

-IN CHRIST-

There is nothing like the understanding of the Word to bring peace and joy to the heart. There are many who at times have doubts and fears. They have the indwelling Spirit. They know what the forgiveness of sins is. But if something in the way of a trial brings to the surface and to light the sinfulness of their hearts, they get worried and begin to doubt that they might be saved.

These folks may even understand that they are justified, but they have never come to a full realization of what they are and what their standing in Christ is.

When Noah entered the ark, God shut the door. That door was shut till Noah was able to step out into a new world and begin a new life. All the old things had passed away. Noah was shut up in the ark till the wrath was over.

Christ (the ark) has passed beyond sin, wrath, death, and all connected therewith. If the believer is in Him and He is the believer's life, then these things are past for the believer also. No sin can be imputed. Christ was made sin and died to it. He is risen. He is now beyond the realm and power of sin. If the believer is risen with Him, then there can be no condemnation.

So if we but reckon ourselves to have died with Christ and risen with Him, we have a position that can never be assailed by the accuser.

But the conduct of the believer may not always measure up to his standing in Christ. He is responsible for this and will have to suffer for it under the discipline of God, but that does not alter the standing in Christ.

Just as Christ rose from the dead into a new order of things, and as Noah went forth from the ark into a new order of things, so the believer, being in Christ, is also in a new order. But the thing that may worry him is the fact that after he has received Christ, the inward state is still the same. He is still prone to sin. But in Christ he is given power to become more than a conqueror. There is grace for every need. He has but to use the means at hand.

-CHRIST IN US-

IN CHRIST has to do with the standing of the believer. BUT CHRIST IN US has to do with service, with fruitfulness.

Ephesians sets forth what a member of the body may be in Christ, but Philipians shows what is to be expected when Christ is in that member. It is a working out of that salvation with fear and trembling. It may lead to a prize.

The Lord spoke to His disciples about them being in Him and He in them. The first was as to their standing before the Father. But He in them made them fearless witness for Him and to bear fruit as at the day of Pentecost.

Too many do not realize what the apostle did when he said that in his flesh dwelt no good thing. Many Christians are busy trying to improve the flesh, which cannot be improved and is not subject to the law of God, neither can be. One who knows the Word and knows himself comes to the realization of the fact that he can do no good thing of himself, but the good he does is Christ working in him.

When one finally realizes that all good works are after all done by the indwelling Christ, he has nothing whereof to boast. There is no place for pride, but all the glory is given to Christ who dwells in us by the Spirit.

Paul prayed that the Ephesians might be strengthened in the inner man so that Christ might dwell in them to the end that they might comprehend things that could not be comprehended by any knowledge of human origin, especially the love of Christ which the natural man cannot and does not know.

The man who does not have Christ's presence in him can have no testimony. Even tho he might be a vessel of silver or even gold, it is empty and of no use.

Again we must be warned. A man may be in Christ, and Christ may be in him, yet that man can sin. It is not the indwelling Christ that sins. It is the man himself, the flesh. The new man (Christ within) cannot sin. But watch the old man with his deeds! There is where the danger lies. He can spoil our testimony and take away our joy.

-AGES OR TIMES-

The history of mankind, as given in the Bible, may be divided into 3 main periods for study.

1. The first is covered by Gen. 1-11. Up to the dispersion of the people at Babel, there were no nations. But during the very short time that there were nations, wickedness increased very rapidly. So man degenerated so fast that in about 2,000 years God gave up the nations, as recorded in Rom. 1, and put a new plan into operation. During this first period God made certain laws known to man as well as the plan of redemption accompanied by blood sacrifices. These man were not ignorant. They wilfully did not choose to retain God in their knowledge.

2. This period begins with the call of Abram. In him it is also the call of a new nation which is to be a peculiar treasure and a priestly nation. It was to be an example to other nations and at the same time a channel of blessing to them. This was according to promise. The nation became a kingdom under David, (Saul did not count as he was not God's chosen one and the sceptre was to come from Judah). Israel remained a kingdom till the Babylonian captivity. She ceased to be a nation at Acts 28:28. It was because of rejection of the New Covenant and refusal to be a channel of blessing. Israel had the advantage of having a higher calling and the promise of an earlier resurrection than other peoples.

3. The third period began with the taking away of salvation from the Jews and sending it (or Him) to the Gentiles. Nations are, ^{not} being dealt with. It is all on the basis of the individual. It is the AS MANY and the WHOSOEVER that receive life. It is those CHOSEN BEFORE THE OVERTHROW and who TRUST that become members of the church which is the Body of Christ. Since there are no national distinctions, the Jew is no longer first. Since the Jews would not be a channel of blessing, Christ has reconciled the Gentiles to God by His blood and deals with them directly. The Body has a still earlier resurrection.

-PEOPLES AND PLACES-

Since the bulk of the Scriptures is concerning God's chosen nation Israel, we are inclined to think of the present age as being a parenthesis. From the earthly standpoint of God's purposes, it may well be so. For God will again deal with His people and they will eventually do what they were chosen to do -- be a channel of blessing to the nations. This will be accomplished by the fulfilling of the commission that was given to the apostles after the Lord's resurrection.

From the heavenly standpoint, the present age is the main one. For in this present time there is being formed one new man, the body of Christ, which is also spoken of as an holy temple in which God will dwell by the Spirit. This is the only group of mankind that has had a hope of going to heavenly places and being blessed there. We learn from the epistle to the Ephesians that this group was chosen from before the disruption of the world. But when we read of the time element of Israel and the kingdom, it is from since the disruption of the world.

When earth is to be peopled with resurrected ones some day, we find that there will be divisions. During the time of the Millennium Israel will be in her promised land. For the most part, Gentiles will be outside. It will be a time of unrest and rebellion and will end with the greatest revolt ever known. The PMK, (postmillennial kingdom) will be a golden age on the earth with Israel and the other nations on the best of terms and basking in the blessings of God. Then in the new earth, there will still be division. Those called Spiritual Israel will have access to the New Jerusalem. Others will not.

At present the heavens are divided. There is the heavens in general where angels dwell, both good and bad. Then there is a place of higher authority or an inner circle. This place is the one where the members of the Church which is the body of Christ will receive their blessings and those who suffer will reign with Him. There is nothing to indicate that there will be any division in the New Heavens. We do not know.

-STUDIES IN JOHN-

#18

1. To whom was the Lord speaking in 10:1? See chapter 9
2. Then who were probably the thieves and robbers?
3. Is the sheepfold heaven, the church or Judaism? (Into which would the thieves and robbers be likely to enter to exploit the sheep?)
4. Are the doors of verses 2, 7, and 9 all the same?
5. Who was the porter who opened the fold and introduced the true Shepherd? See 1:15
6. What requirements had the Lord met that made Him the true shepherd? (These were the door)
7. Did all the sheep of Israel hear His voice and follow Him? Which ones did follow? 3
8. Did the Lord lead His sheep out of heaven, the church, or Judaism? 4
9. Does He drive the sheep from the fold? (Cast out in 9:35 is same as PUT FORTH in 10:4)
10. Would His sheep be likely to hear and follow strangers?
11. Did the Pharisees understand this parable?
12. In verse 2 the true shepherd enters by the door. In verse 7 the Lord says He is the door of the sheep. Can you explain how He could be the door of the sheep?
13. Had any of the thieves and robbers ever led the sheep out of the fold into green pastures?
14. What then is the door of salvation?
15. What would be the purpose of the thief? 9:34 and 10:10
16. Why must they be led out at this time? 10
17. Now what will the GOOD SHEPHERD do for His sheep?
18. John Wesley said that a hireling is one who would not work if it were not for the wages. Who were the hirelings? Do we have any shepherds that are hirelings today?
19. What differences do you find between the hireling and the good shepherd?
20. How do these sheep come into a knowledge of the Father? 14, 15

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: I know that many of you have been puzzled no little as to how to find or know the will of God in your lives. I would like to give a few suggestions which I hope will prove helpful. Of course the first thing to do is to read and study the Word, asking for the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit. This will put you in the proper attitude and mind for the following points:

1. Pray. I do not mean to say your prayers, but to pray. Just talk to God as you would a friend, any time.
2. Think. Many people of the world are afraid to think. They will run themselves to death trying to get away from themselves and their thots. Most of the amusements of the world are an escape mechanism for those who are afraid to be alone with their thots. Think things thru. Meditate on the Word.
3. Talk. Talk to those who are wise, who seem to know the things you wish to know. But do not take their judgment as final. Be able to judge for yourselves.
4. Do not be too much afraid of the objections of your own will. After all, the right way is not always the unpleasant way. There is much joy and pleasure in doing the will of God. So it is not so often that it is in the line of the disagreeable.
5. Keep doing. Always do the next thing that comes to hand. It is the little things that give us exercise so that we can handle the big things when they come along. If you see something that ought to be done and you can do it, then that is your calling.
6. If at any time decision and action are necessary, go ahead. Do not hesitate. Some of the greatest crises demand quick decisions. Be prepared for them
7. Do not despair if you do not feel a definite leading. It may not be till long afterward that you will realize that you have been led at all.

The goal of life should be to do the will of God. If you have done that, no one ever could do better, no matter who he might be. Remember that it is your life we are considering; do not look at others.

Thnax for all the fine letters, and especially the one from Korea.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

At last we are on AM for the Radio Class. Tune to 1480 on the dial. Can probably be heard as far east as Ft. Wayne, west to So. Bend, south to Indianapolis, and maybe to Grand Rapids north. Try to get it and let me know if you do. Of course we are on FM at the same time. Remember, it is Tue. nite at 7, WRSW.

Following the broadcast we have the weekly Bible class at the WRSW studios at 7:45. That gives most of the folks a chance to hear the radio program and then get to the class.

We are still trying to get the paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY in the mail each month. It is free, all you have to do is to ask for it.

If you wish some Bible lessons on tape for a recorder, let us know. No charge for this service. The recorder and a good supply of tape have been paid for. Glad to help you in this way.

Now is the time for subscriptions and renewals to the Berean Expositor. The actual price is 87¢ but since there is a deficit in the cost, most folks have been sending in a \$.

THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK is a new quarterly magazine published by N. C. Cooper, 101 Turves Green, Northfield, Birmingham 31, England. It is free on request. Try it.

PLEASE NOTE that last month I announced that the books I sell are postpaid only when cash accompanies the order.

This had to be done because of the extra time and expense involved in keeping the books. Hope you understand.

Have a supply of reprints of NUMBER IN SCRIPTURE by E. W. Bullinger at \$5 each postpaid. Send money with order.

Would like to get copies of THINGS TO COME for my own library.

The idea of a PMK (page 2) is not at all original. Geo. F. Trench wrote a book about this in 1894. Mr. Welch has also mentioned the idea in the B. E.

I believe that the conference at Grand Rapids, Oct. 26 was enjoyed by all. Hope to have more such times of fellowship.

Some of you received letters with the initials DR at the bottom. Miss Donna Rose was secretary for a week helping me get caught up on the correspondence. I had been a sub teacher for 5 weeks in the Etna Green high school. This week I am tending store while my brother is away.

Have several Companion Bibles in leather at \$24 each postpaid. This Bible is getting to be scarce.

Books by Mills: ALL TRUTH, 75¢. N. T. MINISTRIES, 75¢. HIS WORKMANSHIP, 50¢ (when and if I get a new supply).

Enclosed you will find an order form for Berean Publications with new price list. Have been fortunate to make a deal with the publishers that will save you money. Do not throw these forms away as the supply is limited. If interested, send for the catalog.

Oscar M. Baker, Tel. Atwood 2684.

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