
-GIFTS UNTO MEN-

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1. For the perfection (readjustment) of the saints. There needs to be patient teaching of the gospel of the Mystery to those who were in the churches of the Acts period. Unless all is made clear, there is bound to be confusion.
2. For the work of the ministry. The work of the 12 apostles is done, for the doors of the kingdom were closed at Acts 28:28. So a new order of apostles is needed to proclaim the new gospel. We see from Eph. 3:20 that the work of the apostles and prophets was foundational. We no longer have these, but they are followed by those who build the structure.
3. For the edifying of the Body of Christ. There must be continual growth, so there must be a continual teaching of the Word. The Word is our spiritual food. We become weak and fruitless without it.
4. Till we all arrive unto the unity of the faith. This takes much patient teaching too. This unity of the faith, or called unity of the Spirit, is outlined in Eph. 4:3-6. But mere doctrine does not complete the unity of the faith. Love must be added.
5. And of the knowledge (epignosis) of the Son of God. Paul's one desire was to know HIM (Phil. 3:10). That should be the desire of every Christian. The Greek word here is intensive and means a complete or thoro knowledge. This can come only from the Word and fellowship with Him.
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7. Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness (Pleroma) Of Christ. All the members together constitute a building, a temple, for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:21, 22). God seeks to reveal His purpose by these terms.

-EVERY KNEE AND TONGUE-

"Wherefore God hath also highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:9-11.

There is nothing here to indicate that this is a general resurrection scene where all peoples that have ever lived, including unborn infants, monstrosities, idiots, etc., and also all beasts, birds, fish and reptiles, maybe all insects too, not forgetting the fallen angels, demons, and any other beings that might have lived at some time.

The main thing in this passage that takes the eye is the fact that whatever all this may be, all will confess Christ as Lord and that confession will be to the glory of God the Father.

While on earth, our Lord would not allow demons to confess Him. Paul cast out the spirit that confessed at Philippi. It would be no honor to the Father to have unbelievers have to confess Christ as Lord against their will. I know very well that there are certain people that I would not want to go about praising me. Folks might think I was one of them!

Only those who have life will ever be resurrected. In this scene the bowed knee and confessing tongue refer to those who love Him and willingly give Him the honor and glory and praise. Cf. Rom. 10:9, 10.

This looks forward to a time when all things are put in subjection under His feet. This does not include anything that has perished or been destroyed. The last enemy has been put down and destroyed, which is death. Then there will not be a discordant note in all creation. Peter foresaw that time when he said, "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Will you be one of those who will be made alive to see all these things?

-THE SECOND DEATH-

This expression is found only 4 times in all the Scriptures. On a structure, it would appear thus;

A. Rev. 2:11. Overcometh...not hurt of the second death. Time - tribulation. Cf. Matt. 24:13.

B. Rev. 20:6. Thrones. Overcomers...lived and reigned. Second death hath no power. Time - beginning of the thousand years.

B. Rev. 20:14. Throne. Dead stand...book of life. Death and hell cast...second death. Time - end of the thousand years.

A. Rev. 21:8. Overcometh...inherit these things. In contrast, fearful, etc...have part in second death. Time - tribulation.

Those who overcome will die the first death. Those who take the mark of the beast and worship his image will die the second death. It is made sure that these latter ones shall not escape the second death by dying the first one, for "in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them." Thus they are RESERVED for the second death.

As we examine the resurrections in the "B" members, we find that the first is just of martyrs of the tribulation. It does not include those of 1 Cor. 15 nor of 1 Thess. 4 who are raised at the last trump and parousia of the Lord in the clouds which is before the thrones are set up. The second resurrection takes place at the time when "the earth and the heaven fled away." This is the time of Job's hope of resurrection (Job 14:12 and 19:25). The books in which the works are recorded and also the book of life are opened. Evidently a judgment of believers is in progress here. This is followed by an emphatic denial that any unbelievers are present, for Rev. 19:15 reads, (margin)"if any one was not found written..."

Rev. 21:8 is no proof text that men will have to die twice. It has no universal application. Verse 7 limits its scope to those of the tribulation time.

-PETER AND JOHN-

Peter and John were good friends. They were of the 3 disciples of the inner circle. They saw the transfiguration. They saw the open tomb together. They went to the temple together after the ascension of the Lord.

But as we study the gospels that were preached by Peter and John we find that there is a difference, a great difference. But why was there a difference and how does it affect you and me today?

Peter preached repentance and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). In this instance he was preaching to Jews only. Repentance had been the theme of the prophets. It was the only condition upon which Israel could enjoy national blessing. Later we find that it was Peter's prerogative to preach only to the Circumcision (Gal. 2:7). The only exception to this was at the house of Cornelius. Peter was zealous of the law and the ordinances of the Jewish religion.

But when we look at the gospel of John we find something entirely different. He has the whole world in view. His gospel is to the Gentiles, the AS MANY who receive Christ after the rejection of HIS OWN. John nowhere uses the word REPENTANCE. He records the fact that John and the Lord's disciples baptized but he does not say that any were ever commanded to baptize or be baptized.

The key word of John's gospel is BELIEVE. In all its forms it occurs just 100 times. John has a gospel of grace.

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-STUDIES IN JOHN- #28

1. Why will the Lord not talk much more with the disciples? 14:2, 19, 28, 30.
2. What is the Lord going to do shortly which will prove His love to the Father?
3. Did the Father command Him to do this? 31
4. Does the Lord mean that all other vines are false, or does He mean that He is the true one which was represented by types? 15:1
5. In verse 2 "taketh away" is "lifted up." How will lifting up a branch make it fruitful? (See Companion Bible note)
6. Dust and small aphids often get on the leaves of the vine. How will purging help in fruitfulness? 2
7. How was this purging accomplished in the disciples? 3
8. Is this still effective today?
9. What is meant by the branch abiding in the vine?
10. Then how can the vine abide in the branch?
11. What is the value of a branch that is apart from the vine?
12. Verse 6 is a difficult one. It should read, "Unless anyone abide in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is dried up, and they gather them and cast into the fire and they are burned." Notice the change from the singular to the plural.
13. If any one should not abide in the vine, what fruit does he produce? Heb. 6:1
14. What becomes of such works? 1 Cor. 3:15.
15. Then what is burned, the branch or the fruits (dried grapes and leaves)?
16. What is the result of complete harmony between the vine and branches? 7
17. How, then, can the disciples glorify the Father?
18. Now what is the bond that makes the branches abide in the vine and the vine in the branches? 9, 10
19. Why does He tell them all this?
20. What one commandment does He give to the disciples?
21. What is the greatest love? 13
22. How can one show his friendship for Christ?
23. How did they become friends?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; Once the dear Dr. Bullinger gave a little outline in his magazine THINGS TO COME which is worth remembering. It has to do with the believer's death as spoken of in Rom. 6:8, "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him." This is a blessed experience for the present, not something altogether for the dim and distant future. This death is fivefold, the number of grace;

1. Dead to self. "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Gal. 5:24. Self is the greatest obstacle to Christian living. It is self that so often gets in the way and hinders service and steals our blessings. We must be interested in others, too.

2. Dead to sin. "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ... reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God thru Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:2, 11. Christian living does not consist in negatives. It is not refraining from things that we would like to do, but rather being dead (not interested) to those things. We should be so busy doing right that we will not have time to wish to do wrong.

3. Dead to the law. "Ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ." Rom. 7:4. In verse 1 Paul makes it clear that he is speaking only to those who know the law, the Jews. But we must be careful that somebody does not try to bring us under the law which was for the Jews only. Its rituals can do us no good.

4. Dead to the world. "... Jesus Christ by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Gal. 6:14. We are ever reminded that we are in the world, but we should be careful that we are not of the world. We do not need to do what the world is doing.

5. Dead to religion. "... if ye be dead with Christ... why... are ye subject to ordinances?" Col. 2:20. Religion may have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. It cannot give a real and lasting peace of mind which the knowledge of Christ alone can give.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

WEEKLY BIBLE CLASS is held at the home of the teacher each Tue. at 7:30 P M. This is 4 miles south of Atwood or 6 miles west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center road. Tel. Atwood 2684. You are welcome to the class.

RECENT VISITORS; George Unsicker and family of Mesa, Ariz., Mr. & Mrs. Harold Border and son of Bremen, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Bert Riemersma of Holland, Mich. We are always glad to have visitors drop in for a visit with us.

BACK COPIES of TFT are still available back to #39. These are free for the asking. We have scores of new folks on our list and it might be that some of them would like back copies.

A RADIO PROGRAM called Truth for Today is given out over station WNAM - 1280 on the dial at 9 to 9:30 A.M. each Sunday. The speaker is R. A. Roberts. This is at Neenah, Wis. Best wishes.

FARM ACTIVITIES; We have our corn all topped (6 acres) and they are about ready to be put in the barn for the cows. The painting of the barn is not done yet. At last we got some rain and cooler weather, but not soon enough for the alfalfa we sowed. That will have to be done over again next spring. We got in the last cutting of hay. The corn is now about ready to harvest. We husk it by hand.

COMPANION BIBLES; Because of a good buy we can supply these at no advance in price as yet, but may change the price without notice. In buckram, \$12 each. In quarter leather (for service) \$16 each. In full leather \$24 each. Post is included. Order now.

EXPOSITIONS; For those who like expositions of books of the Bible we have the following by C. H. Welch; **JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER** (Romans) \$1.88. **LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME** (John) \$2.25. **THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING** (Phil.) \$1.13. **THIS PROPHECY** (Rev.) \$1.13. **THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD'S PRISONER** (Eph., Phil., Col., and 2nd Tim.) \$1.28. **ECCLESIASTES** 60¢. **JOB** 45¢. Also have **THE APOCALYPSE** by E. W. Bullinger at \$2.50. All these are fine for individual or class study. Post is included.

GOOD STUDY BOOKS for dispensational truth; **ALL TRUTH** by Mills 75¢. **DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH** by Welch \$1.13. Also the pamphlet by Welch, **THE DISPENSATIONAL FRONTIER** 8¢ each, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, or 50 for \$1.50. Post is included in all book prices.

BIBLE STUDY HELPS; YOUNGS CONCORDANCE (British Edition) \$13. **LXX with English Translation** \$6.50. **Englishman's Greek Concordance** \$8.50 (2 used ones at \$5 and \$7 resp.). Out of **Englishman's Heb. and Chaldee Concordances** (1 vol. thin paper Edn.) but some coming at \$17.50 each. **Pocket Interlinear Greek N T** \$4.25.

WANTED; THE MAZZAROTH by Frances Rolleston. Also Mos. 1, 2, and 19 of the **BABBLER**. Odd volumes or sets of **THINGS TO COME**.

JUST A FEW used books by Sir Robert Anderson left. Ask about them.

THANX for all the new names and addresses you have been sending in. Keep it up for we want to greatly increase the circulation even more.

YOUR LETTERS; Lately many have written in telling of how they rejoice in truth and fellowship with those of like faith. One family has lost a dear son. It is well that we pray for each other and bear one another's burdens as well as to rejoice together. Let us hear from you. We are interested in your affairs. Be free to ask questions or make request for prayers.

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

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