

-IF WE SUFFER-

Somebody may ask, "How little can I suffer and still get to reign with Him?"

There is only one answer to that. The Lord demands all. The reward is for a race well run. For it there can be no partial obedience or suffering. The eyes must be kept on the goal, Christ Jesus.

The story of David and Jonathan may well illustrate the answer to the question. The love of these two for each other has been known the world over for centuries, but has anybody ever questioned the love of Jonathan? Was it complete? Did he come short somewhere? Let us see.

Jonathan did love David to the extent that he gave information of what the king, Jonathan's father, was thinking and doing. Jonathan did go outside the city to meet David and bid him good-bye.

David went into exile. He had to flee from king Saul for his life. He was a hunted man with a price on his head. He had no place to lay his head. He was despised of men. He was just a common outlaw. (How like Christ!)

What did Jonathan do? He went back to the king's palace. It is true that his life was endangered and that his father on one occasion sought to kill him for his friendship with David. So Jonathan did love David and also suffered for him. But he did not go out and suffer WITH him. That was something different.

So the end of the matter was that at last Jonathan died in battle defeated. It was not a very glorious death. David did become king after his sufferings. How much better the story could have been if Jonathan had loved David enough to renounce everything and suffer with him! Then, when David took the throne, it might have been that Jonathan would have been prime minister or commander-in-chief of the army. Jonathan loved and suffered, but fell short of the reward.

Today we are to BEWARE lest any man beguile us of the reward. Let us seek to win Christ, and be found in Him, that we may know Him and the power of His resurrection. If we suffer (endure), we shall also reign with Him.

-PENTECOST-

There are some things in connection with this word that we must not overlook. It was a feast of the Jews. There would be no reason for Gentiles to be present in Jerusalem at that time outside of the traders and Roman soldiers. The Romans had their gods and had no interest in what the Jews might be doing. The traders from various countries were glad to get their business done and get out as they were not welcome in Jewish society. They also came from various lands and had their own particular gods.

There were some Gentile proselytes and they are mentioned in Acts 2. They could come only as far as the court of the Gentiles in the temple.

When the apostles began to speak in languages, all the people came together to one place. That must have been the temple. It was about the only place in the city that would accommodate such crowds. In 2:46 it speaks of the daily meetings in the temple. Only Jews could have such meetings, so the converts at Pentecost must have been Jews.

Peter addresses the people as "Ye men of Judaea," "Ye men of Israel," "Men and brethren," and "Let all the house of Israel know." There is no room for Gentiles here.

In Acts 2:5 it says, "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem JEWS, devout men, out of every nation under heaven." Then the nations from which these Jews came are enumerated in verses 9, 10, and 11. They were speaking the languages of their adopted nations. When Peter spoke, they each understood in his own language. They were amazed that the curse of Babylon, (confusion of languages) had been lifted. This was definitely a sign of the kingdom. It was evident that restoration was beginning.

Up to the vision of Peter, the preaching was to Jews only. So it was about 8 years after Pentecost that we find the first Gentile convert. That was Cornelius. But Peter would not have gone to him if it had not been for the vision and the special command from the Lord.

-IDENTIFICATION IN COL. -

In the section, Col. 2:12 to 3:4, the word **WITH** is used 7 times in connection with the identification of the saints and faithful with Christ.

1. 2:12. Buried **WITH HIM** in baptism. Not in water, but in His death. Have you died with Christ? Ordinarily the word **BAPTISM** would mean "to bury and leave it there." But not so of a saint.

2. 2:12. Ye are risen **WITH HIM**. This is a work or operation of God. It is by the power that raised Christ from the dead. It is to us-ward who believe.

3. 2:13. Quickened together **WITH HIM**. Only here and in Eph. 2:5 is this expression used. We are given life everlasting with Him, after we are risen.

4. 2:20. If ye be dead **WITH CHRIST**. Here **IF** means **SINCE**. There is no question of it. The identification has been completed. If so, then it is only consistent that our actions conform.

5. 3:1. If ye then be risen **WITH CHRIST**. Again there is no question. Since this is so, seek, as a natural result, the things above. Set your affections, or **MIND** (as in Phil. 2:5), on things above, not on things on the earth, such as the kingdom and its blessings.

6. 3:3. Your life is hid **WITH CHRIST**. After being raised and quickened and endowed with a new life with Him, this new life is hid with Him in God. Christ is not now manifest, but hid. None of the saints will be manifested in heaven before He is. This hiding place is a safe one. Our life is secure. The evil one cannot find it to touch it in any way. We are not on probation with this life as Adam was with the life given to him.

7. 3:4. Then shall ye also appear **WITH HIM** in glory. When He appears, or is manifested (**EPIPHANEIA**), to the principalities and powers in the heavens, we shall appear or be manifested with Him to those same powers. The reward for suffering or enduring with Him is to reign with Him over these powers in the heavens. That is to us Gentiles who once were not a people! We have good reason to praise His name!

-THE WORD OF CHRIST -

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." Col. 3:16.

The apostle has just spoken of the forgiveness and the peace of Christ. Now it is the **WORD (LOGOS)** of Christ.

WORD here means a speech or sermon. It is not something to take and keep, but it is something to pass on. It is none other than the good news or gospel. It is necessary that we be occupied with Christ. We should always be eager to hear any good news concerning Him.

The word **DWELL** has the idea of making a home with. It is not a stranger putting up for a limited time. It is not something that is temporary. The word of Christ is to find its home in our hearts.

RICHLY means "abundantly." It is full to overflowing. It also has the idea of overflowing to others, letting them share in the superabundance of the forgiveness, peace, and the good news. Seldom do people enjoy truth that is not shared. The man who eats a good meal alone does not enjoy it like the one who shares a crust with another. The truest test of whether one has the truth of God is his eagerness to impart it to others.

WISDOM is more than knowledge. It is the ability to make use of knowledge. The overflowing to others is not to be an uncontrolled slopping over, but a wise speaking of the word in season.

The remainder of the verse tells us of the result of the indwelling word. It will be teaching one another. This teaching will be a joyous task with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. It is a great responsibility that we have to teach one another, but it is a joyful task when it is for Him. There is admonishing also to be done. This is not particularly warning, as the root might show, but it is the seeing the needs of each other and ministering to them. Those who have the indwelling word will always be ready to strengthen the brethren. The heavenly music that results in the hearts may not always be audible, but it will be known of all men. The word of Christ in the heart will show forth the Christ in the life.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #14

1. Why do you think the Lord could say so definitely that they knew Him and whence He came? See 7:28
2. But did they know God?
3. Why could not they get their hands on Him? 30
4. Did those who did believe, believe on Him as the Christ? 31
5. Then what must they have believed?
6. What riddle did the Lord propound to the religionists?
7. How did they try to interpret it?
8. What invitation was given in the last day? 37
9. Is the Holy Ghost of verse 39 the Giver or the gift of power? Lk 24:49
10. Had the Jews understood that the prophet of Deut. 18:15 was the Christ?
11. Why could not Christ come out of Galilee, according to their reasoning?
12. What, then, was the opinion of the people? 43
13. What had the religionists sought to do? 45
14. What estimate did the officers make concerning Him?
15. Had any of the rulers or Pharisees believed on Him? See 3:1
16. What was the attitude of those who were to teach the law toward those who should have been taught? 49
17. What was the law concerning the judging of a man? 51 Deut. 1:17
18. How did they conclusively prove that out of Galilee could come no prophet or even the Christ? 52
19. Where did the Lord teach the next day? 8:1
20. What problem was put to the Lord?
21. What would they have said if He had adjudged her guilty and to be stoned?
22. What would they have said if He had said they should free her?
23. According to the law, who was to cast the first stone? Deut. 17:7
24. What did the Lord suggest as to the casting of that first stone?
25. Where had that finger written before? Exod. 31:18 Dan. 5:5
26. What did the accusers do? 9

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: Miss Eloise

Unsicker of Mesa, Ariz., has joined the BML. Some of the papers that have been sent in lately have not been checked yet. I would like to have a card from the person from Washington, Ill., that failed to give name and address with the papers.

You may still join the BML by sending in answers to the questions in Studies in John. Leave space for corrections.

Among the nice letters received last month have been some from boys in the armed forces. We have heard from Hawaii, Alaska, La., N. J., and other places where there are camps.

A/ZC Homer Hill of Alexandria, La., writes that he has an "upper room" for reading each day. Such is a great source of spiritual strength, and I am sure that he would recommend it to all of you. He also paid a nice tribute to a Sunday School teacher who has meant a great deal to him. She is now 83. Homer got hold of a copy of TFT and wrote to me. I have never met him. How about it, fellows, can some more of you write to me? I am always glad to hear from you.

Louise Thompson gave some news of a youth camp she helped in. It was not so large, but 20 young folks received the Savior. Miss Thompson lives in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

I do wish I could share with you some more bits from various letters, but the space is limited.

If you will read Paul's epistles to his spiritual son, Timothy, you will find some very good advice. It is good for today. He says, "Curb the cravings of youth; and strive for integrity, faith, love, peace, in company with all who pray to the Lord with pure hearts." He also warned Timothy, "And indeed every one who is determined to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." But it certainly is worth any price we may have to pay. There is no friend that can equal the Lord. He is a great comfort and help at all times. He has a special interest in children and young folks.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

TARDY: Here it is, July 9, and I am trying to think of something to write on this last page. Late, as usual.

ANNIVERSARY: Four years ago this month we began TRUTH FOR TODAY Class and the paper. Some friends were lost at the first, but have gained hundreds of new ones. The Lord has been good to us and we thank all of you for your part in the undertaking.

VISITORS: Mr. and Mrs. George Bonser of Meadowvale Canada were here June 28, 29 and 30. Had a very nice visit, and all the more so, since they have been in London, Eng., up till about 5 yrs. ago. We were glad for some sketches of England and especially of Mr. Welch and his ministry. Pastor Floyd Wilson of Chatsworth, Ill., dropped in for a while July 4th. Hope he will be back again.

BIBLES: Am still filling orders for the Companion Bibles at \$12 each, postpaid. Have heard that they will be out of print soon. Get yours now.

RECEIPTS FOR JUNE: Numbers 493 to 508 with a total of \$165.65. Expenses, \$50.43. There were some gifts also according to Gal. 6:6. Thanks so much to all of you. We shall try to be the very best of stewards with this deposit.

CLASS: The class meets each Tuesday at 7:45 in the WRSW studios. U are welcome to come and study with us.

FOR SALE: Piano accordion. Write.

BOOKS: By C. H. Welch, for sale;

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER..... \$2.50

TESTIMONY OF LORD'S PRISONER 1.75

PARABLE MIRACLE AND SIGN... 1.70

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VOL. 35 BEREAN EXPOSITOR.... 2.00

BOOKS: By E. W. Bullinger, for sale;

THE APOCALYPSE..... 2.00

FOUNDATIONS OF DISP. TRUTH.. 1.50

2 NATURES IN THE CHILD OF GOD .40

LXX: Bagster publication. With an English translation. \$6.30 postpaid.

HEALTH: Your editor has been ordered to take 400 pills @ 50¢ each to cure his ulcer. Ulcers are expensive!

RECORDER: Can furnish tapes and mimeographed outlines to go with them. No charge. Let me know whether 7 1/2 or 3 3/4 ips speed. I am using the Webcor and can use it for the radio lessons too.

NOTICE: Let us know your new address when you move. We have considerable expense each month for return cards where papers cannot be delivered.

GIFTS: Seven used tapes have been given to us for the recorder. If new, they would cost around \$38.50. Thanks a lot.

THANKS: For all your prayers.

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