRUTH FOR TODAY examine themselves. It is entirely possible to have truth in the head but not in the heart. Such do not contribute to the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT. Such do not hold forth the Word of life to others. Murmuring and disputings are not fruits of the Spirit. Egotism and arrogance are not Christian graces. When these things raise their awful heads in a fellowship, we know very well that the false seed is mingled with the true seed and that an enemy hath done this.

When the fruits of the flesh creep in there is soon every evidence of the corruption that must certainly follow. Striving and vainglory in a fellowship soon make the name of Christ to stink before the world. Those who indulge in the desires and lusts of the flesh, who become puffed up, and wish to become somewhats in their particular circles, become enemies of the cross. Their god is their belly and they mind earthly things.

Some characteristics of true members of the BODY are, self-renunciation, esteeming others higher than self, and looking on the things of others. Every act, every decision must be determined, not according to personal advantage, but for the good of the group and the furtherance of the revealed purpose of God in Christ. Judas, in his selfishness, stole from his companions and betrayed them as well as the King of the Jews.

Let us not regard apostasy as being of another generation; it can happen here and now.

-OUR WARFARE-

Romans was written before the dispensational change at Acts 28:28. It was written when the kingdom was being reoffered to Israel. It was written when the hope of the believers was the King coming in the clouds of heaven to set up His rule on the throne of His father, David. In Romans there is no hint that the kingdom would be postponed or that the dispensation would be interrupted so as to make place for another. The coming of the Lord was at hand.

In view of these things, the writer says in 13:12-14; "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the ARMOUR OF LIGHT. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

This warfare in Rom. is definitely in the flesh and against the flesh. Without the armour of light the believer is powerless against the lusts of the flesh. In the awful catalog of sins in Rom. 1, they all are sins of the flesh. Satan is not even mentioned. Man's very nature is enough for his undoing without the entrance of another party.

Eph. was written since Acts 28:28. It concerns the present dispensation. In 6:11 the writer says; "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." This wrestling is not with flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness in high (heavenly) places. After one has gained the victory over the flesh by reckoning himself dead to it, he finds himself in a greater warfare. It is in the spiritual realm. It is where Satan and his angels now are. It is where our hope is to be realized. Nothing short of the ARMOUR OF GOD can help in this warfare. The realm of our citizenship has been usurped by the evil one. In Christ we shall overcome him.

-DOES YOUR LIFE COUNT?-

"Saul was one year old when he began to reign; and he reigned two years over Israel." 1 Sam. 13:1.

I have been told that the above is a literal translation of that particular verse. None of the versions of the Bible that I have seen has it this way. On the surface the statement seems absurd, for it is well known that Saul was a man and that his son, Jonathan, was a warrior of repute at this time. Since the statement did not seem to make sense, the translators tried to make it over and failed to make God's truth known.

The key to the riddle is found in Chap. 10:6. This is a year before Saul became king. Samuel says to him, "Thou shalt prophesy,.... and be turned into another man." So this Saul, as a new man, was one year old when he began to reign.

Now Acts 13:21 states that Saul was over Israel 40 years. That makes a difference of 38 years in the two accounts. Why? In 1 Sam. 15:28 we find the answer. Saul has disobeyed the Lord. Samuel says, "The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day." This was 2 years after he began to reign. It was not till 38 years later that he was killed in battle and David took the throne. As far as God was concerned, the 2 years was all that counted. Saul was a backslider in the Biblical sense of the word. He was still a child of God according to the covenant with Abraham, but he lost his reward. He was not lost, but he did suffer loss. So it is with all who put their wills ahead of the will of God. The fire of testing will destroy all they have to show in the way of good works, but they will be saved "as by fire."

The record concerning David in 2 Sam. 5:4 is a much better record; "David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years."

It is well that we examine ourselves. Are there barren and wasted years in our lives? Have we turned to our own ways instead of saying, "Not my will, but thine be done."?

-THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS-

In 1 Cor. 1:18 it says that the preaching of the cross is foolishness to them that perish. Why?

It might be a surprise to many to find that nowhere in the Bible is the preaching of the cross in any way connected with salvation in its evangelical sense.

I have come to believe that from what I have found in the Scriptures, Christ could have died for the ungodly in some other way. He could have shed His blood in some other manner, thereby obtaining redemption and forgiveness for us. As far as salvation was concerned, the cross simply did not enter in.

But there was a necessity for the cross in the life of our Lord. There is also a necessity for the cross in our own lives. In looking at Matt. 10:38; 16:24; Mark 8:34; 10:21; Luke 9:23 and 14:27 we find the place the cross plays in the life of Christ and in ours. It is used in relation to the denial of self. It speaks of taking up the cross and following Him. This does not refer to salvation. It is a part of perfection. It has to do with future reward or recompense.

More than any other book in the Bible, Rom. gives the basic facts of salvation. But in that book is no mention of the cross. The cross is always associated with and precedes the crown. In like manner we find suffering associated with glory, and loss with gain. Christ went to the cross and took upon Himself the shame in order that he might be "perfected thru suffering." In the believer, perfection comes after salvation.

Since the cross has no message of salvation, its message of perfection would be only foolishness to them that perish. They cannot understand such a message. Cross and crown mean nothing to them.

But to us who are saved, it is the power of God to enable us to go on to perfection. It is this perfection thru the cross that enables one to be more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. Beyond the cross we look unto future glory. The path may be lonely. It was for the Lord. But at the end is the crown.

-THE EDITOR'S CHAIR-

Listen to TRUTH FOR TODAY radio program each Tue. nite at 7 over WRSW FM.

Come over to my house to the Bible Class which meets each Tue. nite at 7:45.

This paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY, is published monthly as we find the time. It is free. We are glad to have names and addresses of those who might be interested.

We spoke about some possibility of going on an AM radio station. There was not much interest or response, so we will drop the matter for the present. We do have word that WRSW may go on AM also some time in the next few months.

We have most of the corn in now. What is left was rather green when the frost came, so we are letting it dry a little more.

There will be a conference of dispensational Bible teachers at my home Nov. 16-18. There will be an open meeting for the public at Bremen town hall the evening of the 16th. Time 7:30. The speakers will be from out of state.

Will whoever borrowed my set of books by Sydney Watson please return them? They are; SCARLET AND PURPLE, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, and THE MARK OF THE BEAST.

The COMPANION BIBLE is about 7 X 10 X 3. It contains copious notes on each page with the text, and in the back has 198 articles or appendices which are worth the

price of the book alone. It is bound in blue buckram. I have new copies at \$10.50 plus 30% postage.

RECEIPTS FOR SEPT.; A80 (Mich.) \$5., A81 (Ill.) \$2. Total receipts, \$7. Total expense, \$55.87. Please accept our thanks for your fellowship in the expenses.

I have several letters here that should have been answered months ago. If yours is one of them, please forgive my neglect. I will try to get them all answered yet this year. We have been busy.

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This paper is not meant to compete with other magazines written by abler men than myself. Its purpose is to get out truth in a simple form for the busy common folks who may not have heard of a RIGHTLY DIVIDED WORD OF TRUTH. I find that some more advanced students of the Scriptures enjoy it too. Pray that we may humbly and effectively continue this service.

Keep sending the letters. We enjoy your fellowship.

--OSCAR M. BAKER

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