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CORNERSTONE

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Did the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Really Happen?

What if - There Was No Resurrection?

Come and Hear

...and more

...JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE · EPHESIANS 2:20

Our Risen Savior & His Work For Us

“Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord... declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Romans 1:3-4

Editorial

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

It was on the road to Damascus that Saul first encountered the risen Christ. Intent on arresting followers of the Way, he had a notorious reputation at the time for being a chief persecutor of the Church. Later, in writing to the Philippians, he would cite this type of activity as prima facie evidence that he exceeded his contemporaries in his unenlightened zeal for the God of his fathers (Phil. 3:6; Gal. 1:14). Ironically, the one who sought to apprehend believers was himself “apprehended” in the process. Perhaps it was in response to the prayers of his kinsmen Andronicus and Junia (Rom. 16:7) that moved the arm of God to act as He did in the life of Saul, (later called Paul). Regardless, it is a good reminder to us—never give up praying for those unsaved friends and loved ones! He that bared His arm in the salvation of Saul of Tarsus is the same One doing that great work today. He still delivers sinful men and women from “so great a death” and provides a “so great salvation,” translating them into “the kingdom of the Son of His love” (2 Cor. 1:10; Heb. 2:3; Col. 1:13). The risen Savior is at work all the time.


Little did Paul realize at the time what was in store for him following his dramatic conversion. The Lord told Ananias how this new convert would one day stand before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel, and how many things he would suffer for the sake of the gospel (Acts 9:15-16). Not everyone who comes to Christ has that same course laid out for them, but one thing is sure: the same Lord who saves is the same One who sustains. He is a very present help in trouble and is actively working on behalf of those who are heirs of salvation, who need His help continually as He brings many sons to glory. Certainly, Paul would need that in his life and ministry.

Consider the far-reaching effects of our Lord’s glorious resurrection! Because He is risen, He is now at the Father’s right hand and always lives to make intercession for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). Because He is risen and has ascended to the Father, the Spirit has a ministry of convicting people of their sin and helping them to understand the remedy for

that sin in the ascended, resurrected Christ (John 16:8-11). Because He is risen, God has given assurance to all that He will judge the world in righteousness through the Son whom He has appointed (Acts 17:31). Because He is risen, the Lord walks among the lampstands, purifying and perfecting our witness and testimony so that we might shine for Him (Rev. 1-3). Because He is risen, He provides the means by which we can do extraordinary deeds – by the same mighty power that God wrought in Him when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand (Eph. 1:20).

Because He is risen, it is our privilege to serve Him as we are reminded by the hymn, “I serve a risen Savior He’s in the world today, I know that He is living, whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer and just the time I need Him, He’s always near.” No wonder believers are exhorted to follow His example and no longer live for themselves, “but for Him who died for them, and rose again.” I am sure that Paul keenly understood this while in the Mamertine prison. Having been forsaken by most of his friends surely, he was thankful for the risen Lord who stood with him and strengthened him (2 Tim. 4:17)—a very present help during a time of trial, as the Lord does with each one of us as well.

After years of faithful service, Paul declared openly that he wanted to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. With all the experiences in his life and ministry, he still desired to know Him even more. He wanted the truth of the resurrection to permeate all his being. Let us also hold that same conviction as we follow on to know the Lord.

“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...”
Philippians 3:10 



Mark has served as editor for Cornerstone Magazine since 2018. In addition to these duties, Mark travels throughout the US and Canada in a Bible-teaching and conference speaking ministry. He also heads up Know the Word Ministries Inc., located on the web at knowtheword.com. He and his wife Cindy were commended to the Lord’s work in 1993 from Bethany Bible Chapel in Toms River, NJ.

by **Mark Kolchin**

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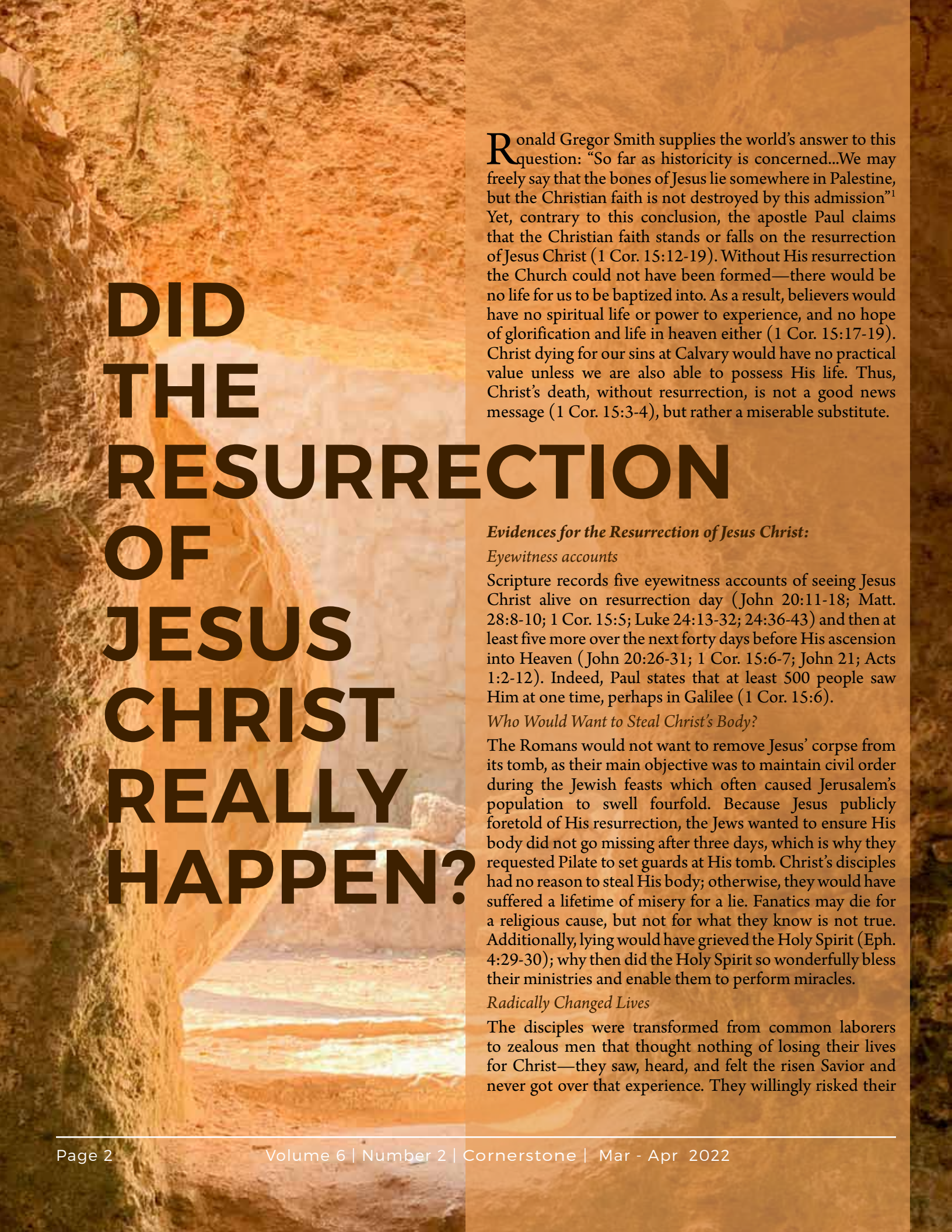
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DID THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST REALLY HAPPEN?

Ronald Gregor Smith supplies the world's answer to this question: "So far as historicity is concerned...We may freely say that the bones of Jesus lie somewhere in Palestine, but the Christian faith is not destroyed by this admission"¹ Yet, contrary to this conclusion, the apostle Paul claims that the Christian faith stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:12-19). Without His resurrection the Church could not have been formed—there would be no life for us to be baptized into. As a result, believers would have no spiritual life or power to experience, and no hope of glorification and life in heaven either (1 Cor. 15:17-19). Christ dying for our sins at Calvary would have no practical value unless we are also able to possess His life. Thus, Christ's death, without resurrection, is not a good news message (1 Cor. 15:3-4), but rather a miserable substitute.

Evidences for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Eyewitness accounts

Scripture records five eyewitness accounts of seeing Jesus Christ alive on resurrection day (John 20:11-18; Matt. 28:8-10; 1 Cor. 15:5; Luke 24:13-32; 24:36-43) and then at least five more over the next forty days before His ascension into Heaven (John 20:26-31; 1 Cor. 15:6-7; John 21; Acts 1:2-12). Indeed, Paul states that at least 500 people saw Him at one time, perhaps in Galilee (1 Cor. 15:6).

Who Would Want to Steal Christ's Body?

The Romans would not want to remove Jesus' corpse from its tomb, as their main objective was to maintain civil order during the Jewish feasts which often caused Jerusalem's population to swell fourfold. Because Jesus publicly foretold of His resurrection, the Jews wanted to ensure His body did not go missing after three days, which is why they requested Pilate to set guards at His tomb. Christ's disciples had no reason to steal His body; otherwise, they would have suffered a lifetime of misery for a lie. Fanatics may die for a religious cause, but not for what they know is not true. Additionally, lying would have grieved the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:29-30); why then did the Holy Spirit so wonderfully bless their ministries and enable them to perform miracles.

Radically Changed Lives

The disciples were transformed from common laborers to zealous men that thought nothing of losing their lives for Christ—they saw, heard, and felt the risen Savior and never got over that experience. They willingly risked their

lives in obedience to Christ's command to be His witnesses throughout the world. John was banished and imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos. James was executed by Herod. Nero crucified Peter upside down. Andrew was crucified in Greece. Thomas was pierced by the spears. Philip was put to death for converting the wife of a Roman proconsul. Matthew was stabbed to death in Ethiopia. Simon was killed in Persia for refusing to sacrifice to the sun god. James, the half-brother of Christ was stoned and then clubbed to death at the temple. He was not converted until after he personally spoke to his resurrected half-brother and Savior (John 7:5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:7). He penned the book of James before his death. Then we have Paul, a prominent Jewish leader that had Christians imprisoned and executed for their faith. But after meeting the glorified Savior on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), he converted to Christianity, was appointed an apostle to the Gentiles by Christ, and then suffered much persecution fulfilling that calling. He wrote at least thirteen books in our Bibles and after finishing his course, was beheaded by Nero.

Signs and Wonders at Pentecost

Peter explained to the Jews that Jesus' ministry had been approved by God through the evidence of miracles. The signs and wonders that they were witnessing at Pentecost were continuing in Christ's authority, which meant God had raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:22-24). If Christ did not experience resurrection from where did the apostles get the power to do the miracles recorded in Acts?

Difficulties to Explain

The Days in the Tomb

Speaking of His death, the Lord said that He would "be raised the third day" after being killed (Matt. 16:21), but also that He would "be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). The Lord implies that these are interchangeable expressions though appearing contradictory to us. Most references to the resurrection state that it would occur on the third day (Matt. 17:23; 20:19; Luke 9:22; 18:33) or in the third day (John 2:19-22). However, while speaking to the Pharisees, the Lord referred to the sign of Jonah to foretell of His death and resurrection: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40). The Pharisees later repeated Christ's statement to Pilate, "after three days I will rise" (Matt. 27:63), but then they asked for a guard "until the third day" (Matt. 27:64). If the term, "after three days," was not interchangeable with "the third day," then the Pharisees would have asked that the tomb be guarded four days. The term "one day and one night" was a Jewish idiom indicating a day, even when only a part of a day was indicated (e.g. Gen. 42:74; 1 Sam. 30:12). In summary, the terms "three days and nights" and "three days" were common expressions the Jews used interchangeably.

The Number of Angels in the Tomb?

Matthew and Mark describe one angel speaking to the women, while Luke and John state that two angels were in the tomb. The answer: There were two angels in the tomb, but only one served as the spokesman.

The Time the Women Came to the Tomb?

Mark's account has the women coming to the tomb at the rising of the sun, while John states that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb when it was yet dark. The best explanation: the women left while it was yet dark and arrived at the tomb while the sun was rising. Since they were coming from Bethany, and perhaps Jerusalem, it would have taken some time to get to the tomb.

The Differing Eye Witness Accounts Resurrection Morning

Each gospel writer presents Christ from a different perspective. If all the writers gave exactly the same story, same order, same details, we would immediately become suspicious that the records were the copies of a single account. But because some events are recorded in some gospels and not others, we have proof of multiple accounts and not just one story repeated. For example, only Matthew records Christ's first appearance to the women, while only Luke records the events transpiring on the Emmaus road. Luke does not record Mary Magdalene's visit to the tomb. Only John and Luke record Christ's appearance in the upper room on resurrection day. Given all the information recorded in the gospels, there is a reasonable construction of all that took place on resurrection morning without contradiction.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ declared to the Pharisees that His resurrection would prove that He was the Son of God (Matt. 12:39-40; Rom. 1:4). Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was the first fruits of eternal resurrection and is now with His Father in heaven (Heb. 1:5; Rev. 3:21). There have been many skeptics (e.g., Frank Morrison, Josh McDowell, and C. S. Lewis) who have tried to disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ and in the process came to the truth and were saved. The doctrine of Christ's resurrection is essential to the Christian faith and the evidence for the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is overwhelming! 📺

Endnotes:

1. *Secular Christianity*, Collins, 1966; p. 103



Warren Henderson and his wife Brenda serve the Lord full-time and currently make their home in Stevensville, Montana. Warren is involved in a writing, evangelism, and Bible teaching ministry and has written and published a number of books which can be obtained worldwide through online retailers.

by Warren Henderson

WHAT IF

There Was No Resurrection?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20



Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day are two days that rarely come together on the calendar. It happened in 1956 and again in 2018. There is an appropriate verse in the Bible for such a rare occasion: "*Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*" (1 Cor. 15:12). It has the sound of an April Fool's saying, doesn't it — There is no resurrection?

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. That's why they were sad, you see. There must have been some at Corinth who dismissed life after death as well. Paul was clear in his answer to those who were foolish enough to think that this life is all there is. He laid out seven What If's to consider (vv. 12-19):

What If — there was no resurrection?

1. Then, Christ is not risen (v.13). We are reading this statement in the resurrection chapter of our Bible,

where the gospel itself includes the accounts of many eyewitnesses. He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, by over five hundred brethren at once, by James, then by all the apostles. Even the apostle Paul himself saw the resurrected Christ on the Damascus Road (1 Cor. 15:1-11). Some of those eyewitnesses were still alive at that time of his writing and anyone who doubted the truth of the resurrection could have asked them personally. All these eyewitnesses must have seen a false vision, or their testimony is fabricated, and we do not have a living Savior. That is, if there is no resurrection.

2. Then, our preaching is empty (v.14a). The preaching, or proclamation would be in vain having no purpose. There's no doubt that the gospel message of 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 lends itself easily to preaching a powerful three-point message:

Point #1 – Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures

Point #2 – That He was buried

Point #3 – He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

But our preaching has now become vain. It is lacking the power of the message without the third point. In other words, there would be no point to a two-point message, “Christ died and was buried.” That’s it; if there is no resurrection.

3. **Then, our faith is also empty (v.14b).** We came to Christ with empty lives. He filled us with a faith that is full to overflowing. Now we hear that the message we believed was empty, in vain and that means that our faith is also empty, in vain. What a sad combination, empty faith in an empty message. It’s starting to sound like the preacher of Ecclesiastes 1:1, *“Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”* Solomon was right. That is, if there is no resurrection.

4. **Then, we are found to be false witnesses of God (vs.15-16).** The Lord had called His disciples and commissioned them in Acts 1:8 saying, *“You shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* They had gotten off to a great start and were working on phase four of the Great Commission—to the end of the earth. Only to find out that they were false witnesses.

Besides this, it is even worse because they perjured themselves against God. They said that He said that Christ was raised. But, that would have been false if Christ has not been raised up. Because if the dead are not raised then God did not raise up Christ. It’s all false, and those who claim to be His witnesses, are false witnesses of eternal consequence. That is, if there is no resurrection.

5. **Then, we are still in our sins (v.17).** This becomes more serious as we consider the sin question. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would come and take away our sins (Isa. 53), cast them as far as the east is from west (Ps. 103), and that we would never see our sins again (Isa. 44). But now we find that this did not happen. That the plan that Jesus was delivered up because of our offenses and that He would be raised because of our justification (Rom. 4:25) was incomplete.

The resurrection was to be the amen to the atoning value of the blood of Christ. It is like we prayed, but there was no answer, no amen at the end. This punctuates the What If? question mark instead of an exclamation point. Our declaration, He is risen indeed! has been replaced with the question, is He indeed risen? And the big question remains, what will we do with our sins? That is, if there is no resurrection.


6. **Then, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished (v.18).** Our hearts are gripped with the inconsolable sorrow that our loved ones in Christ, who we thought had gone on before us, had nowhere to go. They had responded to the warning, repent or perish and made the choice to receive Christ to be saved. The very reason they had believed on the Lord Jesus Christ was so that they would not perish. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16). To tell us that after trusting in the Savior that they have perished does more than disappoint; it has turned our hopeful sorrow into a hopeless gloom. To think that those who have died, perish the thought, are in hell today is a grim, unbearable reality. That is, if there is no resurrection.

7. **Then, we are of all men the most pitiable (v.19).** We who turned our backs on this present world must now face the fact that we were wrong. Our decision to live for what is unseen and eternal was worse than a pipedream; it has become a nightmare. Our investment that was to yield eternal dividends of thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold have returned to us zero, zilch, nada! Our confident assertions to the world around us that brought us ridicule and mocking have given cause to their disdain and disregard. We were fools for Christ, the filth of the world, and the offscouring of all things (1 Cor. 4:10-13). For what? For nothing. That is, if there is no resurrection.

Yes, Easter Sunday and April Fool’s Day rarely come together on the calendar, but we meet people every day that do not believe He is risen. To those who say, “There is no resurrection” the Bible declares that *“Christ is risen.”* No ifs, ands, or buts about it! Well, there is one but: *“But now Christ is risen from the dead.”* (1 Cor. 15:20a)

Because He is risen, we are assured of:

- His Person – He is declared to be the Son of God...by the resurrection (Rom. 1:3-4)
- His Power – He had power to lay down His life and He had power to take it again (John 10:18)
- His Promise – Because He lives, we will live also (John 14:19a)

Christ the Lord is risen indeed... No foolin’! 



Rex Trogdon and his wife Nancy were commended in 1983 and attend Believers Bible Chapel in NC. They served ten years in the DR Congo. Nancy has an email ministry called, Manna in the Morning. Rex is an elder, conference speaker, contributor to Choice Cleanings, and serves with Everyday Publications in an exciting new video ministry called, Feed My Sheep.

by Rex Trogdon



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Come and See

The Testimony of Ray Jones

"Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul."

Psalm 66:16

On the busy corner of St. Peters, in the town of Bedford, England, stands the statue of John Bunyan, author of Pilgrim's Progress. Behind him at his feet lies the "burden of sin" that had rolled from his back. I was born about a half mile from that spot, though many years later I hasten to add! My early years beginning during World War II were spent in a small village with my parents and two siblings. My godly mother made sure that we attended Sunday School and we would also attend the evening service in the small Baptist Chapel. It was a small work with no pastor or baptistry. The evening services were taken by different speakers from a variety of theological persuasions. I still remember many of the old hymns that we sang from Sankey's "Sacred Songs and Solos, 1200 Pieces." Chrissie, the organist, was totally blind but could play the vast majority of them without prompting. This she did while pumping the organ with her feet.

At the age of twelve I was taken to Harringay Arena in London to a Billy Graham Crusade. I, among many others, responded to the appeal but there was no marked change in my life. On October 15, 1957, the National Young Life Campaign (YLC), a youth work, brought the Billy Graham film "Oiltown USA" to our village as part of the Seven Villages Crusade. It was on that night that I trusted the Lord. The next day as I cycled to work I lighted my first cigarette, but for some reason simply threw it away. I had no idea why. After arriving I joined in with the usual bad language and crude talk, but suddenly felt inside that this was not right. As the day drew on I realized that something had happened in my life. Mercifully, the Lord by His grace, had positioned another believer in that same shop. Ken was a tremendous blessing to me in those early days and has remained a good friend over the years.

I joined the YLC and began to grow spiritually and serve the Lord. Their mottos were "My Utmost for His Highest" and "Every Campaigner a Soulwinner." I have since adopted "Every Saint a Soulwinner" as my personal

principle and practice. On Friday evenings there would be a fellowship meeting: Saturday 5:00PM tea; 6:00PM Bible Study; 7:00PM kneeling in prayer; and 8:00PM off to the market square to do open air preaching beneath the statue of John Howard, the famous prison reformer. Sundays would be spent travelling to various chapels where some would testify, sing, read, and preach. Vacations were spent at various coastal resorts running children's programs and preaching the gospel to the holiday makers.

In 1965, I married my beautiful wife. Carol was a State Registered nurse and we moved to Yorkshire in order to allow her to study midwifery. After a year we bought a new house in the small town of Garforth. There we began another YLC branch and continued with beach missions and other ministries. During this time the Lord gave us three beautiful children.

Later, the Lord impressed us with the need for a local church. Three couples and one faithful sister began Garforth Evangelical Church. We had little exposure to assemblies in England and what we did have wasn't exactly encouraging. On one occasion a good friend told me about his church where they had a completely separate time set aside for worship. As a believer that sounded good to me but I was quickly advised that I wouldn't be allowed in.

When we looked at Scripture for guidance we discovered a plurality of leadership, so we did that. Later on, when we saw that the saints met to break bread every week, we did that too. The fact is we didn't really know too much other than we were saved to serve and win souls. The work quickly grew and eventually the Lord raised up fifteen missionaries from that work.


I became very successful in my line of work, becoming the top sales manager in the United Kingdom. I loved my work and was approached by our international suppliers to consider joining them. This would have meant moving back south, international travel, and other exciting possibilities. But the Lord had other plans.

About three years after the work began with Garforth Evangelical Church, we invited a missionary from New Tribes Mission (NTM) to come for meetings over a weekend. On Friday evening there were about sixty people packed into the storage area of the grocery store that we used as a church. The missionary showed a film of the Ayore people in Bolivia. We had no idea that there were people in the jungles who had not heard the gospel. We immediately decided to go. Two friends who had been saved in our house decided to go as well. That was in September 1974. The following January, we all flew to an NTM training centre in Wisconsin to train for preaching the gospel in Bolivia. Our firm conviction was to go by faith alone. That being the case, we have resisted appealing for funds to this day and the Lord has faithfully provided. Our fourth precious child was added during this time.

After this, we went to NTM's language schools in Michigan and Missouri. Our dear friends eventually headed for Senegal and the Ivory Coast. Carol had suffered ill health for many years, it became evident that she would not do well in the jungle. It appeared that I had leadership skills so we ended up in Canada working at the NTM Canadian HQ and Missionary Training Centre in Durham, ON. For years, I taught New Testament Church Principles to missionary candidates, most of whom were unaware of the principles of leadership so clearly taught in the Word.

About three years after arriving in Canada, I had the privilege of speaking at the fiftieth wedding anniversary of a precious couple at Wallenstein Bible Chapel, Wallenstein, ON. Despite being fifty miles away we decided to attend there. At first, we just went to the Family Bible Hour but eventually were encouraged by a sister to attend the earlier Remembrance Meeting. The Lord taught us about remembering Him every week back in England, but this was wholly different and a wonderful experience. Although I was currently teaching missionary candidates on various subjects, when it came to teaching worship from the Word I was woefully lacking. Eventually the Lord opened my eyes that during this precious time Christ should be the focus under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I had been raised completely unaware of the preciousness and importance of the Remembrance Meeting and am deeply grieved to see it diminish among the Lord's people.

The saints at Wallenstein commended us to ministry in the early 1980's and I continued to teach, chair, and work within NTM. I had the joy of speaking in various countries until I left NTM, and am now actively involved in gospel work, an itinerant ministry among the assemblies, and serving as Vice Chairman on the board of Guelph Bible Conference Centre, Guelph, ON.

The Lord has led, guided, and provided over the years, and we can say as John Newton wrote: "through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come; His grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home." 



Ray and Carol Jones lived for many years in England and were involved with youth work, beach missions and establishing a local assembly. Serving with New Tribes Mission for 35 years, they taught New Testament Church principles to prospective missionaries preparing to reach remote people groups with the Gospel. They were commended by the Wallenstein Bible Chapel in 1981. Ray serves as Vice Chairman of Guelph Bible Conference Center, and is currently engaged in itinerant ministry, shepherding, bible studies, and conferences.

by Ray Jones

Report: From Legalism to Liberty

“Why Have You Delayed?” – Late 1970s

As I was concluding my short sermon, I noticed an elderly lady with tears rolling down her cheeks. I asked her if something was wrong? She answered, “Why have you delayed? If only you were here a few years ago. My father, my mother, my folks, all went to the furnace, without having a chance to hear this good news.”

So many thousands are still languishing in different communities under the oppressive spells of evil spirits, man-made traditions, many trying to deliver themselves from the unending cycles of birth by various religious rituals. They all continue to ask, albeit silently, “Why are you delaying?”

“From Every Tribe and Tongue” – Mid 1970s

I was working with Operation Mobilization (OM) preaching the gospel and distributing literature. We had reached a village where a fair was going on. Thousands had gathered, buying and selling cloths, tools, and produce. As usual, we sang a song, playing a solitary guitar. One of us gave a short message and soon afterwards we all jumped out of the truck carrying stacks of literature in our hands. I approached an elderly man with a red turban on his head. I offered him a gospel packet (a small plastic sachet containing one gospel, a couple of booklets, and a few tracts). Shaking his head, he said, in his own dialect, “No one here can read.” Of course, I did not speak his language.

That day I wrote in my journal, “Today I felt like someone witnessing a drowning scene. Here’s someone drowning in a river. Here I am standing on the shore, not being able to do anything, since I could not swim!”

“Lord how would they ever hear Your message of eternal love, unless someone goes and lives among them, learns their language, and translates the Word into their language, teaching them how to read it?” Then I could feel the Lord tapping on my shoulder, “How could they, unless you go? I have chosen and appointed you...”

Mawchi was the first language we began learning and translating the Bible into. Then, we began organizing an adult literacy program. After the literacy training was over, the first book to be given for reading was the gospel of

Mark. The story of the elderly lady is from one of these literacy classes.

After completing the Mawchi New Testament and portions of the Old Testament, we moved to the next people group called the Vasavi. As we lived in the village, learning and analyzing the language, people began to come to faith, and soon a small local assembly was planted. As the Bible translation progressed, the assembly began to grow amidst serious opposition. More people began to come forward as seekers, with more villages being reached. Now the Bible translation is being done by mother tongue speakers whom we have trained. The New Testament in both book and audio format is now available. Translation of the Old Testament is progressing rapidly. We would like to see the full Bible published soon. There are now 25 New Testament assemblies and to mold future leaders, we run a Bible school. However, there are still more villages who have never heard the gospel.

**Why have you
d e l a y e d ?**



Keeping the Meaning of the Word Intact – 2000s

I grew up reading the Bible in Malayalam, my mother tongue. There were times I had to refer to an English Bible to understand it. One of my close Hindu friends would tell me often, “I would like to read your Bible; but the language is so old that it takes research to understand what it actually means.”

That was when I decided that I should be making a new translation of the Bible in my mother tongue; in a style, idiom, and diction that accurately conveys the original meaning of God’s Word. About 10 years ago, Biblica (aka International Bible Society) asked me to spearhead some of their translation projects in South Asia. This included the Malayalam language! A team of translators were recruited and trained, mostly from the brethren assemblies. The full Bible was published in September 2021. Similar projects for other major languages are going on across South Asia. As a consultant I work with the translators, word by word, ensuring the intended meaning of our Lord’s Word is intact.

From Legalism to Liberty – The Beginning

As a first-born son to my ultra-Syrian Orthodox parents, I was consecrated to be a priest even before I was born. Attending every mass, performing all the rituals and sacraments, I assumed that I was on my way to heaven; until I was told by one of my Sunday School teachers that I also needed to have a personal relationship with the Lord. It sounded weird to me, a pious teenager. To my query, he replied I must confess that I was a sinner and believe that Christ died for my sins.


I said, “No way, I am not a sinner!” To me sin was drinking, smoking, cursing, fighting; none of which I had been doing. Then my Sunday school teacher gave me his Bible and asked me to read Matthew’s gospel chapters 5 to 7. When the Holy Spirit began to speak to me, I had no difficulty confessing my sins. He showed me that the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son can cleanse me of all my sins (1 John 1:7). So, I remember walking back home, elated, liberated, and feeling as if I was in the clouds. But I continued in the traditional church, and after my undergraduate studies, joined the theological seminary of the Orthodox church to become a priest.

Through my personal Bible study, I was beginning to feel that not everything that the church taught and practiced

had been according to the Scriptures. For instance, they believe that the Lord’s Table is a re-enactment of the Lord’s sacrifice. They use a Syriac term (KURBONO) which means a “sacrifice.” The teaching is that every time their “priest” conducts the Lord’s Table, they are actually re-crucifying the Lord.

My reading led me to the book of Hebrews. The opening verses of Hebrews chapter 9 describe the structure of the Tabernacle, the furniture thereof including the Ark of the Covenant. It tells us so vividly how the high priest enters the Holy of Holies, only once every year, with blood which he offers for himself and the people (Heb 9:7).

My eyes got stuck at the passage beginning with verse 11. “*But when Christ came as high priest of the good things to come... he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.*” That was sufficient for me and I decided that I could not continue with that denomination.

Leaving the seminary, my parents kicked me out of the house. While at OM I was introduced to the brethren assemblies and it was the love and fellowship of the brethren that attracted me. I met my wife, Susan, a minister’s daughter, at OM and together we have been serving our Lord for the last 40 years as fulltime commended assembly workers, looking to the Lord only for our sustenance. My family that disowned me for my faith are all now faithful believers and part of the assembly movement. Two of my brothers serve the Lord as fulltime commended workers and one is an elder. In their testimonies they claim that it was our love and fellowship that brought them to the truth. 



Dr. Mathew & Susan Varghese live in the central Indian city of Nagpur, in the state of Maharashtra. They have been married for 45 years and are blessed with a son and three daughters. They fellowship with the Grace Assembly there. His ministry includes Bible translation, training translators and translation consulting, along with the responsibilities in the local assembly and assemblies in the tribal area.

by **Mathew Varghese**

FOUNDATIONS

THE CHURCH AS A FORTRESS



When Naomi and I were engaged to be married, a brother in Christ offered us this advice: “The world will work relentlessly to separate you.” This warning alerted my wife and me to our need for constant maintenance of our relationship. Since the Scriptures use marriage as a picture of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22-33), it is unsurprising that the world assiduously seeks to divide us from the Lord and the local assembly. God’s tactic for keeping believers close to Himself depends on the fellowship that should thrive in His churches. Assemblies are designed to provide glory to God and solace and encouragement to His people.

Sharing in a Common Life

Believers share¹ in eternal life, which is an active relationship with God through His Son in the power of His Spirit (John 14:16-19; 17:3; 1 John 1:1-7). This life begins at conversion, but extends into eternity, because the Lord never deserts His people (Heb. 13:5-6). It is both eternal in quality and duration (2 Pet. 1:2-11). Being bound together by the bonds of divine love, Christians are commanded to love one another—an injunction empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 13:34-35; Gal. 5:22). This is the hallmark of their common life together.

Christians delight to be together, worshiping God and serving one another (Acts 2:42-47). As one mature saint told the newly-converted John Wesley: “You must find companions or make them. The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.”² The Church exists for this companionship.³ Another explains: “All Christians should have the benefit of being a member of a local church. The local church offers its own kind of fulfillment of Genesis 2:18: ‘It is not good that the man should be alone.’

The Christian may be an orphan in the world with no earthly family. He may not have a spouse, or he may lose the spouse he loved. The Christian may be ostracized by the culture for his beliefs. He may find himself surrounded by people of a completely different cultural background. But the Christian in covenant with a local church is never alone. As long as the church endures, which will be for all eternity, the Christian is always part of an 'us.' The local church takes the theory of Christianity and makes it tangible—in love, deed, and especially in prayer.⁴ Biblical metaphors such as the temple, the body, and the family emphasize the Church's corporate nature and unity (1 Pet. 2:4; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1; Eph. 3:15). The saints are meant to traverse life together, building one another up in the faith by their spiritual gifts and service (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4).

Good and Bad Separation


The Church is a people set apart from the world for God's pleasure. The common life of the saints is meant to foster sanctification. Put another way, believers pull away from what is evil, and gather around the living Lord in order to encourage, instruct, and comfort one another. They assist each other in burden-bearing and lovingly help in the "feet washing" work of maintaining personal purity in a defiling world (John 13:12-17; Gal. 6:1-5; Jas. 5:19-20). They also spur one another on in spiritual growth and service (Heb. 10:24-25). As a seventeenth-century saint wrote: "The coals that lie together in the hearth, you see how they glow and are fired, while the little coals that are fallen off, and lie by, separate from their company, are black without fire. If ever thou desirest to be zealous, make much of the fellowship of the saints."⁵ Separated from fellowship, wandering Christians can grow cold quickly; therefore, they must diligently seek involvement with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Of course, our arch-adversary the Devil seeks to divide the saints. Spurgeon noted this, saying: "Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in."⁶ The Corinthians experienced this dangerous declension, chasing after spiritual celebrities in a fleshly, sectarian manner that undermined the truth of the faith (1 Cor. 1:10-31). Later, it wrought disunity in the church where Diotrephes dominated the church as his own fiefdom (3 John 9-10).

Instead, believers should deny themselves and put their fellow-saints first (Phil. 2:1-4). The native atmosphere of the church is the unity of the Spirit, which believers are exhorted to maintain (Eph. 4:1-6). Romans 15:5-6 agrees: "Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." "Not I, but Christ and my brethren" is the proper motto of the saints.

A Fortress Against Spiritual Attack and Despondency

Amid a divisive, hopeless world, believers must redouble their participation in the fellowship of the Body of Christ. Body life is for spiritual growth, encouragement, collective strength, and—ultimately—for God's glory. The Church is "the pillar and ground of the truth," demonstrating the reality of the true God, as well as the redemption and the hope of the resurrection which He provides through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 3:15-16). It is "a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" providing a temple and priesthood for worshiping the Lord (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5-10). It is also the training ground for preparing believers to reign with Christ during the millennium, as well as the nursery for their growth in Christlikeness (1 Cor. 6:1-11; Eph. 4:11-16).

Physical circumstances and spiritual forces alike conspire to separate the saints. But they must use every opportunity to share in each other's lives. If physical meetings are thwarted, then technology can be of help (online meetings, e-mail, etc.). On the individual level, a phone call, text, or note may be exactly what is needed to inspire a disconsolate fellow-believer to look afresh to the Lord. Prayer for one another is more indispensable than ever in these difficult times. One could give up on gathering with other Christians, but that would shut one off from most of the divinely provided resources for our spiritual progress and strength. Like marriage, fellowship with God and His people is worth the ongoing effort. It will take work, but the Lord will certainly bless our efforts. 

Endnotes:

1. *The New Testament core idea of fellowship is "sharing" or "participating in."* See Strong's Concordance, Vine's Dictionary, Mounce's Dictionary, etc.
2. Augustine Birrell, *Letters of John Wesley*. (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1915), p.19
3. As one preacher expressed it: "How do the believers manifest this new life that they have received? And the answer is that they do so by gathering together. Now that they have come to believe in that way, the church is the central thing in their lives." D. M. Lloyd-Jones, *Setting Our Affections upon Glory*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), Kindle loc.: 725
4. John Onwuchekwa, *Prayer: How Praying Together Shapes The Church*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018), Kindle Loc. 711-717
5. William Fenner, *A Treatise of The Affections*. (London: 1642), p.83
6. C. H. Spurgeon, *Metropolitan Tabernacle* 11:602



Keith Keyser has served the Lord full-time in Bible teaching & preaching throughout the USA, Canada & other countries. Keith and his wife Naomi were commended to the Lord's work in 1999 and fellowship with the saints who meet in the Lord's name at Grace Gospel Chapel, Gilbertsville, PA.

by Keith Keyser

ISRAEL'S REPENTANCE HYMN

Isaiah 53 is the gospel in the Old Testament. Many Jews and most rabbis will not read it. In fact, they are forbidden to read it.¹ It concerns the vicarious sufferings and death of Jehovah's Servant who we know and believe is Christ Jesus, our Lord. As a nation the Jewish people have remained opposed to Jesus of Nazareth, and have rejected Him as a blasphemer. They handed Him over to Pilate saying "we will not have this Man to reign over us." However, the Bible says He is the King of the Jews! When asked Pilate declined the Jews' request to alter the inscriptions he had written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin to read "He said He is the King of the Jews." Without realizing it Pilate was aligning himself with the truth, after asking "what is truth?"

This fourth Song of the Suffering Servant actually begins with Isaiah 52:13 where it states that "My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high." These words are reminiscent of the description of the LORD Yahweh in Chapter 6, an allusion to the deity of the Servant, but then very suddenly switches to stating that many were to be appalled by the sight of Him as a man. It says that "His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men." This difficult to understand statement is to be followed by an even more startling, envy provoking statement:

*"So, shall He sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths at Him;
For what had not been told them they shall see,
And what they had not heard they shall consider."*

The suffering Servant shall sprinkle the nations (an obvious reference to Gentiles), as the priest sprinkled the blood of an animal sacrifice to cleanse or sanctify the person or object being sprinkled. Kings will be so surprised and flabbergasted at Him that they will not be able to speak a word. For what the kings have not thought of or imagined possible, they shall have to contemplatively accept the reality of the suffering Servant.

Then comes the opening question of Isaiah 53: "Who will believe our report" and to whom has the Arm (signifying Strength) of the LORD been revealed "(or disclosed to take cognitive notice of Jehovah's Intervention).²

It goes on to say that the Suffering Servant shall grow up before Jehovah God as a tender vulnerable plant, much like "a root" (it does not say sapling but a root, the source of a germinating plant) out of the dry and arid land of Israel. And when the people see Him, there will be nothing about Him that is physically attractive or desirous about Him. In

fact, He is a despised Person, and the people will hide their faces from looking at Him. They will shy away and distance themselves from Him.

He will be a Man full of sorrows and constantly filled with or acquainted with grief (due to the constant opposition and unbelief of His own people). Then, comes the dawning of the unsuspected, increasingly deepening realization that "Surely, He had borne our griefs" and "carried our sorrows" (as like a beast of burden on its back). But the penetrating, painful truth is that "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."


Who is the pronoun "we" and the possessive "our" referring to? Was the prophet Isaiah using the editorial plural pronoun or do these words refer to us believers living today and looking back in time? Both are plausible. But the author of this article strongly suggests that "we" and "our" refer to a repentant Israel when the nation as a whole as well as individual Jews realize that they crucified their Messiah and God!

Zechariah 12:10-14 foretold of that coming day that will soon approach:³

*"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; **then they will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, **every family by itself:** the family of the house of David by itself, **and their wives by themselves;** the family of the house of Nathan by itself, **and their wives by themselves;** the family of the house of Levi by itself, **and their wives by themselves;** the family of Shimei by itself, **and their wives by themselves;** all the families that remain, **every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.**"* (Emphasis given in bold).

Israel will be surrounded by enemies and the Lord Jesus shall return, His feet touching the Mount of Olives causing the land to split into two. The people shall see Jesus and recognize the One who was rejected and crucified, because His crucifixion wounds will still be visible. They will realize for the first time as a nation and individually, that Jesus whom they had crucified about 2000 years ago, is alive and is indeed their Messiah and Savior. He will save them from their enemies, and, stunningly, sorrowfully, and later joyfully realize that He

is their LORD JEHOVAH. The ancient words of Isaiah chapter 53, by the wondrous working of the Spirit of grace and supplication, will be on their minds, hearts, and lips.

These are the words of a people looking back in history and speaking in the past perfect tense, with deep conviction and true repentance. There shall be a great mourning as Zechariah predicted: "Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." Their godly sorrow which leads to repentance, will turn to joy. They shall then know that the suffering Servant is the same "Strong Arm" of the Lord who delivered them from Egypt and opened the Red Sea, leading the Israelites across on dry land. What was forbidden and taboo will be the national and personal hymn of repentance to the glory of God because it is borne out of genuineness. 

Endnotes

1. R.L. Solberg, *Isaiah 53 - The Forbidden Chapter*.
2. "The Lord has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nation and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God (Isa. 52:10)." With a strong hand and an outstretched arm "describes God's use of his power

on behalf of Israel, particularly in Exodus 6:6, Deuteronomy 4:34; 5:15; 7:19; 9:29; 11:2; 26:8; Psalms 136:12; 2 Kings 17:36; Jeremiah 21:5; 27:5; 32:17; Ezekiel 20:33; 20:34; 2 Chronicles 6:32.

3. The speaker in first person is Yahweh throughout Zechariah chapters 12 to 14. Quoted in Revelation 1:7.
4. See John McArthur, *Substituted Servant, Parts 1 & 2 (Isaiah 53:4-6)* (YouTube); Steve Kreloff, *Isaiah 53 and Israel's Repentance* (YouTube); David Baron, *Exposition of Isaiah 53 (1922) Chapter 2, Penitent Confession: The History of Israel*



PT Tan and his wife Juio fellowship with the New Hampshire Avenue Gospel Chapel in Silver Spring, Maryland where he had served as an elder for over 30 years and President of the board of trustees for over 20 years. A retired attorney, PT practiced law as a partner of a few large international law firms for over 30 years in Washington, DC. He is currently on the boards of Bible Conferences Corporation and Cornerstone Magazine, Inc.

by **PT Tan**

Homecall Arnot McIntee

On December 28, 2021, the Lord called home a man whose ministry was widely appreciated by so many across North America and in other parts of the world. Arnot McIntee, born in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada on December 9, 1924, completed his earthly sojourn in his 98th year on December 28, 2021.

In addition to having been an elder at the Scottlea Gospel Chapel for over 40 years, he had a wide international ministry in radio, camp, and itinerant conference speaking. He was a multi-gifted brother in both personal work in evangelism and shepherding as well as an outstanding gospel preacher and Bible teacher. He was known and loved by young and old alike.

He trusted Christ on February 27, 1944, while attending a gospel meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he was stationed as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. After that he never looked back spiritually and became an energetic Christian.

In addition to full time employment as a high school teacher and later college administrator, he was the President and radio voice of the Family Bible Hour (now FBH International). During his term in that ministry, Arnot produced a weekly radio broadcast of gospel preaching heard on stations across North America and through translation services of international broadcasters was also heard in China, India, Africa, and South America.



Another sphere of service was Camp Li-Lo-Li near Salamanca, New York where he directed youth and family camps for 60 years. In addition, he was sought after by other camps as a family camp speaker.

He was still preaching until his early 90's with great power and ability. He mentored young men on preaching and was a shepherd of shepherds. During the last two years, while laid up after falling and compressing a vertebra in his back, he continued his work on his YouTube channel.

One of his famous lines in preaching was "Go for the gold!" He encouraged us all to take the Christian life seriously and to enthusiastically go in for that which Christ intends for every Christian.

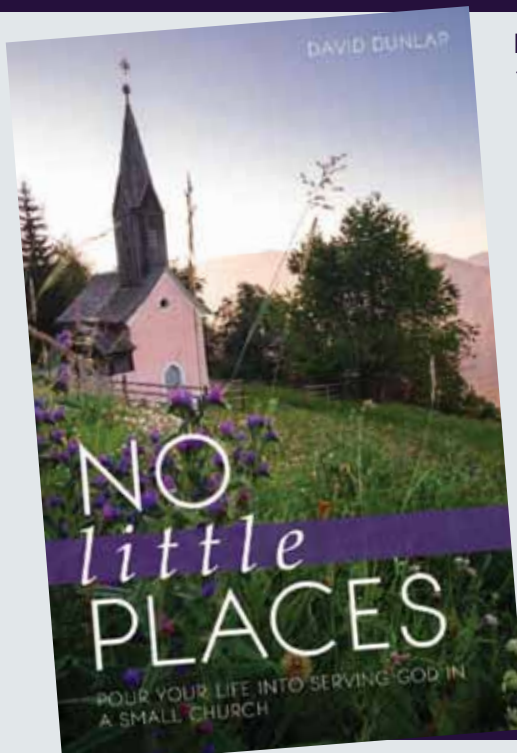
Arnot was predeceased by his wife Helen, a faithful co-laborer with him, in February 2007. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, David and Joanne Littlefield, of Kansas City, and son and daughter in law, Allan and Betsy McIntee, of St. Catharines, as well as six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Arnot always signed his correspondence with "yours awaiting the shout!" He encouraged us all to live considering that coming day. We will miss our brother Arnot McIntee.

—Brian Gunning

No Little Places

Pour Your Life into Serving God in a Small Church by David Dunlap



Is a big church really more effective than a small church?

This is one of the Devil's great lies. God has designed small New Testament churches to be among His most powerful weapons in reaching the world for Christ. Small churches are faith action teams that impact the world for Christ. Christians think that the pastor or church leader is to do all the preaching, serving, teaching, and worshiping, while everyone else just stands idly by. There is nothing further from the truth!

This is a book that challenges that conventional thinking and dares you to get involved in a small church. Christians are believer-priests that worship, witnesses that reach the lost, teachers that instruct, and laborers that work as the Lord directs. There is no better place to be stretched by God. There is no better place to grow spiritually.

I dare you to pour yourself into the work of a small assembly and make an impact for eternity!

The topics discussed include:

- I Dare You to Get Involved in a Small Assembly
- No More Casual Prayer
- Worship and the Lord's Supper
- The Challenge of Personal Evangelism.

Available from Gospel Folio Press · www.gospelfolio.com
or David Dunlap · daviddunlap100@gmail.com

"If you like a book that will challenge you, then this is the book for you. David Dunlap, in his book *No Little Places*, take our conventional wisdom and the usual way of thinking and puts it under the searching glare of Scripture. This book I believe is a wake-up call. And it helpfully shows us how to make needed corrections. I ask you to consider reading this book prayerfully." —Brian Gunning, Elder at Brockview Bible Chapel, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Hickory Knob Bible Conference

March 25-27, 2022 Hickory Knob State Park Resort McCormick, SC

Who Can Attend

This conference is for anyone, but especially for those who love the outdoors.

Location

Hickory Knob State Resort Park,
1591 Resort Dr., McCormick, SC 29835

Visit their website at: southcarolinaparks.com/hickory-knob

Accommodations

You have to contact Hickory Knob and reserve your own space. Our contact is Ms. Tracy Meehan and her phone number is 864-391-2454. Her email is tmeehan@scprt.com. Tracy has a number of campsites, cabins and rooms on hold for a "first come, first served" basis. If Tracy is not available, you can speak to any reservation host but reference Summerville Bible Fellowship.

Speaker

Mr. Larry Price will be our speaker for the four formal conference sessions. We have secured the Conference Center on the campus grounds to host our sessions. 1 Friday evening; 2 on Saturday, and 1 on Sunday.

Cost

To cover the cost of renting our conference space there will be a charge of \$15 per person for all attendees 5 years old and up. Once you have secured your reservation with Hickory Knob State Resort Park, please mail a check for the charge stated above to Skip Elliott, PO Box 3135, Summerville, SC 29484. An offering will be collected on Sunday morning to fellowship with our speaker and defray other conference costs.

If you have any questions please contact Skip Elliott at 843-607-6990 or email skip@elliottmarketingllc.com.

ISSUES *and* ANSWERS

"Search The Scriptures..." John 5:39

Does Hebrews 10:26-27 teach that we can lose our salvation?

Verses 26-31 reads: *"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* (NKJV)

Though some commentators believe this is speaking of apostates who were never saved, the writer of this column believes the Hebrews' writer is exhorting true Jewish believers in Christ (3:1,6; 5:12; 6:9; 10:10) not to return to the Mosaic Law. They had been sanctified (v. 29) and were God's people (v. 30). But out of fear of persecution, they were being tempted to forsake their public identification with Christ (10:23-25).

An illustration is made to the Old Testament Law where there were no sacrifices prescribed for intentional sins such as pre meditated murder, adultery, and idolatry (Ex. 21:12-14; Num. 15:27-31; 35:30-34; Deut. 17:2-6). In Old Testament times, the Israelite's penalty for these sins was death (Heb. 10:28).



The sacrifices, the feasts, the tabernacle, and temple had all pointed to Christ. These New Testament believers were well aware that Christ's one-time sacrifice for sins had completely fulfilled the Mosaic Law. He had now replaced the Mosaic Law as their new rule of life. Having received full knowledge of the truth (even more so after reading this letter), should these believers still intentionally defect back to the Mosaic Law, they could expect God's chastisement.

To return back to the Law would be tantamount to publicly treating the triune God's redemptive work with contempt. It would demonstrate ingratitude to the Father for the gift of His Son. Reverting back to the Old Testament would treat Christ's holy blood as a common thing, no different than anyone else's blood. It would insult the Holy Spirit who had

regenerated them, who was presently teaching them the things of Christ, and who was in the process of sanctifying them. Though saved eternally, if they willfully chose this course, there was no Old Testament sacrifice that could prevent God from punishing them on earth.

The writer quotes two Old Testament verses to show that God reserves the right to judge His people (Deut. 32:35-36; Heb. 10:30). He judges and disciplines the wayward Christian as a loving Father to draw them back to Himself in repentance (Heb. 12:5-11). When the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and God's Word reveals sin in our lives we must judge ourselves, confessing and forsaking it before God, so that He will not need to judge us. When a believer persistently rejects the chastening of the Lord, He sometimes takes them home early to prevent any further harm to His Name (1 Cor. 11:30-32; 1 John 5:16-17).

Should these Jewish believers permanently desert back to the Law, God's judgment upon them was certain and it could involve their death.

However, their salvation was eternally secured and kept by Christ. It is the same for us today. Since Scripture affirms the believer's eternal security in numerous passages, we know these verses cannot teach that one can be saved today and then lost tomorrow (ex. John 10:28-30; 17:12,24; Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5). Salvation is a work of God and He has the power, desire, and will to complete His work and fulfill His eternal purposes in every believer.  

Endnotes

1. See cornerstonemagazine.org/webinars or *Cornerstone Conferences* YouTube channel for our latest webinar "Safe in Christ" that addresses the topic of eternal security with other difficult passages (Heb. 6:4-6; 2 Pet. 2:20-21; Gal. 5:4; etc.).



George Ferrier is a full-time worker commended by Bridlewood Bible Chapel (Ottawa, ON). In addition to itinerant preaching and teaching at assemblies and conferences in North America and overseas, he is on the board of Cornerstone Magazine Inc. where he also serves as assistant editor. He lives in Southern Ontario.

by **George Ferrier**

News & Notices



Men's Standfast Conference Saturday March 12, 2022

Know the Word Ministries will be hosting their annual Standfast Conference for Men Lord willing, on Saturday March 12, 2022. It will be held at Woodside Chapel in Fanwood, NJ from 9:30AM - 12:30PM, with a lunch meal to follow. Speakers: Sam Thorpe (GA) and Mark Kolchin (NJ). This is an in-person conference also available on YouTube. To register for meal purposes, and for further details, email knowtheword@gmail.com.

Feeding the Flock 2022 March 14-17, 2022

Know the Word will also be holding their annual Feeding the Flock conference, Monday March 14 - 17th, 2022. America's Keswick, a deluxe conference center located in Whiting, in Ocean County NJ will be the location. The cost for this four-day event is just \$250 per person. This is a general conference open to all. Speakers are either in-person or online and include; Mike Attwood, Warren Henderson, Keith Keyser, Gary McBride, Sam Thorpe and others. For more details, email knowtheword@gmail.com.

Authentic Faith Conference **Youth Conference**

Land O' Lakes Bible Chapel (Tampa, FL area)
1209 Livingston Road, Lutz, FL 33549
Saturday March 26, and Sunday March 27

All young people 13 years old and above are invited to attend the conference with the theme verse "I am reminded of your authentic faith..." (2 Timothy 1:5, CEB). There will be two main sessions and four breakout sessions during the weekend. A number of gifted speakers have been invited to minister the Word. Meals will be provided and overnight accommodations are available. There is no cost to attend. To register go to their website: www.walkworthyweekend.com. For more information please contact David Dunlap at daviddunlap100@gmail.com or 813-494-1680 or Edgard Carvalho at carvalhoeddie@gmail.com.

15th Annual Ladies Conference Central Bible Chapel 3270 Main Street, Millbrook, AL Saturday April 9, 2022

The speaker for the 15th Annual Ladies Conference held at Central Bible Chapel will be Susie Sullivan. The one day conference will be from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. For more information contact Scott Leach at scottleach@bellsouth.net or by mail at PO Box 1415, Millbrook, AL 36054.

77th Annual Bible Conference May 7-8, 2022

Lake Park Chapel, 201 Schlieff Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Come join them for a spiritually refreshing weekend in God's Word from May 7-8, 2022. The meetings will begin on Saturday May 7 at 3:30 p.m. Bob Brown from Slidell, LA will be the speaker, DV. For more information please contact Ray Cummings at 103 Dickson Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70037, or 504-239-7068 or 504-393-7083, or lakeparkchapel@att.net.

Skyland Bible Conference July 2-8, 2022

Bluefield College 3000 College Drive Bluefield, VA 24605
The 66th annual Skyland Bible Conference will be held at Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia. The conference is known for its in-depth Bible teaching, friendly fellowship, and outstanding activities for all ages both on and off the campus. *** Check-in at the conference is 3:00 pm on Saturday, July 2 - PLEASE NO CHECK-INS BEFORE 3:00 PM. ***
Continuing the tradition of excellent Bible teaching, the speakers for the 2022 conference will be Joe Reese, Steve Price and Nate Bramsen. If you are looking for a spiritually enriching vacation, this is your best choice. A conference for the whole family. Receive spiritual edification, renew acquaintances and make new ones, enjoy varied activities for all ages, see the sites around Southwestern Virginia. More information can be found at www.skylandbible.org or contact Mark Petry at 336-923-1030 or mpetrync@gmail.com.

Homecall • Jim McKendrick

Jim McKendrick Jr. passed into the presence of the Lord on September 4, 2021. He was 78 years old. Jim was born in Chicago and on March 18, 1951, trusted the Lord as his



personal Savior. After graduating from the University of Iowa, he had several job assignments which led to moving several times. During these travels, he found himself in different assemblies where he got involved in Sunday school, young people Bible studies and adult Bible studies in his home. Jim and June were married 57 years. They have one son, three grandchildren two of which are married and one

great granddaughter. Jim loved his family, young people, books, preaching and teaching the Word of God. He was a blessing to all who knew him.

—Penny DeFouw

New Cornerstone Magazine Webinar

Check out our latest webinar "Safe in Christ" as Mike Attwood and Mark Kolchin addresses the important topic of the believer's eternal security in Christ. View it on our website cornerstonemagazine.org/webinars or on Cornerstone Conferences YouTube channel.

Home Health Aide Needed

A senior commended worker, whose wife has a long term illness, is looking for care, companionship and help with routine household duties. Someone is needed who can provide a friendly presence and share in cooking, cleaning, laundry, and errands. A believer with a helping heart is desired. Knowledge of geriatric care or even nursing skill would be a plus (although not required). Ample space in the home is available for the ideal person willing to reside with this couple. Someone willing to stay nearby and visit on a reliable schedule may also work out. A stipend may be available or, if preferred, fellowship gifts as God provides. Location of need is Connecticut. If interested please email Assembly Care Ministries at info@assemblycare.org with your name, phone number and any qualifications you'd wish to describe. Someone will get in touch with you.

Emmaus Worldwide Employment Opportunities

Emmaus Worldwide is strengthening and adding to our support team as we enter new venues to grow and expand our ministry. Visit <https://emmausworldwide.org/pages/employmentopportunities> for more information.

Fellowship Bible Chapel

4960 Royal Gulf Circle,
Fort Myers, FL 33966

Fellowship Bible Chapel is a meeting of believers gathering to the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ in Fort Myers, FL. Visitors to their area are welcome to join them to remember our Lord, and be encouraged in the ministry of His Word. For information please visit <http://www.FellowshipBibleChapelFL.org>.

New Assembly in Tomball, TX

A new assembly in the Houston area would like to welcome all in fellowship with a commendation letter from their previous assembly. Their meeting times: Breaking of Bread Sunday 9:30AM; Sunday Evening Service 7:00PM; Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study 7:00PM. For more information contact E. Frank Detwiler at 979.922.3837.

New Assembly Newsletter

Moderated by Spencer Letts. Assembly Newsletter purposes include: publicizing special meetings and conferences, assembly needs, commended workers' news, commendations, prayer requests, obituaries, and location of assemblies. Sign up at www.assemblylife.org/newsletter. Email notices to newsletter@assemblylife.org.

Do you have a conference, event, or service opportunity you wish to advertise in Cornerstone Magazine?

Submit online: cornerstonemagazine.org or by email: news@cornerstonemagazine.org



An Invitation and Call to Prayer in 2022

"If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face"

2 Chronicles 7:1

Since 2015, believers from North America have joined from various locations both nationally and globally to seek the face of God for revival in our churches and a spiritual awakening among the lost. After two years of praying together online, we wish to extend a personal invitation for you to join us in person this year in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

We urge you to prayerfully consider participating in the Week of Prayer in one of the following ways:

- ⇒ Attend in person at Boulevard Bible Chapel
- ⇒ Host a group that will meet daily to pray either in person or online
- ⇒ Join a group to pray daily either in person or online



April 25-29, 2022

Boulevard Bible Chapel
Pembroke Pines, FL

For more information or to contact us with any questions, visit our website:
www.naweekofprayer.com

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/naweekofprayer



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A Very Present Help

ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

PSALM 46:1

He's *helping* me now—*this moment*,
Though I may not see it or hear,
Perhaps by a friend far distant,
Perhaps by a stranger near,
Perhaps by a spoken message,
Perhaps by the printed word,
In ways that I know and know not
I have the help of the Lord.

He's *keeping* me now—*this moment*,
However I need it most,
Perhaps by a single angel,
Perhaps by a mighty host,
Perhaps by the chain that frets me,
Or the walls that shut me in,
In ways that I know and know not,
He keeps me from harm and sin.

He's *guiding* me now—*this moment*,
In pathways easy or hard,
Perhaps by a door wide open,
Perhaps by a door fast barred,
Perhaps by a joy withholden,
Perhaps by a gladness given,
In ways that I know and know not,
He's leading me up to heaven.

He's *using* me now—*this moment*,
And whether I go or stand,
Perhaps by a plan accomplished,
Perhaps when He stays my hand,
Perhaps by a word in season,
Perhaps by a silent prayer,
In ways that I know or know not,
His labor of love I share.