

-BE STRONG (2 Tim. 2:1)-

It is only by grace that this strength is obtained. It is only in Christ Jesus that strength can be found. There is a good reason why we should seek strength. It is that we might be faithful witnesses of the things heard from the apostles of the ascended Lord and to teach them to others.

This strength will enable us:

1. TO ENDURE HARDNESS. The figure used is that of a GOOD SOLDIER. He must avoid the entanglements of this life. His whole mind and heart must be in the business at hand. A good soldier cannot be engrossed with some business enterprise at home. Neither can he think too much of being entertained. He will have to miss many of the comforts and pleasures of life. He must avoid their softening influence. His one aim and goal will be to please Him who chose him to be a soldier.

2. TO STRIVE FOR MASTERY. The figure used is that of an ATHLETE. One will never make much of himself as an athlete unless he is willing to obey rules. He must be a graceful loser as well as a winner. He must have mastery over his appetites so that he can have the proper training. There must be a willingness to sacrifice for the crown. Personal desires and comforts must be laid aside. The things behind must be forgotten and all attention focussed on the things before. Nothing in the sidelines must be allowed to distract. The athlete must have a mastery of self in every way.

3. TO LABOR. The figure used is that of the FARMER. Here is one who must labor in hope. He must cultivate the ground a long time before there will be a harvest. So he must have patience and must not grow weary in well-doing. He must have faith in the soil and in the seed. He must take whatever of sunshine and rain that comes to his lot. One of the hardest lessons to learn is that of patient waiting. But the farmer must patiently wait till he can enjoy the fruits of his labors. Then he may come into his rest.

-PRACTICE #5-

The section, Eph. 6:10-13, concerns warfare. It is not "Onward Christian Soldiers." But it does involve putting on the armor and standing firm. It is standing on what has been won for us on Calvary. This is no task for a novice. Those who still use milk are unskillful in using the Sword of the Spirit. This is a place where we must be strong, and it is only in the Lord that we can find the strength that is needed. We have no power except in HIS MIGHT. We are:

1. TO STAND. To put on the whole armor of God is simply to put on Christ, (Rom. 13:14). It is not with the purpose of invading the enemy territory, but TO STAND. This stand is against the wiles of the devil. He it is who can beguile us of our prize, crown, or reward. He can in no way touch our everlasting life or our standing in the Body of Christ. This is somewhat parallel with the lesson in Job where Satan could take his possessions and afflict his body, but could not touch his life. We must keep in mind that Satan's most potent weapon is DECEIT.

2. TO WITHSTAND. The high places of verse 12 are the same as in 1:3. It is where Christ is, (1:20). It is where the Church is, (2:6). It is the place from which the church witnesses to principalities and powers, (3:10). So our conflict or wrestling is from this high place and is against the powers of the air, against rulers of the darkness of this world. Since it is not against flesh and blood that we must fight, we need the whole armor of God to withstand.

3. TO STAND. Having done all, we are yet to stand. This refers to the working out of salvation. Rom. 8:37-39 has some hint of this as well as Phil. 2:12 where we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. It gives us to understand that as long as there is life there will be warfare. Satan does not stop his attacks. The days in which we live are evil and this evil will steadily increase.

## -THE 10 COMMANDMENTS-

When these were first given, they were not law, but the conditions of a covenant. The covenant was with Israel, whom God had ordained to be a PECULIAR TREASURE and a PRIESTLY NATION. But Israel broke their covenant and failed to attain that for which they had been called. You can readily see that this covenant was for service, not in any way connected with obtaining salvation.

But after it was broken, the terms of the covenant became law. The law was added because of transgressions. When the terms of the covenant became law, the death penalty was added to 9 out of the 10 commands. Now it was law, and it was to be obeyed so that a man might live. This still had no connection with everlasting life. It was so that men might live together with a reasonable degree of peace and that they might not forget God their Creator.

Just as the forbidden fruit in the garden was a test of obedience, so was the covenant a test of obedience for Israel. Just as the sentence of death was not immediately carried out for Adam and Eve, just so, at the intervention of Moses, the death sentence on Israel was not carried out at the time. But the law condemns to death.

Since the law brings condemnation, our Lord fulfilled it and took the penalty upon Himself at Calvary, dying instead of those who broke it. The law was designed to teach Israel their weakness in the flesh and so lead them to the coming Christ Who would be everything to them which they lacked.

Some have the notion yet today that everlasting life and justification can be gotten thru keeping the commandments. In the first place the law was not for Gentiles. In the second place it was made plain to all that by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. The duty of every Christian yet today is to love God and his fellow men. That principle has never been abolished.

## -"BODY" IN THE N T-

It is generally known that for a long time people had so carelessly read their Bibles that they believed that Elijah went up in a Chariot of fire, that Absalom dangled by his hair from a tree, that there were 3 executed on Calvary instead of 5, that Peter denied 3 times instead of 6, that the Lord was tempted 3 times in the wilderness instead of 6, that the Gadarenes and the Gergesenes were one and the same, that the Lord had 1 triumphal entry instead of 2, and many other like instances.

But it still is not so generally known that there is more than one BODY of believers in the N T. In fact there are several, but the name BODY is directly applied to only two of the groups. It is not applied to the largest group, those who have only everlasting life. Neither is it applied to the group of overcomers called THE MAN CHILD in Rev. 12.

During Acts and the time of the preaching of the kingdom gospel there was a BODY of believers IN CHRIST. Yet as we read 1 Cor. 12 very carefully, we notice that the members spoken of seem more to be gifts than individual believers. It was a BODY endowed with spiritual gifts. The members were not on an equality. Some members were parts of the head. To sum it up, it was a BODY likened to a human body with its several members. Its hope was the coming King to the earth.

But in the prison epistles written after Acts we find a different BODY. Its members are believers. They are all equal. No individual parts or members are named. Christ is the HEAD. It is spoken of as HIS BODY. The hope of this group is to be manifested with Him in heavenly places, (Col. 3:4). This BODY will be there waiting when He is manifested, (Phil. 3:20).

A fair sized book could be written showing the differences of the two bodies, but it is hoped that this may be enough to start you investigating for yourself. Let us go to the source of truth, the Word.

## -STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #7.

1. What was the Lord's physical condition when He came to the well? 4:6.
2. What seemed to be His physical condition after the conversation with the Samaritan woman? 4:32.
3. Can you guess why He seemed so refreshed?
4. What was the meat that they did not know about?
5. As the crowd surged out from the city in their white robes, what did the Lord liken them to? 35.
6. What was the result of the woman's testimony? 39.
7. What was the result of the Lord's teaching the crowd? 41.
8. How long was it after His rejection by the Jews in Judaea until the Lord came to His own people in Galilee? 43.
9. What might be the prophetic significance of the time in the above question? See 11:6; Hosea 6:1-3 and 2 Pet. 3:8.
10. Outwardly, this time, the people of His own country seem to receive Him. Why? 45.
11. What city in Galilee did He visit this time? 46.
12. What sign had He given in this place at a former time?
13. Was this nobleman a Jew or a Gentile?
14. What was his request?
15. How did the Lord test his faith?
16. How long did it take the nobleman to make the short journey back home?
17. Does this indicate anything about his faith?
18. The father wants to know when the child began to amend; but was the healing gradual?
19. At about what time of the day (in our time) did the healing take place?
20. What was the effect of this sign upon the household of the nobleman?

NOTE: Put down the number of each answer and then leave some room for my comments. If a question is a little too hard for you, just leave it out.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; Since I last wrote to you, 2 more have joined the BML (Berean Missionary League). They are Chester Osborn of Newaygo Mich., and Mrs. Gordie Penny of Lowell Ark. Will get their papers graded and pins sent out as soon as I can. My recent trip has slowed me up a little and so work has piled up. If you have not joined the BML yet, start right now. Answer the questions in the other column on this page and send them to me.

In his letter to a young preacher, 1 Tim., Paul set forth some vital truths which are very practical yet today. He reminded Timothy that we bring nothing into this world and that we can take nothing out with us. Then he goes on to say that A ROOT OF ALL THE VICES IS THE LOVE OF MONEY, WHICH SOME BEING EAGER FOR HAVE BEEN SEDUCED FROM THE FAITH AND HAVE PIERCED THEMSELVES ABOUT WITH MANY PANGS, (Rotherham version).

As we read the papers, listen to the radio, and look about us, we are convinced that there is a great deal of truth in this. But to you young folks, life is very real and there are many attractions. It is the way of the world to want success and fame. But put God first.

If you seek happiness, it will flee from you. It will keep just enough distance to tantalize you to pursue. It is the same with success in worldly affairs. A certain position or a certain amount of wealth may be very desirable, but when won, they turn out to be very disappointing. But if the things of God are made first, then comes joy which is much more satisfactory and lasting than mere happiness. It may be that God will then grant a measure of success in the affairs of business, music, or art which will be a great source of satisfaction. But seek God first.

Learn the relative value of all things. Seek what is best. You can be robbed of material things, but not of wisdom and knowledge.

Thanks for all the fine letters last month. I am praying for you.  
--Yours in HIS love, Oscar M. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

If your editor seems a little slow in answering your letters and grading the BML papers, it is because he has been running to and fro too much. From Nov. 11 to 18 he taught 12 Bibles lessons in Lowell, Ark. From Nov. 19-22 he taught 4 classes in Springfield, Mo. These are not counting personal and group conferences. Mrs. Baker supervised the farm during this time. So the mail piled up.

Wise men still seek HIM. Wise men still give gifts to HIM, (not to each other). The greatest gift a wise man can give to HIM is to PRESENT HIS BODY A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS HIS REASONABLE SERVICE.

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Bible class at your editor's home each Tue. nite at 7:45. The study of the gospel of John was begun in Jan. and now the class is in chapter 15. You are welcome.

The set of 18 pamphlets by C. H. Welch is fine for beginners in dispensational truth. \$2 postpaid.

For other books on Bible study, see last month's paper.

Receipts for Oct., #349-367 with a total of \$126.10. Expense \$96.49.

Last month's paper was printed on a motor driven, self-feeding #96 Mimeograph. Being an old model and used, it was picked up at a very reasonable price. It makes the work a little easier and speedier.

The accordion and clarinet are still for sale.

Get some sample copies of TFT to give to your friends. No charge.

You can help by sending in names and addresses of those who might be interested in TRUTH FOR TODAY.

Your editor's cows got a load of new corn. They have to eat too.

At their own risk, many have been sending in gifts to help with the ministry. This fellowship is encouraging and appreciated very much. Also many thanks to those who have contributed to personal needs according to Gal. 6:6.

According to latest word, the radio program will be on both AM and FM some time this month. It will be 1480 AM and 107.3 FM.

Anxious friends must be advised that TRUTH FOR TODAY can give no space to striving with the brethren or making any personal defense. Quote or misquote at your own risk.

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Your editor, Oscar M. Baker, lives 6 mi. west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center Rd., or 4 mi. south of Atwood. The address is Warsaw, R 2, and telephone Atwood 2684.

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