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# THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE LORD

NOVEMBER, 1966

TEN CENTS

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# SECOND FIDDLE

By Evangelist WILLARD CANTELON

**M**Y HUSBAND HAS NEVER HAD TO PLAY SECOND fiddle to any man," said a little lady, her lips trembling with emotion. Her statement was made in the presence of a group of ministers and their wives seated around the table in the dining room of a campground. The lady who made the remark felt her husband wasn't being given enough public recognition.

Almost unconsciously I began to meditate on the term, *second fiddle*, and my heart became remarkably stirred by the virtue of this individual who seldom has a prominent place in the eyes of men—but who is indispensable in the Kingdom of God.

If the poet's words are true, "It takes more grace than I can tell to play the second fiddle well," then the second-fiddle man must possess the one virtue most highly emphasized in the Scriptures. For the first word that flowed from Paul's pen in writing to the churches is the word, "*Grace* be unto you."

Of his own ministry the apostle simply said, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10). In measuring greatness there is only one true balance, the Word of God, even as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:3,4: "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment. . . . He that judgeth me is the Lord."

I decided to walk down the corridors of God's Word in search of the second fiddle. It wasn't easy to see beyond the bright light of public opinion which fell with such a blaze upon the well-known individuals on the front lines; but as I gazed into the shadows, I became greatly inspired by the acts of men whose names are seldom heard and whose deeds are often forgotten. You cannot appreciate these behind-the-scenes men if you stay on the well-worn path of public opinion; you must leave the crowd and travel the narrow path which causes one to weigh greatness in the light of God's Word and eternity.

How many songs have been sung about David! How many sermons have been preached about the shepherd lad who became king! While David becomes the theme of sermon and song, few of us look beyond the splendor of his throne into the shadows and see the young prince Jonathan who was responsible for much of David's success.

Jonathan was born in the palace, and every drop of blood in his veins was royal blood. By virtue of birth and character, he had every legal and logical right to be king. His father had been anointed king over Israel; and as this son of the king grew into young manhood, he became a giant in moral and spiritual courage.

How many times the story has been told of David slaying Goliath in the valley of Elah! How few times has the story been told of Jonathan killing 20 Philistines! David fought in the valley; Jonathan and his armor-bearer climbed up the rocks on hands and knees to meet and conquer the foe! David had the backing of an army; Jonathan had with him only a lad to whom he whispered the words, "There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." That lad carrying Jonathan's armor

felt as secure with his master as he would with the armies of Israel.

David killed one giant; Jonathan, under more difficult circumstances, killed 20. Then why is the story of David's victory over Goliath told so often while Jonathan's greater victory is mentioned so seldom? The answer may be based on one fact: David slew the giant in the presence of thousands who later sang his praise; Jonathan slew his 20 in the presence of one lad.

Let men talk about the beauties of David's throne or the splendor of Solomon's palace! Perhaps the queen of Sheba did marvel at the display of riches and glory that surrounded Solomon, and multitudes did sing the praises of David. But where can anyone find a nobler act than the one recorded in 1 Kings 18:4, where Jonathan, the heir to the throne, divested himself of the royal robes and wrapped them around a shepherd lad? Jonathan, the warrior, unbuckled his girdle which carried his beloved weapons and fastened the same upon David his friend. Jonathan was perfectly satisfied to let another wear the royal robes and sit upon the throne, while his own life of service flowed on unbroken as a river of loyalty and love.

What did such sacrifice earn for him? From his father there came a volley of hatred and rebuke. Did Jonathan cease his service because of the father's rebuke? Ah, no; he did not serve for the praise of man, so he went on faithfully serving the father who denounced him for stepping from the limelight. Paul said in Philippians 2:4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." How few obey this command today; it was the same in Paul's day, for in the same chapter he wrote in verse 21, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." Surely it does "take more grace than one can tell to play the second fiddle well."

But how did Jonathan's life conclude? What is the final chapter of this thrilling story of one of the greatest second fiddles in the sacred Book? The closing scene in the drama of his life may be told in a few words: he went down fighting. There are no details, no glamor. The Bible simply says, "And the Philistines slew Jonathan." He died fighting beside a father whose jealous rebuke could not destroy his loyalty. He died fighting for a throne he himself did not expect to inherit. He might have sat on it had he not willingly stepped aside in favor of the shepherd lad.

David, the sweet singer of Israel, the writer of the Psalms, the king who planned the temple and ruled in regal splendor, has been the inspiration for sermons and songs through the centuries; but it was Jonathan who placed the royal robe upon his shoulders; it was Jonathan who girded him with weapons.

Have you ever listened to the cry that fell from David's lips when he learned that Jonathan was gone? "O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful" (2 Samuel



1:25, 26). David closed his utterance with the statement, "the weapons of war perished." This may seem a strange climax to David's utterance, but David had not forgotten that Jonathan was the one who had placed the weapons in his hands (1 Samuel 18:4).

While the world goes on praising the deeds and acts of men who have done great things before the eyes of the multitude, God remembers those behind the scenes who have made the others great.

There might never have been a Joseph, a prime minister of Egypt, savior of his people, if there had not been a Reuben who had enough courage and kindness to withstand his brethren in the desert, thereby sparing the life of his brother.

There might never have been a Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt had it not been for a little sister who, at the risk of her life, sat by the riverside to watch over her baby brother who was under the sentence of death.

There might never have been a Peter to preach the sermon at Pentecost and to write some epistles, had it not been for that quiet brother of his, Andrew; for Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.

I speak as an evangelist whose life is lived in the eyes of the public. Each passing year, I am becoming more conscious of the virtues and ministries of the men behind the scenes. Many of these names are never known to man and never will be known until God opens the books at the end of life's day.

Who can tell me the name of the servant girl who testified to Mrs. Naaman and was influential in bringing about the healing of the chief captain of Syria. No one

knows her name; all we know is that she was carried into a strange land, and that, although she lost her father and mother and home, she never lost her faith in God. Her life was so consistent that her testimony carried weight and brought about the healing and conversion of one of the greatest men of the day. Such names as Elisha's will always be quoted; but as long as this thrilling story is told, there is one key personality who will never be described in any more specific terms than merely "a little maid."

Who can tell me the name of the lad who brought his loaves and fishes to Jesus? He was only one among the thousands who sat that day in a desert place and listened to the Master. When Philip, the evangelist, had carefully calculated that 200 pennyworth of bread could scarcely feed the multitude and others had decided they did not possess so great a sum, a little lad came to Jesus with his lunch. Philip's name was mentioned in the story, and all he contributed was a list of figures! Philip's name was mentioned because he was a well-known personality, but the name of the lad who really brought the food we never will know until we get to heaven.

There never would be a preacher behind the pulpit were it not for the loyal service of those who build the church and provide the pulpit. There never would be a missionary on the field were it not for the sacrifices of the unseen laymen who have placed the missionary there. There would be few sinners at the church altar seeking Christ were it not for the faithfulness of those unseen personal workers who speak the word that causes the wanderers to come to God's house.

As an evangelist, I speak from experience. How many times friends have gathered around the close of victorious services and have praised the evangelist for the message that brought souls to the altar. And while the words were still being uttered, I could look into the audience and see the one who had brought the sinner to the house of God and had prayed along the way for his salvation.

We speak so much of Peter who preached at Pentecost and brought 3,000 souls to Jesus, but there were 11 others who stood up with him that day to witness to the multitude.

If a second fiddle is the one who is willing to take the place behind the scenes, like Jonathan, and let others wear the royal robes and the crown and receive the cheers from the crowd, then I must say with the poet, "It takes more grace than I can tell to play the second fiddle well."

When we use the term *second fiddle* to refer to a position despised by men, it is well to remember there will be no second fiddles in Glory. If we labor to be seen by men, said Jesus, then we shall have no reward in heaven. But the one who prays in secret and gives in secret will one day be rewarded openly. While men talk of numbers and success, God talks of faithfulness. "It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."

We will be rewarded according to our faithfulness; let no one forget it! "Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Corinthians 3:8). The splendors of the eternal Kingdom will take second place to the glory of the Master's words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." David's greater Son will say to every faithful Jonathan, "Thy love to Me was wonderful."

## Two Bad Words

WE CALL THE BIBLE "the Good Word," and rightly so, for it is the Word of God and its message is good; but it also contains for our admonition some words that are bad. Two such words are used in 2 Timothy 3:2 where it warns us that in the last days men shall be "unthankful, unholy."

It is not by accident that these two words are next to each other, for they have a definite connection. The person who is unholy is unthankful for his blessings, and the one who is unthankful is likely to become unholy. For if we do not acknowledge our debt to the Giver of every good gift, we are not likely to obey His commands concerning holy living.

Ingratitude is the great spoiler. It destroys human happiness on earth and if admitted to heaven would surely spoil that life also. But there will be no ungrateful souls in paradise. Neither the unholy nor the unthankful will enter the city of God, for the chief occupation of its citizens is to worship the Lord and praise Him for ever and ever.

Solemn indeed is the warning given in Romans 1:21. We are told that the people of old, when they knew God, fell from His favor through ingratitude. They "glorified him not as God, neither were thankful." Therefore God's wrath was turned toward them and He gave them up to every vile sin imaginable. As it was in those days, so shall it be in the last days: men shall be "unthankful, unholy."

But how can we be unthankful if we enjoy the blessings of salvation? How can we, who have tasted the joys of redemption, fail to thank our Redeemer every day for the grace and love He has shown us? As an African said: "The story of Jesus is my hymn, my prayer, my Bible. I weep over it when I can't sing about it, and I sing over it when I can't weep about it. I thank God for it from the sole of my foot to the top of my head."

And as the Psalmist said: "My soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation" (Psalm 35:9). "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 107:1).

Always and in all things we should be thankful. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

Both in private and in public we should praise Him. Daniel had a thanksgiving service three times a day in his bedroom. "He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before God" (Daniel 6:10). David praised the Lord in public services. He said, "I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people" (Psalm 35:18).

There are so many things for which we should give thanks. The gift of a Saviour is one: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). Deliverance from every sin is another: "Who shall deliver me...? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:25). Spiritual victories always call for thanksgiving: "Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14). So do temporal blessings, such as meat: "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:4).

So the Psalmist exhorts us: "Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness" (Psalm 97:12). Remember His blessings and remember His holiness. Always be thankful, and it is likely to follow that we shall always be holy too.

—R.C.C.

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THE BEST OF HUMAN STANDARDS ARE RELATIVE, CONTRADICTORY,  
AND CLOUDED BY SIN. THEY ARE ALL TOO LOW.

# A Righteousness That

# Will Stand

WHEN CALVIN COOLIDGE returned from a Sunday morning service in Vermont, his wife asked what the minister preached about. Coolidge not given to profuse wordiness, replied, "Sin."

"But what did he say about it?" persisted his wife.

"He was against it," answered Mr. Coolidge.

The tragedy of America today is that the great majority of her preachers and teachers are no longer "against sin." Expedience, custom, and common conscience have become the standards for human action. But God hates sin!

When I graduated from high school, our principal took the boys aside for a little fatherly talk. He said that the day was gone when people could be kept in line and scared into doing right by talk of heaven and hell. He said we must find some other means of moral guidance, some other standards than those of the Bible. He failed, however, to make any very satisfactory suggestions. When he had finished, he had only succeeded in admitting that the modern attempt to ignore sin had only rendered sin more rampant and ravaging, more of a pressing problem than ever before.

While teaching ethics I was further impressed by the contradictory nature of human standards of conduct. Customs change. Unforeseen circumstances arise. Things proper in one part of the world are considered wrong somewhere else. We in America are shocked when we read of the Hindu mother who looks first at her sickly child, then at the robust one, and then throws the well child into the Ganges River to appease her god, as her conscience tells her she must do.

What is wrong with the standards of the world? When a 200-inch telescope was built, it could not be placed on famed Mt. Wilson. Although Mt. Wilson was a mile high, the smoke and the fog of about 40 cities below clouded the atmosphere. So the great mirror was finally set up in the high, clear air of Mt. Palomar. The best of human standards are relative, contradictory, and clouded by sin. They are all *too low*.

Only God's Word gives us an absolute and unchanging standard for ethics and for human conduct. Here it is in Matthew 5:48: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Now the universal human reaction to this standard is that it is *too high*. But is it really too much to ask that man, the image and likeness of God, reflect the character of his Creator?

Look at the genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew. Did you ever notice that all four women mentioned either were foreigners or had some kind of disgrace connected with them? Jesus was not born with a specially protected heredity. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is a horrible heresy, for it makes it impossible for Jesus to be truly touched by the feeling of our infirmities.

Notice also that the environment of Jesus was that of



By STANLEY M. HORTON

any ordinary child of the poorer classes in Palestine. Through heredity and environment Jesus faced life as we must face it. He was in all points tempted or tested just as we are, *yet without sin*.

Thus by His sinless life Jesus showed what the image of God is capable of. He used nothing for Himself that is not available to every Christian—prayer, the Word of God, and the power of the Spirit. No longer can we use the old excuse that we are doing "the best we can." For Christ has condemned sin in the flesh, and we are without excuse.

The church at Thyatira used its good works as an excuse for tolerating false doctrine and sin. But God's holy character cannot excuse your sin on the basis of the good in your life. You will not accept a glass of milk because it was 99 percent good milk and only 1 percent arsenic. Sin is the poison that has caused all the death in the world. If you say, "You know I am only human!" when confronted with your gossip, criticism, or other sins, you only apply a salve to your conscience that cannot heal.

Does it seem hopeless? Just remember that Jesus not only showed us how far short we fall of the capabilities God created within us; He not only showed what the

image of God can do; He also showed what God Himself can do. The love and grace of God are revealed in Christ. On the cross He became our sin offering and then arose in victory to glorious new life.

One of the great works of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ in us; to give us His new life, not a reform. So often when men reform they merely turn over a new page in the same old book.

Paul knew what that meant. If anyone could have had any dependence on heredity, environment, and training, it should have been Paul. But he counted all the good things of his old life mere refuse to be swept out with the trash so he might stand, not in his own righteousness but in the righteousness of Christ which is by faith.

The Scriptures tell us that our own righteousness is as filthy rags. I once quoted this verse in a sermon outline I handed in to a professor of an interdenominational school known as fundamental. He returned it with a note that I had better not use that verse because good church people do not like to be told that the good things they are doing are filthy rags in the sight of God!

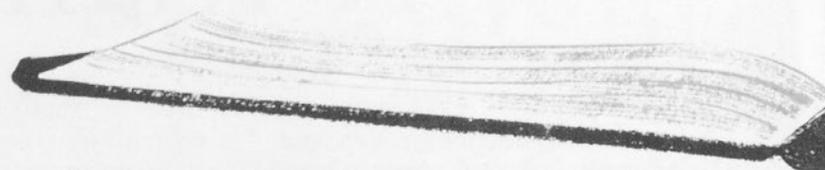
In one of our Bible institutes, it fell my lot to organize the library and to classify and catalog the books. I will never forget the little note that came with the catalog cards we ordered: "These cards are made from all new rags. If soiled rags were to be used, the fibers would be weakened in the process of bleaching, and it is necessary that library catalog cards be made to stand up for a long time."

Hallelujah! Christ gives us a righteousness that will stand up for eternity—a salvation that lasts, and lasts forever! The Holy Spirit brings us eternal life *in Christ*.

A man had a dream in which he found himself mired in a deep, dark pit with slippery sides that made it impossible for him to climb out. In his despair he looked upward and saw a bright star. As he gazed upon it, he felt himself begin to rise. But as he turned his eyes away in an attempt to scramble to safety, he slipped down to the bottom again. Learning the lesson, he fixed his eyes once more upon the star, and soon felt his feet on solid ground.

Christ is our Star, our Dayspring from on high. We are changed from one degree of glory to another as we behold *His* face.

# CHURCH AFIRE!



**T**HE PREACHER had just given his weekly notices to the local editor. His church was making little progress, and he lingered to talk.

"Editor, we've tried everything. We have had church socials, family nights, talent programs, bazaars, movies every Sunday night, and dinner-on-the-grounds. Nothing does any good. I tell you we've tried everything."

The editor adjusted his glasses and asked, "Everything? Preacher, did you ever try *religion*?"

Do you want to "try religion" again? Feel once more the fire of God burn in your soul? Then *open your Bible, and read.*

Dwight L. Moody was once so stirred while reading his Bible that he rushed out onto the street and demanded of a passerby, "Do you know grace?"

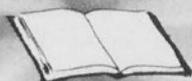
Every child of God knows what it is to have a Bible truth burn in his heart. John Wesley at Aldersgate heard someone read Martin Luther's introduction to the Epistle to the Romans, and his heart was "strangely warmed." The Methodist revival sprang from that warming.

A solid revival, not fanaticism, will follow the Bible teachings that "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (1 Corinthians 14:32); that "not every one that saith . . . Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father" (Matthew 7:21); that we are to "prove *all* things" and "hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21); and that we should not believe "every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

Brotherly love and fellowship, not bigotry, will result from hearing the clarion call of the Scripture: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39); "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (1 John 4:20); "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer" (1 John 3:15); "[God] hath made of one blood all nations . . . to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26).

A vital faith in the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world will spring from Bible study. This will lift us far above the superstitious use of bits of cloth to bring prosperity to pocketbooks, and the sale of "miraculous" pictures for profit. Such practices are like the centuries-old superstitions about weeping statues and bleeding pictures and the dispensing of spiritual favors for a financial fee. Today those who know the *realities* of the Bible doctrines of salvation by faith and the Pentecostal operations of the gifts of the Spirit will follow the Protestants of the Reformation in rejecting all such superstitions.

Hear  
of the  
Bible



GREAT CHAPTERS  
DAILY READING  
PROGRAM

GREAT CHAPTERS FOR THE  
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6-13

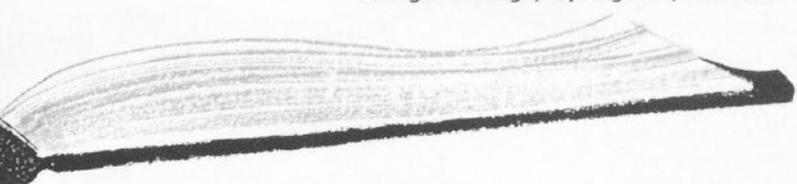
Sunday	.....	2 Thessalonians	3
Monday	.....	1 Timothy	1
Tuesday	.....	1 Timothy	2
Wednesday	.....	1 Timothy	3
Thursday	.....	1 Timothy	4
Friday	.....	1 Timothy	6
Saturday	.....	2 Timothy	1
Sunday	.....	2 Timothy	3

PROMISE OF THE WEEK

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

By WARD R. WILLIAMS

Professor and Head of the Department  
of Religion and Philosophy,  
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The Word of God will make us wise unto salvation. Ignorance cannot be made a virtue where men know that the Bible counsels, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels. . . . The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. . . . How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?" (Proverbs 1:5, 7, 22).

When we listen to the Word of God, it becomes an inner fire! Because the people would not give heed to his preaching, Jeremiah tried to quench this inner fire, saying, "I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name." But he found that "*his Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay*" (Jeremiah 20:9).

We cry, "Oh! for a return to the days of apostolic power!" How soon do you want to be in a service in which all the liars in your church drop dead, as did Ananias and Sapphira in one of Peter's services? Are you ready next Sunday for *that* apostolic manifestation?

The Word of God can burn with such heat that we will know by experience the meaning of the ancient testimony, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up" (John 2:17).

It is time to make the Word of God our battle cry again! It will bring deliverance to the captives, joy to the sorrowing, power to the weak, and victory to the defeated!

Not so much *back* to the Bible, but *on* to the Bible! It is *ahead* of us, leading us, challenging us, daring us to believe God, to seize these "great and precious promises," whereby we are made "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

Read it by whole books! Read it by chapters! Read it by subjects! Read it by biographies! Read it historically! Read it devotionally! Read it again! "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). Rejoice in it! Meditate upon it! "My heart was hot within me; while I was musing the fire burned" (Psalm 39:3).

Lord, set us free from sin, free from deadness, free from fear. Grant to us the burning heart! Fill Thy believers with the knowledge of Thy Word, and Thy churches with victorious saints! Restore to all of us the daily searching of the Scriptures by our minds, and the daily searching of our hearts by the Scriptures. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

GIVING THANKS, long associated in the United States with the Thanksgiving Day of the Pilgrims, is a much older custom.

The earliest recorded giving of thanks was the offering presented by Abel to the Lord. Among the different types of offerings the nation of Israel were to sacrifice was the thank offering (Leviticus 7:12).

The greatest gift the Christian gives thanks for is "thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). The second greatest gift is the Bible, the Word of God which reveals the truth about the Lord (John 20:31). And there are many more reasons why all the people should praise the Lord.

Let the Christians give thanks because the Bible, writ-

## Praise for the Word

By DOROTHY C. HASKIN

ten originally in the languages of two of the smallest nations, Hebrew and Greek, has now been translated into over 1,000 languages and dialects from Apache to Zulu.

Let the English-speaking people give thanks because they have had the Bible in their own language since A.D. 735 when the Venerable Bede translated the Gospel of John into the vernacular.

Let the Christians give thanks for the invention of movable type by Johann Gutenberg between 1450-56 which permitted the Bible to be printed and more easily distributed.

Let the people of France give thanks because they have had the complete Bible in their language since 1530.

Let the Spanish-speaking people give thanks that the Bible has been printed in a form of Spanish, *Catalan*, since 1478.

Let the Germans give thanks that theirs was the first modern language in which the Bible was printed, in 1466.

Let the people of Africa give thanks that the Bible has been translated into 400 of their languages and dialects.

Let the people of Japan give thanks that though the Bible translated in 1613 has completely disappeared, they have it again. The Gospel of John was published in 1837, and other sections since.

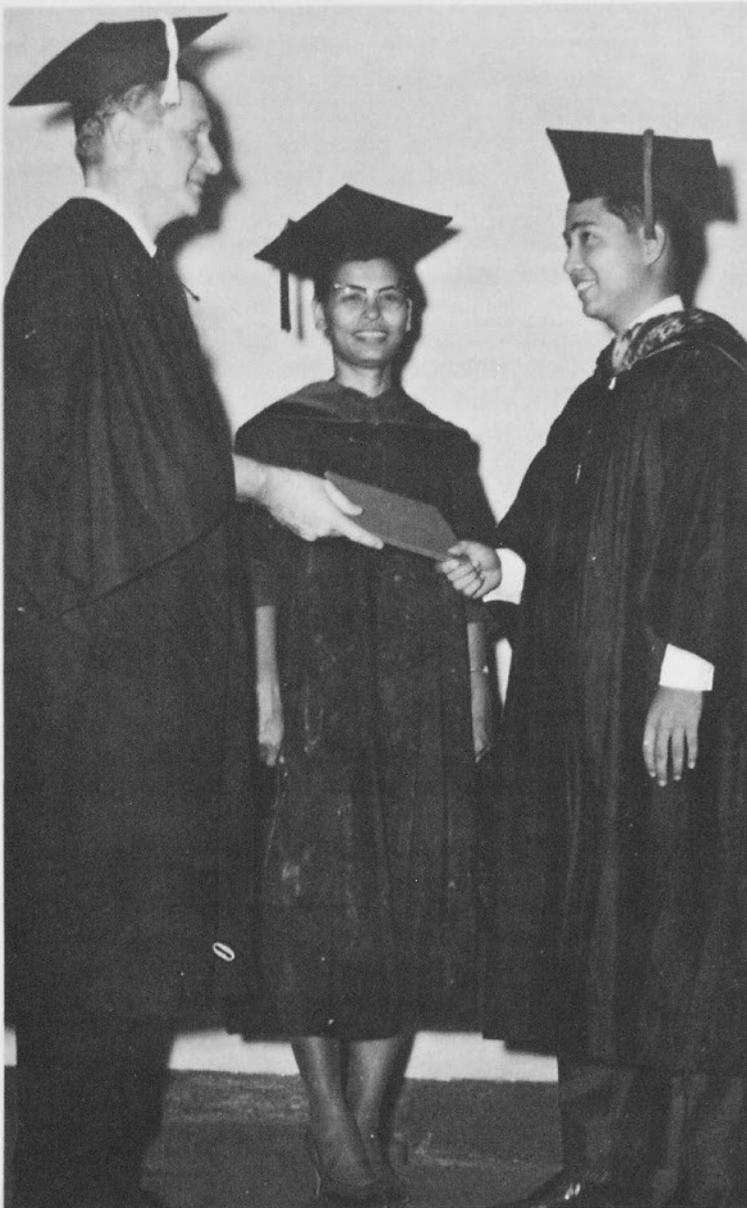
Let the parents of servicemen be thankful that the American Bible Society has furnished copies of Scripture to the Armed Forces since 1818.

Let the people of India give thanks for William Carey who with his pandits, from 1819, translated portions of the Scriptures into 44 languages or dialects.

Let the 14 million blind in the world be thankful that since 1835 it has been possible to get a copy of the Bible in Braille.

Let the people of Korea rejoice that they have had the Word of God in the three forms of script used in writing Korean.

Let all Christians give thanks that about 50 million copies of the Bible are distributed annually in a world of three billion people.



Miss Esperanza, registrar, watches as President Harold Kohl (left) presents a bachelor of theology degree to Tommy Reyes.

IN THEOLOGICAL TRAINING THERE MUST BE AN

# ACCENT ON THE

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY TOMMY REYES  
WHEN HE RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR  
OF THEOLOGY DEGREE DURING THE  
FIRST GRADUATION EXERCISES OF  
THE FAR EAST ADVANCED SCHOOL  
OF THEOLOGY, MANILA, PHILIPPINES,  
ON APRIL 22, 1966.

**T**HEOLOGY HAS BEEN CALLED the queen of the sciences. Louis T. Benezet, an ex-member of the American Council of Education said, "In the United States the college was first founded out of the evangelism of the Protestant churches. Its original function was to perpetuate the ministry; secondly, to prepare men for the brief list of professions then at the higher educational level: medicine, teaching, and the law. The presiding officer was inevitably a scholarly minister like the rest of the faculty."

Pioneer missionaries in different countries became vanguards of civilization everywhere they went, and their contribution to the socio-economic and educational development of the nations cannot be minimized.

It is a well-agreed fact that it has been the church and the church-school-sponsored educational program

that have pioneered the advance of education. This is not only true in the United States but also in other countries. The history of education in the Philippines tells us that some of our oldest educational institutions were founded by religious leaders.

We are living in an education-conscious age. The nations are awakening to the world literacy program. The sum of secular knowledge is increasing rapidly. This educational trend forces an enlargement of advanced training in all lines—the sciences, arts, and humanities. Scholarship and specialization are given emphasis in study. Every worker of God must have a broader base of education to be on common terms with his intellect-conscious community.

Theological training is a concern of the Assemblies of God which has 80 schools currently operating in 72 coun-

tries and 2,814 students enrolled. The first graduation of Far East Advanced School of Theology (FEAST) adds a milestone in training ministers. As the name implies, this school is primarily for the Far East which is in line with the "Asia for the Asians" policy.

FEAST has been established to meet the special need for training ministers for more effective and fruitful ministry. There has been a healthy concern throughout the ranks of Pentecost for the advanced educational program. However, lest in the advance of our educational program the net result would fail to reach the objectives—as seems to have been the case of others who have been before us, we endeavor to emphasize the spiritual more than the intellectual.

Paradoxically, some ineffectiveness has been commensurate with advance

in theological training. This does not mean that theological training is wrong, but rather that in the increased curriculum some have failed to keep correct emphasis on spiritual things. Also, the natural tendency of human nature is to depend to a greater extent upon trained, conditioned, and quickened human resources and less on the Holy Spirit. Alerted to the paradox, we are fortified to seek to avoid the same problems in our Pentecostal schools.

Our school motto, *Zeal with Knowledge*, sums up the purposes for which FEAST was founded. This is the unique privilege of FEAST, that studies are pursued under the conscious and direct endowment of the Holy Spirit. The members of the staff are Spirit-filled, and the presentations constantly emphasize the handling of

the tools of the Spirit rather than the manipulation of the tools of secular education. We are taught to depend upon the Holy Spirit. We do not expect a gospel minister to be successful because of his knowledge of science, Greek, philosophy, or psychology, but we do expect him to accommodate this knowledge to revelation.

In John 14:26 Christ said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things." We understand that with the theological training we get, we still need the Holy Spirit to teach, to guide, and to reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment.

It is beyond our human ability to do all these supernatural works. Only the power of the Holy Spirit can bring about the profound conviction which leads to repentance. Like Paul, we are debtors, both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise, so as much as in us is, we should be ready to preach the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to all—to the poor and to the rich, to the lowly and to the intellectual.

Paul's readiness to preach was an eagerness to put his gospel to the severest test. He came to grips with paganism, Judaism, Gnosticism, and other *isms*. Let us arise to the challenge; let us be firm and be strong. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." John Knox, the revivalist, feared God so much that he had no room to fear man.

The future perpetuation of our great Pentecostal heritage must pass on to our youth that they may go forth in the power of the Spirit. A "Spirit-baptized, heavenly endowed, divinely ordained, and Biblically intelligent ministry is the need and cry of the Church. It must be had and maintained if the purpose of God is to be accomplished in us as a movement."

Let us put forth one united effort for training ministers of the Word of God. Let us pray with the prophet Isaiah that the "Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."

Remember! Zeal without knowledge is fanaticism, and knowledge without zeal is formalism. Every theologian needs the anointing of the Spirit to make his ministry limitless. 

# SPIRIT



Left to right: President Kohl, Miss Esperanza, Tommy Reyes, Jaime Marcos, Dean Hillary.



Students of Bethel Bible Institute and FEAST meet in this modern chapel.

# THIS PRESENT WORLD

## EUROPE

### "Want to Preach a Sermon?" Parish Magazine Challenges Laymen

Anglican church members in the southern England city of Guildford who think they can preach a better sermon than their clergymen have been offered the freedom of the pulpit to prove it.

When the offer was made in a parish magazine, the article pointed out that football fans think they can do better than the players on the field, and armchair politicians think they can show the prime minister where he is wrong. "Why not sermons?" it asked.

So far several written sermons have been received, but no one has yet volunteered to stand and preach in the pulpit.

### Italian Catholics Note Declines

"It's hard to call a nation 'Catholic' when hardly 40 percent of its people go to any kind of church at all." That comment appeared in *Sign*, a Roman Catholic publication.

It is said there are only half as many priests in Italy as there were in 1870 even though the population has more than doubled. In Rome there is presently only one pastoral priest to every 1,743 inhabitants. (The national average in Italy is one priest to 800 people.)

Further, there are more active Communists reported in Italy than in any European country outside the Iron Curtain.

### Too Many Churches, Says Anglican Minister

A minister whose church in the South London district of Dulwich is one of a cluster of seven Anglican churches wrote in his parish magazine that it is a "sheer waste of money" to keep them all operating. He suggested that some should be shut down, demolished, and the sites sold. "None of the churches is of great architectural or historic interest," he said. "And I think it would be true to say that on some Sundays all the congregations could be fitted into one building."

He added that "we Christians cannot be tied down in our work by the constant nagging thought of where the next penny is coming from to keep church buildings in repair."

Certainly Christians, as stewards of the Lord's money, must use His money wisely in spreading the gospel. But praying for a revival might be more appropriate than demolishing churches.

## NORTH AMERICA

### New Methodist Hymnal Cites Wesley's Admonitions

"Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, than when you sang the songs of Satan."

John Wesley penned those words in 1761 as a part of

a preface to a collection of hymns "for the use of people called Methodists." Apparently the problem of apathetic singers in congregations still exists, for when The Methodist Church revised its hymnal recently, the advice was included in the volume.

### Non-Christian Missionary Gains Abroad Cited to United Church of Canada

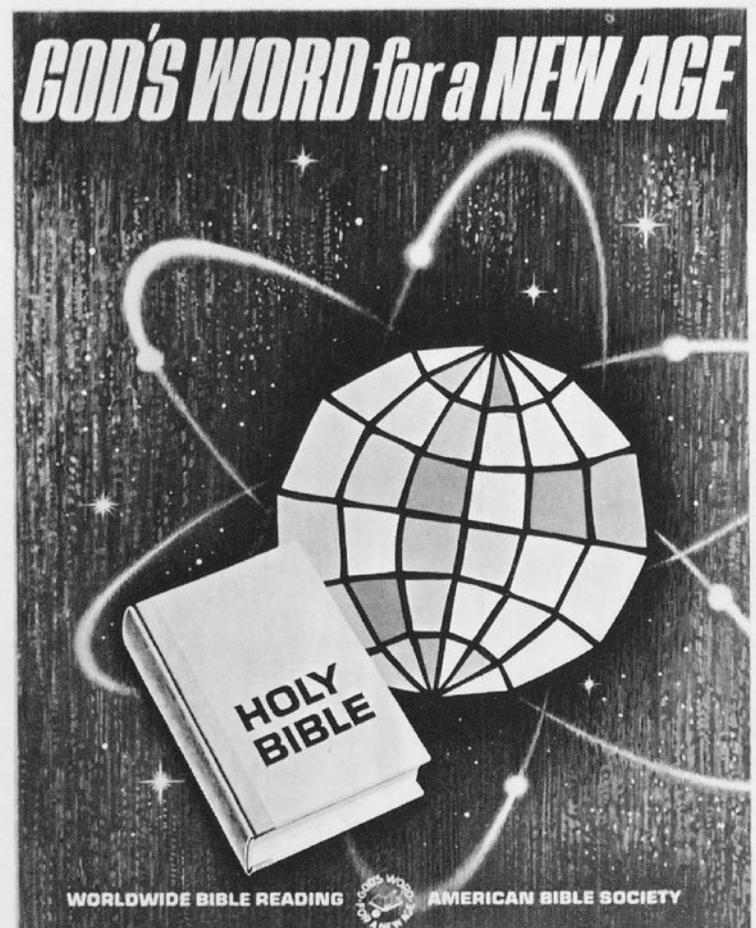
A report approved by the United Church of Canada at its 22nd biennial General Council warned that so swiftly is world missionary work changing that already Christians are the targets of Buddhist, Muslim, and Hindu convert-seekers.

Prepared by a special committee following a three-year study, the report said that after 19 centuries of Christianity, many non-Christians believe that the Christian church has failed to bring peace and goodwill among men and are asking, "Why not give some other religion a chance?"

One of several recommendations urged the United Church to acknowledge its share of guilt and make up its mind to cleanse itself with God's help "from all arrogance, whether racial, cultural, or ecclesiastical."

### Twenty Million to Unite in Bible Reading

Twenty million persons are expected this year to unite in the Worldwide Bible Reading program sponsored by



the American Bible Society. The program begins each year on Thanksgiving Day and continues through Christmas Day with the reading of the Christmas story.

The plan began during World War II when a lonely Marine wrote his family from Guadalcanal, asking them to join him in reading the same Bible selections each day.

The American Bible Society provides free single copies of the bookmark containing the schedule of readings. Write to the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10023.

### **Americans Seek Tension Relief**

A study of the high cost of tension recently was made by Theodore Irwin for the American Research Council. The amount of tension and the number of Americans seeking relief are reflected in their annual consumption of \$245 million worth of tranquilizers, \$172 million in sleeping pills, and 216 million gallons of hard liquor.

When will people realize the greatest "tension reliever" is faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, Saviour, and Healer?

### **Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.) Membership Up**

Dr. Charles W. Conn, newly elected general overseer of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), recently announced that worldwide membership of the denomination has reached 727,000.

## **ASIA**

### **Christian Groups Conduct Lay Leadership Training Center in Vietnam**

A 25-acre farm on the outskirts of the embattled South Vietnamese city of Hue has been converted by Christian groups into a unique vocational school, agricultural and industrial station, and refugee employment and resettlement center called the Lay Leadership Training Center.

Younger boys and older men—those not swept up by the needs of the military—gain experience at the farm in modern methods of raising pigs and chickens; also in preparing and using fertilizer effectively to grow melons, beans, and corn; and in using simple tools. Some 200 refugees who find occasional work on the farm are paid largely in food rather than money.

The center was established in 1961 by young Vietnamese Protestant lay evangelists and Bible teachers in an effort to create a self-supporting base for their work. The center is presently sponsored by the World Relief Commission, National Association of Evangelicals (USA) with assistance from the Vietnam Christian Service.

## **AUSTRALIA**

### **Australians Consider Change in Lord's Prayer**

A suggested modern version of the Lord's Prayer has sparked a violent reaction from the public, press, and some churchmen in Australia.

The revised version of the prayer is among proposals for change of worship made by a commission of the Church of England in Australia. The quadrennial General Synod will soon consider the commission's recommendations.

Text of the suggested Lord's Prayer is: "Our Father in heaven, Your name be hallowed. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Our bread of the morrow give us today, and forgive us our debts, as we too have forgiven our debtors, and do not bring us to the ordeal, but save us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and glory, for ever. Amen."



# Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

*Does the Bible give us any purpose God may have had in creating the world? There seems to be so much confusion.*

Everything God has done has been with purpose, even though we may not as yet understand it all. When God created man, He pronounced His work very good. Through sin man, at least for a time, seems to have thwarted the divine purpose. "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

When we come to things we do not comprehend, it is well to remember, "But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus..." (Hebrews 2:8, 9). We must commit to God what we cannot understand, believing that His eternal purpose will be realized. Read Revelation 21, 22 for encouragement.

*Please explain 1 Corinthians 3:15: "If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."*

Personally, I believe Paul is here speaking of workmanship. He had laid the foundation; another was building thereon (v. 10). The quality of every man's work will be revealed by the fire of God's judgment (v. 13). If a man's work will not endure the tests, he will suffer loss; but the workman, because he has built on the foundation, which is Christ, will be saved, although he loses his reward. Let us build for eternity and eternal values, not for the present or temporary success.

*In John 9:39 Jesus said, "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and they which see might be made blind." In John 12:47 He said, "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." Can you explain this apparent contradiction?*

Jesus came to save, not to condemn; nevertheless, His message did condemn. While He came that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish," "this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:17, 19).

The gospel is the savor of "life unto life" or of "death unto death," according to individual response (2 Corinthians 2:16).

The scribes and the Pharisees claimed they saw, which means that they understood. Jesus knew they were so steeped in their forms and ceremonies that they would reject Him, "and that they which see might be made blind." They were "blind leaders of the blind." Judgment would be a natural consequence, but Jesus had not come to judge, cursing men, sending them to perdition. He came to save, leaving the final decision in each case to the judgment at the last day, when what they had done to Him and His message of salvation would determine their eternal destiny.

*If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.*

## THE KING LOVED AND HATED

Sunday School Lesson for November 13, 1966

MARK 14:1-11, 43-46

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

OUR LESSON presents a striking contrast—the pure, heart-warming devotion of Mary to Christ and the miserable hypocrisy and hatred of Judas. Both reveal attitudes toward Christ which are manifested today.

### THE DEVOTION OF MARY (vv. 1-9)

In an age largely characterized by cold, heartless religion, how welcome and inspiring are the lessons Mary taught by her act of devotion—an act of faith as well as love—for Mary understood that the One upon whom she poured her perfume was about to die for her. This was what prompted her devotion. Similarly, true love for Christ must ever draw its inspiration from the Cross. Concerning her act, observe:

1. *Love has an originality which leads to blessing others.* Some say that “necessity is the mother of invention”; but love is also the mother of invention. Mary’s heart, overflowing with love, devised a new method of honoring her Lord.

Love is inventive; it contains an element of recklessness. It is creative; it finds new ways of service. Such love led General Booth to find a new way to reach down-and-outers and slum dwellers. Such love led John Wesley to find a new way to reach the working class in England. Such love led Dave Wilkerson, a small-town preacher, to reach thousands of drug addicts across the nation.

2. *Wholehearted devotion and zeal for Christ are a rebuke to those who lack them.* This explains why Christ’s disciples found fault with Mary. It is all too common a practice to criticize others, not because they deserve it but because their devotion to Christ is greater than ours.

3. *True consecration is considered wasteful by the worldly wise.* Matthew recorded the objection thus, “To what purpose is this waste?” The answer is simple. No prayer ever prayed, no energy ever expended, no life ever laid down in service and devotion to Christ is a waste. It yields eternal dividends in souls won and lives helped.

4. *It is impossible to estimate the influence of a devoted life.* After centuries Christ’s words commending Mary continue to be fulfilled. (See verse 9.) Christians around the world read of Mary’s act and are inspired to give themselves in like devotion.

### THE TREACHERY OF JUDAS (vv. 10, 11, 43-46)

In John’s account of this incident, he said it was Judas who objected to Mary’s act. And John explained that Judas objected “not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein” (John 12:6).

In the remaining verses of our text we have the account of how Judas, who professed interest in the poor, went out and sold his Lord. How are we to account for the downfall of Judas? Was he, as some think, a villain from the beginning? A man who had no possibilities for good? It is hard to believe Christ would have chosen such a one as His follower.

We suggest the following steps in his downfall—steps which almost anyone could take, at least in principle, when he takes one step from God.

1. *Disillusionment.* All of the Twelve thought Christ’s kingdom was to be an earthly and material kingdom at that time. As it became increasingly evident this was not the case, Judas became disappointed; bitterness entered his heart.

2. *Resentment.* As he lost hope of earthly compensation for following Christ, Judas increasingly resented the hardships and sacrifices of discipleship.

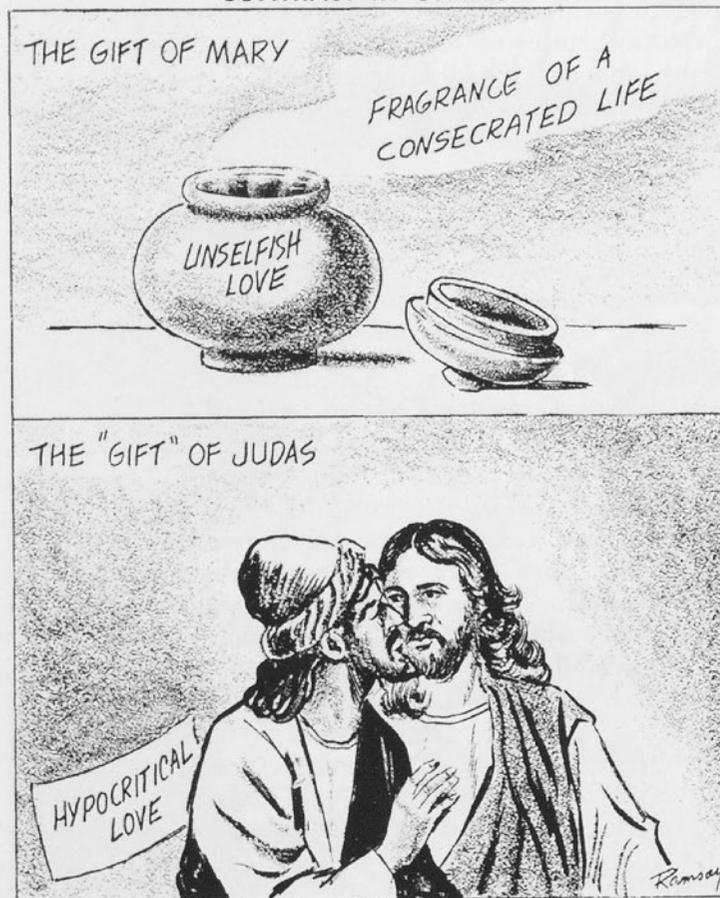
3. *Covetousness and thievery.* Lacking any heartfelt joy or satisfaction in fellowship with the Master, Judas sought it elsewhere. Feeling deprived of material gain, he became covetous. Since he was the treasurer for the group, he took advantage of his position and began to steal funds for his own use.

4. *Criticism and hypocrisy.* On the surface Judas’ criticism of Mary seemed virtuous. But it merely masked the hypocrisy of his heart.

Once men lose fellowship with Christ, once they allow the enemy a foothold in their lives, there is no telling how far they may go in wickedness. The progress of Judas in evil made him more and more vulnerable to Satan—who finally gained mastery of him to the extent that Judas betrayed Christ.

We triumph or fall by choice. Mary chose the way of love for Christ—the only way to triumph. 

### CONTRAST IN GIVING



I WAS A COUNTRY BOY when God laid His hand upon me. At the age of 15 I became a student in Beulah Heights Missionary Training School. After some weeks during which I sought God earnestly, He came to me late one night as I waited before Him. My whole being was flooded with His power, glory, and unspeakable joy. There flowed forth from my lips volumes of praise to God in another tongue. I seemed literally to have entered the presence of God.

That was 50 years ago. And now, after 45 years of active service on the South African mission field, may I be permitted to "analyze" the experience of that night? Has it stood the test of time? Has it helped me on the field?

In its first impact it changed me from a timid boy who feared to stand up in a service—even to give a short testimony—to one who could stand confidently before congregations, knowing it was not I who spoke but God's Spirit speaking through me as I yielded to Him.

For me the Baptism was the incoming of a *Person*, not a momentary ecstatic experience. He had come to direct my life. As I followed Him, doors opened; needs were miraculously supplied; difficult circumstances were changed. He had come to lead me. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

The Baptism signaled the incoming of a *Revealer*. He is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. "He shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." Just before this mighty infilling of the Holy Spirit, He led me to Calvary. I followed Christ through the Garden; through the judgment hall; to the Cross. Standing before the Cross I was melted and broken before God. It was not a vision, but the sufferings of Christ were made so real it was as if I had been there. And then upon my broken spirit God poured out His Spirit to fill me with Himself.

It was the incoming of a *Helper*. He is the Comforter, the "One-alongside-to-help." Soon after arriving in South Africa I began to study the Zulu language. I found this language with its "clicks" difficult, but one evening at prayers I felt prompted to pray out in Zulu. Within a very short time I was testifying and then preaching in Zulu. Africans said to me, "Why is it that when you are preaching, you speak so fluently; yet in ordinary conversation you find it hard to speak our language?" It was that I had a divine Helper.

Later, at the invitation of Ralph M. Riggs, my wife and I went to Vendaland and began to labor among a more primitive people. The Spirit again became my Helper in a special measure. Finding it difficult to speak through an interpreter who did not understand me, I dispensed with his help and in a very short time was preaching in the language of the Venda people.

In Nyasaland (Malawi) while still pioneering, I again felt led to dispense with the interpreter. To his great surprise I began speaking direct to the people in their language. (All this does not mean that I did not have to spend time in language study, but it does mean that the Holy Spirit's anointing enabled me to use what I had studied without hesitation while preaching.) Mission work is so much easier with the Helper.

The Baptism for me was the incoming of a *Teacher*. "He shall teach you all things." As I was riding mule-back in Vendaland, the words of a hymn began to come to me in the Venda language. I wrote it down, and this

# I WAS THERE

ONE OF A SERIES OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF EARLY PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL DAYS, WRITTEN BY VARIOUS PIONEER PASTORS, EVANGELISTS, AND MISSIONARIES



## 50 Years in Pentecost

By FRED BURKE • South Africa

continued until I had written a book of Venda hymns, some translations, some composed.

Years later, working again among Zulu-speaking Africans, the same thing occurred; and another book was printed. The Spirit began to urge me to write Bible study books in African languages. As I obeyed, a number of courses were written and are being used in many parts of Africa to train ministers by correspondence.

Soon after I arrived in Zululand, tropical sores began to spread over my limbs. Then, while I was alone in my hut, the Spirit of God came upon me in wonderful power, and He said, "I have healed you. Remove the bandages!" The sores dried up almost immediately.

I was very ill with fever when one night the Spirit came mightily upon me, rebuking the fever in another tongue, and I was delivered. Again and again He has quickened my body.

Recently as I meditated there came to my soul an upsurge of glory, and the Scripture was illuminated to me, "In whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance." Not only is the Holy Spirit our Helper, Guide, Teacher; He is in Himself, in the joy and glory He imparts, a *foretaste of heavenly joys*. So with heaven in our souls, we are journeying to the heaven above, in preparation for which we have been washed in the blood of Christ.

Fifty years in Pentecost have only made these truths more real, and the Spirit Himself more precious. 

THE REALITY OF HEAVEN far transcends our poor finite powers of comprehension. Yet the Bible gives us occasional glimpses into the Celestial City—enough so we can form some small concept of its glories.

Heaven is a place of *perfect beauty*. Are you ever oppressed by the ugliness all about you? The tumble-down shacks, the sordid tenements, the soot and grime, trash piles and dumps of crowded cities? There is nothing like that in heaven. Look at the beauties God has placed in this present world—delicate flowers, rose-tinted clouds, multicolored rainbows, billowing waterfalls, burning suns setting over glimmering seas. Then in imagination try to multiply them a million times. Thus you will perhaps get an inkling of the supernal beauties of His heaven.

Magnificent jewels clear as crystal, great pearls of faultless texture, a street of transparent gold—such are the earthly symbols used in the Word of God to describe the New Jerusalem.

In that heavenly city wondrous trees grow beside a sparkling river of life. Immaculate angels shed their holy radiance. There throng the spirits of just men made perfect, clothed in white robes with palms in their hands. There stands the awesome throne of God, transcendent with an incomparable light that makes sun and moon superfluous. And most entrancing of all is the breathtaking beauty of our precious Christ, the Rose of Sharon, the Fairest of ten thousand, the One altogether lovely.

Heaven is a place of *perfect joy*. No sickness is there, no sorrow, no pain. God wipes away all tears. There is enjoyment to the full without possibility of surfeit. No doctors' offices appear, no dentists' chairs, no ambulances or hospitals or asylums. Every individual in that countless throng, distinct in his own sparkling personality, enjoys abounding health. No one is crippled or deformed, for we all shall be changed.

No danger exists. No accident can befall. In heaven there is perfect security. There is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Heaven is a place of *everlasting life*. Nobody ever grows old. Nothing decays. After a thousand centuries all will be as young and as fresh as at the beginning. There are no disillusioned, careworn faces. No one need bother about life insurance or social security or old-age pensions. There are no undertakers, no funerals, no cemeteries. Nobody is ever bereaved. Youth springs eternal while joy flows like a river.

Heaven is a place of *perfect success*. There are no mistakes, no tragedies, no failures. The high cost of living, taxes, bankruptcies—all are unknown. There we can work at the tasks we enjoy most without tiring. There the sons of God serve Him flawlessly. And nothing ever becomes monotonous. Every moment brings new wonders. We shall do things on a big scale. God will make us rulers over many other things.

In heaven we shall learn and learn without limit. We can sit down for months at a time with Noah and Abraham, with Moses and Elijah, with Job and Mary and Paul to talk of the wonders of divine grace. We can converse with Jesus. Things that now puzzle us will be perfectly understood, "for now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now [we] know in part;



# WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

but then shall [we] know even as also [we are] known."

Heaven is a place of *perfect righteousness*. No sin can enter there. The devil is banished and cannot tempt the saints. No liars or thieves or drunkards can get in. No taverns or roadhouses or gambling dens will ever appear. We shall walk in that paradise of God eternally without once hearing a profane word or seeing a suggestive scene. No policemen are needed. No jealousy or hatred, no gossip or graft or pettiness can pollute the holy atmosphere. War shall be no more. Peace that passeth understanding will prevail forever.

In that sanctified city every spirit is sweet. Everybody is pure and refined, calm and courteous, inspiring and kind. In heaven there is holiness without alloy, worship without distraction, perfect love with no taint of selfishness. Oh, what bliss!

Heaven is filled with the *presence of God*. Do you remember personal experiences of climactic supernatural blessing—seasons when the mighty Spirit of God flooded your quivering soul to the full? Then in your thinking try to multiply that ecstasy indefinitely, and still you can have only the faintest concept of Jehovah's all-pervading presence in the place of His abode. There our capacity to enjoy will be vastly greater than it is in these faulty human tabernacles. In heaven we shall fall in adoration before His throne, our souls flooded with ineffable bliss.

In heaven the high praises of our glorious Redeemer will ascend forever in hallowed incense of exaltation. There countless multitudes of holy angels and of the redeemed in one limitless choir lift hallelujahs until, like the voice of many waters, their majestic sound rolls to the farthest reaches of the universe. There the morning stars sing together and the sons of God shout for joy.

Those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life shall see Him face to face.

# WHAT IS HELL LIKE?



JUST AS SURELY AS THERE IS A HEAVEN, there is a hell. Hell became necessary when Lucifer revolted against God. The fallen archangel with his followers had to be cast out of heaven, or else heaven would have ceased to exist as the abode of holy beings.

Hell was not prepared originally for man. It was prepared for the devil and his angels. No man needs to go there. No one with true wisdom deliberately walks the downward road. And yet many throng that broad way that leads to destruction.

Hell is a place of *eternal death*. In other words, it is eternal separation. Here on earth wicked men separate themselves from the righteous in many of life's relationships. In life's period of probation the lost soul can bridge the gap by accepting God's free grace. But at death the separation must be complete and final. To the redeemed on His right hand the all-righteous Judge sounds forth the glad welcome, "Come, ye blessed of my Father." But to the unrepentant comes the awful knell, "Depart from me, ye cursed."

Between the righteous and the wicked, then, is a great gulf fixed. It can never be crossed. There can be no divine presence in hell. That horror of great darkness is unrelieved by even one ray of spiritual life. Prayers have no answer. God is gone. The lost are beyond His reach. A just and merciful Creator has been compelled by their own stubborn rebellion to banish them completely. The poor souls who rejected Jesus Christ must be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. What a direful fate!

Hell is a place that *reeks with sin*. Have you ever glimpsed the depths to which depraved sinners can sink even in this life? Have you been sickened by the vulgarity, the cruelty, the hatred and treachery, the drunkenness and foul oaths, the abominable meanness, the wallow of

filth and degradation that make some places a hell on earth? In your imagination multiply them all a thousand times, and you may get some idea of the unspeakable iniquity of the damned. We do not mean to imply that all the lost sink equally low even in that place of doom. But we must try to comprehend the depths of hell if we are to know the extent of its tragedy.

In this world human waywardness, however wild, is more or less restrained by the influence of divine grace. But in hell the restraint is removed. God's governing hand of mercy is withdrawn. Relentlessly enslaved by Satan, the perishing soul sinks down, down in despair. No church bells ring. No hymns are sung. No servants of the Lord appear on errands of mercy. No flowers bloom. The innocent laughter of children is no more. Demon power is triumphant in hell.

Without doubt, through the endless ages of eternity, the denizens of hell will grow worse and worse. Certain it is that they can never grow better. Their wails of woe become more piercing, more hopeless. The atmosphere is black, black, black.

Hell means *everlasting destruction*. It means the destruction of all peace, of all happiness, of all hope. It means the destruction of pure thoughts and of high purpose and of all integrity. In short, it means the destruction of everything worthwhile. Hell is an indescribable void. It is a vast, interminable, yawning abyss.

Hell is a place of *eternal punishment*. Justice demands a final settling of accounts. The day of mercy at last is over. In our present world evil men, though they grow worse and worse, suffer only in part for their misdeeds; in hell they suffer fully. Here their penalty is intermittent and brief; in hell retribution engulfs them without pause—but not to the bitter end. *There is no end*.

In hell the lost are tragically aware of lost opportunities. "Son, remember!" said Father Abraham to Dives as that foolish, selfish man lifted up his eyes in torment. And Dives remembered. Like Lazarus whom he saw in Abraham's bosom, he could have accepted God's infinite mercy if he had chosen to do so. He could have been in heaven too. Oh the bitter, burning regrets in hell! Said Whittier:

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen

The saddest are, *It might have been.*"

"Outer darkness," "the pit," "smoking brimstone," "the lake of fire," "where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"—such are the expressions used in the Word of God to describe the endless penalties of perdition. Think of having to endure a living death forever with the devil and his imps and with the most degraded human wretches that ever trod the earth!

The smoke of their torment ascends forever. There shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. On this earth the worst suffering is tempered by the knowledge that it will presently be over. Not so in the lake of fire. In that horrible place of continuing woe there is not one ray of hope.

Behold the goodness and the severity of God. Through His wonderful mercy every man, woman, and child can find deliverance from the wrath to come. Heaven beckons us. No human being needs to go to hell. "Come unto me," Jesus invites, stretching forth loving, nail-pierced hands. May our response be a glad, eternal yes! 



**P**RAYER REQUESTS COME TO *Revivaltime's* World Prayermeeting from every section of the globe. The colorful array of postage stamps on these letters vividly portrays the extent of the annual day of intercession.

A beautiful macaw graces the stamp on a letter from British Honduras. The letter asks Christians to pray for a child with lung disorder.

A tiger cat is shown crouching in a tree on an Australian stamp. The letter is from a wife who sends an urgent plea to pray for her husband who is dying with leukemia.

There is a neat row of dwellings pictured on the stamp that brings a letter from Netherlands Antilles; the writer asks prayer for deliverance from sinful habits.

It is doubtful that the distressed Filipino mother even noticed that her stamp announced the second Asian cycling championship. Her only concern was to notify the World Prayermeeting of her baby's chronic illness.

Perhaps the design on a Surinam airmail stamp expresses the expectant attitude of those who write World Prayermeeting. It pictures a man in a canoe gazing at an airplane soaring overhead. He might be thinking: "That airplane is carrying my request to a place where it will be prayed over by hundreds of people who believe God answers prayer."

Each November some 20,000 individual prayer requests come to *Revivaltime's* office from around the world. As requests arrive, they are typed on prayer lists. Then just before World Prayermeeting day, November 20, copies of these prayer lists will be sent to the hundreds of churches and other prayer groups who have notified *Revivaltime* of their willingness to participate in the World Prayermeeting. No one group could possibly pray for every request, but *Revivaltime* distributes the prayer lists so that each request receives individual prayer by scores of Christians in many places.

A few weeks after World Prayermeeting each year, *Revivaltime* again receives hundreds of letters bearing postage stamps from many nations. These are letters of thanksgiving—they bring reports of answered prayer.

A balloon fish decorates a stamp on a letter from

Barbados. The thankful writer sends the good news that prayer has been answered for a backslidden father.

A brilliant orange stamp of the Republic of Nigeria brings a letter with a report that two persons have found needed employment in answer to prayer, and another young man has been granted a full scholarship to attend college in the United States.

From the Bahamas a mother writes that two of her five sons have given their hearts to the Lord, and that she experienced healing at the time of the World Prayermeeting.

From India come envelopes with delicately colored stamps bearing two languages. The enclosed letters tell how God answered desperate needs.

A Missouri mother joyfully testifies that her daughter in Argentina gave birth to a healthy baby girl when doctors had predicted severe complications.

A letter postmarked with the military APO, New York, announces that God provided a way for a wife and her children to be united with their father serving in Germany.

From Newfoundland comes the report of a kidney condition healed at the time of World Prayermeeting. And a man in Ontario, Canada, reports he is able to be back at work, being healed after a coronary attack.

Hundreds of testimonies come from the U.S.:

An Alabama listener testifies that her cousin found employment and his marriage has been restored in answer to prayer. A thankful grandmother in Nebraska writes to tell how her granddaughter found salvation and deliverance from alcohol. A lady in Massachusetts testifies that she received the baptism in the Holy Spirit shortly after World Prayermeeting. Every state is represented here!

Testimonies of answered prayer continue to arrive at *Revivaltime* for several months after World Prayermeeting. They come from all kinds of people, widely scattered across the earth. Yet they contain one common message: "As result of World Prayermeeting, God answered!"

Your prayer request can be included in this year's World Prayermeeting. Send your letter to *Revivaltime*, Box 70, Springfield, Missouri 65801.

**STAMPS IN A COLORFUL ARRAY BRING PRAYER REQUESTS TO WORLD PRAYERMEETING FROM ALL PARTS OF THE EARTH**

## DESTINATION: God's Throne

