
-THE GLORY OF THE LORD-

I. In John 17 we have mentioned a GLORY which the Lord had before the world was. This was His rightful inherent GLORY as God and the Creator.

When God Became flesh and dwelt among men, He emptied Himself of this Glory which He had from the beginning. He laid it aside, even as He did His garment at the feet-washing, and made Himself of no reputation. In this act He even stooped to the position of a servant or slave. He became obedient unto death, even the death of a slave. But this laying aside of His inherent glory was only for a season. It was again taken up when His work as a servant was finished, even as He again put on His garment after He had washed the disciples' feet. Paul got a glimpse of that glory on the Damascus road and was blinded. In His Patmos vision, John saw a little of it and fell at His feet as dead.

This great glory and dignity will never end.

II. Our Lord also had another Glory. It was a different glory. It was not inherent, but acquired. It is a glory that the Father gives Him. It is a glory that He shares with His own.

Our Lord earned this GLORY by the bitter toils of the earth. He purchased this GLORY with His blood on Calvary.

As we compare and contrast the two GLORIES, we see that one is permanent and is connected with a throne that is forever. The other is in connection with His mediatorial work, and when the end comes, that throne will be delivered up to the Father.

When we study the Word and the dispensations of God, it is well that we make a distinction in each as to the place and kind of GLORY that is revealed.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as God has one kind of GLORY. It is everlasting. But as an earthly King, the Risen Man, the last Adam, the second Man, His GLORY and power are limited in duration.

-LOVE AND GRACE-

God so loved the world that He gave His Son. That love results in life. But even tho He loved the whole world, that love was limited. Only a few will let Him love them. After all, the great gift of love then is for that few. They are the only ones who receive life which is the end and goal of the love of God. It is limited to those who believe. The great masses of mankind prefer darkness to light. They prefer death to life.

We live in a time when the grace of God is offered to the whole world, for grace came with love. But those who receive that grace and enjoy its benefits are few. Only those who are of the household of God, who become His children; are the recipients of His grace. All else have rejected it. Not only have they rejected it, but because it was offered, they are under greater condemnation than if they had never heard of it.

Those who have the Son have life. It is to these that God dispenses grace, and grace upon more grace, an ever-flowing stream of grace. Grace is free. It is undeserved favor. But it is never forced upon anyone. Those who bask in its sunshine are those who receive it... all others are not under grace, but under condemnation. Capernaum was offered more grace than Sodom and Gomorrah. So when she rejected that grace, her judgment was greater.

Love and grace along with life are gifts. But they must be accepted if they are to be enjoyed. If a man will not receive them, his only hope is death.

These words are a warning to those who might be deceived into thinking that grace is extended to all mankind and therefore all mankind will be saved.

The Sannaitans recognized Christ as the Savior of the world, but the world is not all going to be saved by Him. In 1 Tim. 4:10 it speaks of God as the Savior of all men, but hastens to limit that saving act to those who believe.

Let every man examine himself as to whether he has received what God offers.

-GRACE IN EPH. -

Since it is a popular teaching thruout Christendom that this age is a dispensation of grace, it is well to examine the doctrine and see if it is true. We have already discovered that it is wrong to call an age a dispensation. We have also stated that a dispensation has to do with a family or household, and not with mankind in general.

1. "Grace be to you." 1:2. The antecedent of the pronoun YOU is the saints and faithful of verse 1.

2. "Glory of His grace." 1:6. This is in connection with the acceptance of Paul and the saints in the Beloved.

3. "Riches of His grace." 1:7. The pronoun WE includes Paul and the saints and concerns their redemption.

4. "By grace are ye saved." 2:5. Again this refers to the saints.

5. "Riches of His grace." 2:7. This uses the pronoun US referring to Paul and the saints.

6. "By grace are ye saved." 2:8. YE refers back to the saints, the ones to whom Paul is writing.

7. "Dispensation of the grace of God." 3:2. According to structural outline, this is the central reference. It clearly shows that the dispensation of the grace of God concerns only those who are called saints and faithful. The words employed are TO YOU-WARD.

8. "Gift of the grace of God." 3:7. This gift was to Paul only.

9. "Grace given." 3:8. Again this is a gift to Paul only.

10. "Given grace." 4:7. This is only for those who are members of the Body. The pronoun is US.

11. "Minister grace unto." 4:29. Here is a ministry and there must be recipients of it. No grace can be ministered to those who reject.

12. "Grace be with all." 6:24. The grace here is limited to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

In this great doctrinal epistle there is no hint that God is dispensing grace to all mankind in general.

-POSITION IN COL. -

In the section, Col. 2:3-11, the word IN is used 7 times in connection with the position of the saints in Christ.

1. 2:3. IN WHOM are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. This refers back to Christ in verse 2. The high sounding words of all the philosophies of men are but foolishness in comparison with the wisdom and knowledge in Christ.

2. 2:5. Your order and the steadfastness of your faith IN CHRIST. The only rock that will hold is Christ.

3. 2:6. So walk ye IN HIM. This walk recognizes Him as Lord. Our lives can be pleasing to God only if we have Christ as Lord and ruler.

4. 2:7. Rooted and built up IN HIM. One must be rooted in Him in order to be firmly established in the faith. This leads to a growth or building up in Him.

5. 2:9. For IN HIM dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. This statement comes after BEWARE. The warning is against philosophy, vain deceit, and traditions of men. If He is filled with all the fulness of God, and the Church is complete or filled to the full in Him, then the Church is filled with the fulness of God. Christ is but the channel or mediator.

6. 2:10. And ye are complete IN HIM. Complete here means filled to the utmost. (See Eph. 1:23) If we are filled with Him, then there is no room for things of the world and the flesh.

7. 2:11. IN WHOM also ye are circumcised. Being in Christ takes away all confidence in the flesh. This is the true circumcision. It should be a spiritual reality.

This positional doctrine is the property of every saint and faithful one. To acknowledge this truth and live in its certainty is a path of truth and victory. These are some of the spiritual blessings we have in Him. Frequent review of and meditation on these things give strength and courage along the way. Let us praise Him for such grace to us-ward and press on to perfection, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Why not make the most of our possessions?

-STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #13

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: I am glad for

- 1. Why did the Lord stay for a while in Galilee? 7:1
- 2. Why should he stay away from the Jews? They could not touch Him till His hour had come.
- 3. At what time of the year was the feast of tabernacles, and what holiday do we celebrate that is similar? See Lev. 23:34-44.
- 4. What temptation was placed before the Lord in Galilee? 3, 4
- 5. Is it likely that some of life's severest trials might come from one's loved ones?
- 6. What was the attitude of His own brothers? 5
- 7. Was it time for a full public manifestation of the Messiah?
- 8. Why could not the world hate His brothers?
- 9. Why does the world hate Christ yet today?
- 10. Did He go with them to the feast?
- 11. What was the main topic of conversation at the feast?
- 12. Was all this talking done out in the open or in hushed groups?
- 13. How long was this feast to last?
- 14. At about what time did the Lord arrive?
- 15. What did He begin to do?
- 16. Did He seem to be an able teacher in the sight of the Jews?
- 17. Where did He get His theological training?
- 18. Is the person who in all sincerity desires to know truth likely to be deceived and misled? 17
- 19. What is usually true of the person who does a great deal of talking about himself? 18
- 20. What did the Lord charge them with seeking to do? 19
- 21. Did they admit the truth?
- 22. What charge did they bring up against Him? 20
- 23. How is one to judge concerning the acts of another?
- 24. Did they know from whence the Lord came? 27

all your nice letters and especially that so many are receiving help from the studies in John. I know these are not nearly so simple as they look. But do not be discouraged. Answer all the questions you can and let the rest go. Please let me know if I omit anything, such as; not returning your paper, failing to send a pin, or listing you here as a member. Things get pretty well piled up here at times and I could easily overlook it.

I once saw a slogan in an old magazine that read, "Be zealous in the work, not jealous of the workers." Can you rejoice when others have success? Can you be glad when they seem to accomplish more than you? This is a real test of character. Some of us older ones have trouble at times along this line! But the whole thing revolves around our motive. Do we seek to exalt self or Christ? If we seek to get praise from men, then we are likely to get jealous when somebody excels in the service of the Lord. If we seek to exalt the Lord only, then we will rejoice under any circumstances when He is honored.

Do not let any big outward show fool you, even tho it may be very popular. It is not outward growth that counts, but the fruit. By their fruit shall they be judged.

Do not be discouraged if your testimony is rejected. The swineherders were not interested in the LORD from heaven, but they were much interested in the LARD from the hogs. Human nature has not changed much since that incident on the shore of Galilee. You can get more folks out to a wiener roast than you can to a great feast on the Word of God.

The path to destruction is paved with good intentions. A good urge is fine, but it is the good deed that really counts for something. If you have love, joy, and peace, they are not an effort but the result of something within. The same is true also of long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness. They are fruits. You are the branch that holds up the fruit that is produced by the TRUE VINE.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

LATE: Yes, we are running about 2 weeks or more late with this issue.

FEW: Just a few ALL TRUTH by Mills left. 75¢ each postpaid.

NEW ARRIVALS: Rosetta, daughter of Rosita, arrived May 31. Sparkey, son of Janet, arrived June 16. Both are Brown Swiss.

POSTAGE: The postage rate for TFT will be 50% higher after June, so we will have to revise the budget a little.

SOLD: For beef and veal; Rosa Lee of Woodlot, Spot, and Weary Willie.

CLASS: Come over and see the nice meeting place we have at the WRSW studios each Tue. nite at 7:45.

CROPS: Garden very nice, but a real struggle with weeds and bugs. Got the hay in, but some bales got wet. Had 818 bales of all kinds; Ladino, Canary grass, Clover and timothy, and Alfalfa. At this writing we are wearily finishing the strawberries. Good crop of them.

TRIP: Was in Peoria, Ill. June 7-9. Hot weather and one bad storm. Hope for better weather next time.

JUST OUT: A new pamphlet by C.H. Welch, RIGHT DIVISION AND THE GOSPEL. 25¢ each postpaid.

VISITORS: H. E. McMeen dropped in May 22 and stayed overnight. He is from Hanna City, Ill. G. B. Leeke of South Bend was here for a few minutes May 17 (I think). Mr. & Mrs. John

Thompson of Bremen, Ind. were here May 25. On May 28 Mr. & Mrs. Max Perkins of L A Calif. dropped in.

RECORDER: We now have the new Webcor recorder and it is paid for. If U want some Bible lessons on tape along with mimeographed outlines, let us know. No charge for this service.

BOOKS: See TFT #45 for book list. (Interlinear N T is out of print now).

SETS: A few sets of 18 pamphlets by C.H. Welch at \$2 a set postpaid. Just the thing for beginners in Bible Study.

C B's: Am getting a few Companion Bibles yet, but they will soon be out of print. In Buckram binding, \$12 each postpaid. In leather, \$24 postpaid.

RECEIPTS FOR MAY: Numbers 471 to 492 with total of \$164.80. Expenses were \$160.80. Thanks to you all, we are out of the red and hope to stay out now.

RARE BOOKS: Sometimes we are able to get some out of print books. Let us know your wants in this line.

FOR SALE: Like new 4 vol. set of WORD STUDIES IN THE N T by Vincent. \$16 postpaid, (was \$20). A bargain!

LAST ISSUE: We printed 1600 copies of the last issue and they are nearly all gone already. May print 200 more. They went out to 40 states and several foreign countries. Thanks for the new names and addresses. Keep sending them in.

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