

THE WORD OF TRUTH

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"Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (James 1:18).

SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL

"Let God Be True"

The Scriptures declare: "Yea, let God be found true, and every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). This is to be considered as an argument from the necessary consequence of its opposite. God is true, and man is a liar, and it follows that the truth of God cannot be rendered void because of the falsehood of man. God is True, and He is Truth! He always fulfills His Word, and His Word is "forever settled in the heavens." THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT GOD THAT IS FALSE OR DELUSIVE. WITH HIM THERE IS "NO VARIABLENESS NOR SHADOW OF TURNING" (JAMES 1:17). He "abideth faithful", praise His Holy Name! How I love this Lord of mine, who has always fulfilled His Word and whose truth is not even affected by my own unrighteousness. Oh, how we need to grasp this truth. OUR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS DOES NOT RENDER THE TRUTH OF GOD VOID, OR MAKE IT PASS AWAY, OR EVEN STOP IT! The Word of God cannot be bound or circumscribed! Man, on the other hand, is a LIAR. He is given to breaking his pledge, and by nature seeks that which is falsehood and shuns the truth. We have it demonstrated in Adam and Eve, and later in the Israelites, and of more recent date, we may look at ourselves. Though the truth of God was declared, we stubbornly continued in pursuit of the delusive lies of Satan. MAN'S NATURAL INCLINATION IS TOWARD EVIL AND THE LIE, OF WHOM SATAN IS THE FATHER! But, does all of this nullify the truth of God? Nay, a thousand times nay! The very truths against which we so diligently fought and sought to hide were the instruments of our conversion, blessed thought! What a God is this whose words may on one occasion drive us into the wilderness of sin and shame, and at a later time gently woo us to Him who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Look at man! He mitigates everything within his grasp with his own interests and views to the neglect of reality. Therefore, he is not to be trusted nor are his ways. HENCE IT IS A SOURCE OF ALARM WHEN ANYONE PROFESSING CHRIST CALLS UPON US TO TRUST IN THE ARM OF THE FLESH!

(Please turn to page 6)

In This Issue . . .

"HAVING SPOILED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS"

The Word of Truth

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OUR GOD

It is true that we live much of our life in almost total unawareness of the magnitude of our God. He is a great God, and greatly to be praised! Much religious activity today is performed entirely without Him. He seems to have been put in a corner by most people and treated as an inactive historical person, who is of little true benefit for us. But, the Scriptures speak quite differently. He is not pictured as inactive, but rather as the Ruler and Monarch of the Universe, who does what He pleases when He pleases. He is the "Possessor of the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 14:22), and will "reign forever and ever" (Ex. 15:18). Though there are "gods many and Lords many" (I Cor. 8:6), yet our God is "greater than all gods" (Ex. 18:11). The "kingdom is the Lord's, and He is the Governor of the nations" (Psa. 22:28), and "He rules by His power forever" (Psa. 66:7). He is at once the Judge, Lawgiver, King, and Savior (Isa. 33:22), and besides Him, there is "none else" (Duet. 4:39). "Power everlasting" belongs unto Him (I Tim. 6:15, 16). The wonder and marvel of it all is that **He is a personal God to all of His children.** Those attributes of His which are declared in Scripture are operative in favor of His elect sons and daughters. What a wonderful truth is this. It has moved the saints of the ages to declare God as their God, and what a mystery is this! David cried, "My defense is of God" (Psa. 7:10). Truly, then, we "shall not fear what man shall do unto us". When we are attacked by the enemy of our souls, and hope looks dim, we look unto the Lord and acknowledge that He is "our Refuge" (Duet. 33:27); Praise the Lord! When doing battle against principalities, and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, it is no less than a great comfort to realize that in Christ "God is MY Helper" (Psa. 54:4). When I am weak, then I remember that "God is MY Strength" (II Sam. 22:33). When the war against evil and the Evil One seems to be going against me, and the foes too strong for me, I find hope in remembering that "God is MY Defense" (Psa. 59:9), and "MY Salvation" (Isa. 12:2). How we ought to plead for mercy and forgiveness that we have so often reflected upon the power and might of God by becoming despondent over evil just because we failed to remember the personal strength of

(Please turn to page 6)

The Inadequacy of Human Wisdom

Recently an article was written by Mr. H.W.F. in a Bible College bulletin in which he declared his feelings concerning the validity of man's wisdom. He spent almost 400 words declaring the acceptability of man's thought processes and discounting the teaching that man's thinking faculties were "seriously marred by the fall of Adam," and that they are "not dependable." Blasphemously this man wrote, "While reason alone cannot re-establish fellowship with God, reason as applied to revelation and by which revelation is understood can accomplish that end." We take this statement as an affront to our mighty God and the assertions that He has made relative to human reason. Mr. H. W. F. considered that any teaching discounting the validity of human thinking was merely an "effort to downgrade reason." But this is not at all the case! It is a matter of God's own word that man's mind is totally incapable of itself of grasping anything pertaining to God; and even those things which it does feebly grasp in the realm of nature are obscured in their real meaning by a failure to apprehend Him who "filleteth all and all", and without Whom everything is vain! It is interesting to observe that in the entire article in question there was not so much as one illusion to the Word of God - not one quotation from the "Scriptures of truth." Yet, it was signed "Dr. H.W.F.", as though he were strangely fitted to make such blatant statements! "To the Word and to the Testimony!" What does God say of human reason? Is it valid? Is revelation to be **understood** by reason? Can man's reason establish fellowship with God by being applied to revelation? Is it not rather the other way around? - revelation is to be applied to reason!

We are exhorted by the Holy Spirit to be "RENEWED in the spirit of your mind," (Eph. 4:23). Again, Paul speaks to us urging that we "be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that ye might prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). Paul here pulls wisdom down from her throne, and does away with her by teaching that we are to be **renewed** in the spirit of our mind! However much we may tend to flatter ourselves, Christ's words are still true! The **whole** man must be born again before one can enter into the kingdom of God! Both in mind and heart we are entirely alienated from God, and if this is not true, then we must abandon any teaching that asserts the Scriptures are true! If the only way that we may "prove what the will of the Lord is" is to be renewed in our mind, then certainly it becomes clear how hostile the mind is to God! We are "alienated in mind" (Col. 1:21). How then, can man find out the revelation of God through reason if in the very thought processes of his mind he is alienated from God. Behold, how Satan hath beguiled men to believe and yet propagate such a faulty doctrine! God has "destroyed the wisdom of the wise" and "brought to nothing the understanding of the prudent" (I Cor. 1:19). The plain

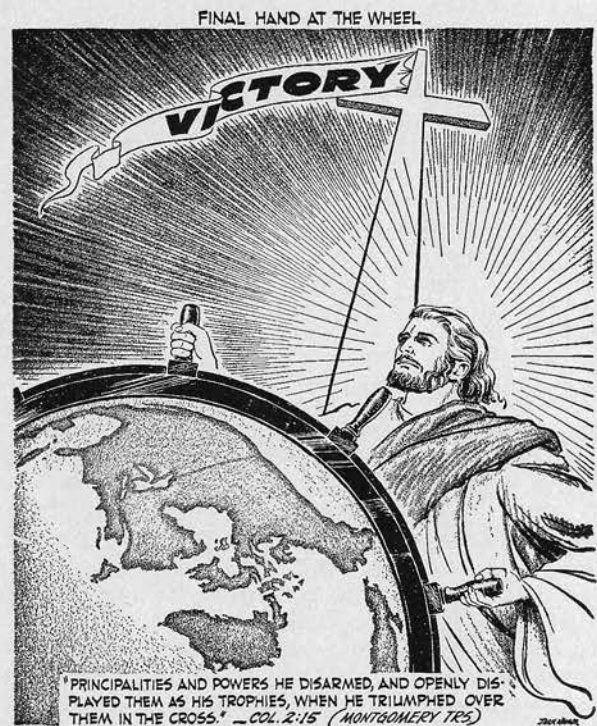
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"Having Spoiled Principalities and Powers"

It is important that every child of God be acutely aware of the foes against which he wrestles. They are not flesh and blood, but rather; "principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). As we stand back and view the host arrayed against us, our hearts would fail us for fear were it not for the knowledge of our powerful Christ. He that is in the world is great, but he that is in us is "greater" (I John 4:4). This knowledge is absolutely imperative if you are to wage a victorious battle against the adversary of your soul. Satan will not be put to flight with good intentions, or with attempts that are feebly mustered up within the natural resources of men! You may, however, fight Satan and his cohorts as a victor if you possess, by God's grace, personal knowledge of the defeat he has already experienced at the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15).

This verse is translated various ways by the different versions of Scripture. None of them rob the passage of its meaning, but they do speak beautifully of this truth. I should like to share several of them with you: "Principalities and powers He **disarmed**, and openly displayed them as His **trophies**, when He triumphed over them in the **cross**" (Montgomery Translation); He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a **public example** of them, triumphing over them in **him**" (Revised Standard Version); "He disarmed the principalities and dominions and **displayed them openly**, triumphing over them through him" (Goodspeed Translation); "And then, **having drawn the sting of all the powers ranged against us**, He exposed them, shattered empty and defeated, in His glorious triumphant act" (Phillips Letters to Young Churches); "Disarming the Principalities and Powers, He displayed them openly, **leading them away in triumph by force of it**" (Douay, New Catholic Edition). Isn't that a beautiful passage of Scripture; 'tis music to the "circumcised ear." Praise the Lord! Let us magnify His Holy name, for He hath surely done great things! The great truth seen in the book of Colossians is that of the glorious triumph of Jesus Christ over all that was against us. How comforting it is to know this blessed proclamation; truly, it is the "joyful sound." Paul writes to them (and, praise God, to us), of "the hope which is laid up in heaven for you" (1:6), and of being "strengthened with all might according to His glorious power" (1:11). Then, turning to the Lord Jesus Christ, He extolls Him in the Spirit, speaking of the mighty salvation which He wrought out for us, that we might be "worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing." First, "redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (1:14); what would we be without this gracious effect? Our sins have been dealt with, praise God; they are no longer upon us, but have been "laid upon Him", and "removed as far as east is from west!" In Jesus



now, dwells "all fulness" (1:19). He has "made peace through the blood of the cross" (1:20), that we might be at one with the Almighty God of heaven, from whose glory we had miserably fallen (Rom. 3:23). Although we were most certainly enemies of God, and alienated from Him even in our minds, Jesus "hath now reconciled" us! That's enough to make one shout; to know that fellowship with our heavenly Father is a reality because of the great work of Jesus Christ. What a Savior we have! However, the picture does not end here! Jesus aims (and shall) to "in the body of His flesh through death . . . present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His (God's) sight" (1:22). That is, when Jesus Christ "became sin" (II Cor. 5:21) and suffered in our behalf, it was to be considered in the mind of God the same as if we had personally and consciously experienced the full penalty of sin, and been raised with the Lord victorious over sin and death; and indeed, that is precisely the way God treated Christ's crucifixion. Jesus took upon Himself not only our sins, but our sinful nature; He "became sin" (II Cor. 5:21). In chapter two, Paul turns to an exhortation, urging the Colossians to live in the power of Christ, and to cease struggling in their own feeble and inadequate strength. He speaks of the "full assurance of understanding" (2:2), and in so doing clearly speaks of our understanding of the "mystery which hath been hid" (1:26, 27). "As ye have received the Lord Jesus, so walk ye IN HIM" (2:6), he exhorts, leading them into the sphere of might and power by focusing their attention upon the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world," now the "head over all things to the church." We are "rooted and built up in Him" (2:7), and established to such an extent that we are gloriously enabled to abound in

ATTENTION !

YOUNG PEOPLE

The young people of the congregation that meets at 26th and Colfax Street, Gary, Ind., are publishing a small paper every two weeks. In it they seek to express their understanding of the Word of God, and urge young people to take a stand for the Lord. It will be sent free upon request to anyone desiring to receive it. Mail your requests to Box 1684, Highland, Indiana. Parents, this will be good material for your children. Pray fervently for this journalistic effort, that it might receive the anointing of the Lord.

thanksgiving. Our state of completeness is now found in Him (2:10), and it is with Him that we die and are brought to spiritual life and vitality (2:11-13). **We have, brethren, been brought into a realm of power, where Satan has been wonderfully subdued, and placed in subjection.** His feeble power that has been exerted over the human race for 6,000 years was manifested to be the weaker power when our Lord was crucified in the flesh, but quickened in the Spirit. There is no longer to be any doubt concerning God's sufficiency! We are no longer to be deluded concerning the power of Satan, into supposing the regulatory restrictions imposed by rudimentary thinking men, is sufficient to squelch that power (2:8, 16-23). **The only victory is to be had in Jesus,** and in Him, there is nothing but victory, for "God causeth us **always** to triumph in Christ Jesus" (Cor. 2:14). Myriads have been robbed of victorious living by having their minds deluded! Schoolmen and supposed doctors of the Law have disseminated the gross error that Satan is overcome and checked by efforts exerted in our own strength. Hence we hear much about conduct, activity, duty, etc. But this is not so, brethren! **No amount of activity or dutiful works will expose the weakness of Satan.** You may spend a lifetime wrestling against him in your own strength and only find yourself more hopelessly immeshed in his vicious snare. **It takes Jesus to liberate you!** Praise God! He is the one that has gloriously triumphed over Satan and principalities and powers! He has disarmed them, removing their power, and making them to be seen as mere weaklings alongside of our great God! When Jesus came out of the tomb, these were His captives, and He took them forcibly, chained to the chariot en route to glory (Eph. 4:8-10). These are now His trophies, all being in total subjection to Him and His will. **He has openly displayed what actually has always existed,** i.e., that God is greater than all else. There is no contest between the Lord and Satan; Christ's resurrection proved that conclusively! He has officially disarmed them—removed what power they had from them - so that they no longer may delude the whole world. It is for this reason that we read in Scripture; ". . . for He that is in you is **greater** than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

These "principalities and powers" had focalized their attack upon the Son of God, squelching His

life from Him as His own Father forsook Him, i.e. leaving Him in their hands. Having demonstrated the immensity of their powers to the greatest possible extent, Jesus, being raised from the dead, stripped them off of Himself, shaking Himself like the mighty Samson; thus showing the weak and puny strength of Satan's hosts when set against the strength of God Almighty! What a marvelous display of power; **and it is for you,** and all believers! The third chapter of Colossians begins with a note of joy; "If ye then be risen with Christ . . .", thus indicating Christ's power over Satan may also be experienced by us. Our lives are now "hid with Christ" (Col. 3:3), and He is no less than "our life" (Col. 3:4). What can this mean, but that our lives are in Him characterized by victory over Satan. Yea, "we are **MORE THAN CONQUORERS** through Him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37). It is impossible for these powers, however dynamic and formidable they may seem to be, to "separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39). Summing up the matter, the Holy Spirit speaks on this wise; "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39). Praise the Lord! **The Adversary is faced with the task of unseating and defeating Jesus Christ before He can touch us;** and Jesus has already demonstrated in His resurrection that this cannot possibly be done. He has made a show of these forces openly, and in His death—the last weapon of Satan—He openly portrayed His absolute dominion over them. Who is he, then, that shall cause us to fear the enemy when our lives are hid with Christ in God. Now we are no longer "ignorant of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11). Now, the great need in our lives is to become **consciously aware** of this great work of Christ; to **know** the "exceeding greatness of the power to usward that believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the world, but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:18-21). **The purpose of this triumph was that the power might be experienced by us, thus giving glory to God.** There was no other reason! It was already known by God that Satan was an unworthy foe of Diety! God had ostracised Satan from His presence once, together with his angels, thus demonstrating His absolute ascendancy over the great Liar, and "that old serpent, Satan." But, there must needs be an **open demonstration** of this power for man to see, for man was going to experience this power in the reception of salvation through grace! We are to understand that the victory that Jesus gained over Satan may be found in our own lives. There is no reason why the Adversary should triumph over us, and indeed, as we remain firm in Christ, He shall not, for "God causeth us **always** to triumph in Christ Jesus" (II Cor. 2:14). We are now "complete in Him, which is the Head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:10); that is, there is no requirement or

weapon necessary for victory over our adversary that is not to be found in Jesus Christ. Amen! Satan has actually been destroyed, his venom nullified by the power of Christ, for He came "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14). In Christ we have been "delivered from the power of darkness into the kingdom of His (God's) dear Son" (Col. 1:13). We are not, of course, to understand from this that there shall not be harassment from Satan, and grievous periods of temptation. Rather, we are to understand that whatever trial we may pass through, Satan's efforts will by no means sever us from the Christ that we love. We shall find, like the three Hebrew children, that after we have passed through the fiery furnace of this life, there shall not be a "hair of our head singed, neither our coats changed, nor the smell of smoke passed on us" (Daniel 3:26-27). It is in this sense that we are to understand I John 5:18; "He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." Satan can not try us "beyond that which we are able to bear" (I Cor. 10:13). "Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7). You will unquestionably remember that prior to new life in Christ, you were "taken captive at his (Satan's) will" (II Tim. 2:26). Our minds had been "blinded by the Prince of this world" (II Cor. 4:4). Yet, now we see his craftiness, and are able in Christ Jesus to overcome it. Yea, we are even admonished to "put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil" (Eph. 6:11). **Jesus has wrought such a victory that all His brethren may partake of it with Him, for He shall yet lead them all to glory (Heb. 2:10).**

As we, therefore, become associated with the cross of Christ, we also become partakers of the victory that was there accomplished! What a wonderful manifestation of grace! As it is written, "... by the obedience of one (Christ) shall many be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19). Our Lord has the final hand on the wheel, steering the good ship Zion to that eternal abode, "a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Oh, do not struggle in your own strength to defeat Satan; your efforts shall be in vain! Christ has obtained the victory! He has made a show of the foe openly! Be found in Christ: "not having a righteousness of your own" (Phil. 3:9). The schemes of men are totally inadequate to combat the forces of evil. Systems and humanly conceived methods will not work! Only the life of Christ will avail as it beats within your bosom! You too can be a victor; yea, "more than a conqueror!" But it must be "in Christ"! I bid you to flee to Him! Imbibe His life! Experience the victory over the adversary! **Your victory shall not be gained in the observance of carnal commandments!** Paul speaks clearly on this wise as he urges us, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to avail ourselves of the triumph of the Lord over the Adversary; "Wherefore, if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why as though living in the world are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not, taste not, handle not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? which things indeed have a show of wisdom in will wor-

ship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh" (i.e., abstinence will not remove the lust of the flesh, which is the basic evil) - Col. 2:20-23). **The triumph of our Lord has taught us the clear inadequacy of human efforts.** It was the power from heaven that raised Him from the dead, bringing Him forth in "power" (Rom. 1:4). It was not an outward and seemingly suppression of Satan that was needed, but a veritable victory over him! This was wrought in Christ when He was raised from the dead, stripping from Himself all principalities and powers, and displaying them as His trophies of victory! If we have truly been risen with Christ, we shall find "Touch not, taste not, handle not" philosophy entirely inadequate in our wrestling against these powers, and "rulers of the darkness of this world." There is much talk today in rather conservative religious circles concerning abstinence from evil things. While we should not be so foolish as to deny that we must "abstain from every appearance of evil", this is not the cause of our victory of Satan. **Righteous and holy abstinence is but the evidence of the life of Christ, when truly manifested.** It is the life of Christ working in us, displaying the victory gained at the open mouth of the tomb! Come to Him! Taste of Him! Experience His life! Here is where **your** answer lies! Die and be raised with Christ, to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-6). Your affections changed, you shall enjoyably stand in the might of the Lord and experience the true victory of the Lord. **Let us be content to let Jesus pilot the ship.** Let us rejoice that He has gained the victory. If we are to glory, then, "let us glory in the Lord!" Amen! He has shown us the way, and bids us to "follow" Him! The triumph is His; but by faith, it may be ours also. Praise the Lord!

It is a sad commentary on the level of spiritual growth to which many of us have attained that we live much of our lives in defeat, crumbling under the weight of despair. We may, praise God, live a victorious life over the evil one because Christ has overcome him! When Jesus was ready to ascend into glory, He said to His disciples; "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). What did He mean, but that **His defeat was sufficient to carry us through the storm of tribulation also!** "Through much tribulation we must enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), but, praise God, we go **THROUGH** it with the Lord Jesus as our Pilot! He is leading us to glory (Heb. 2:10), and though it leads through the fiery furnace, or the flood waters, or even a den of lions, we shall safely pass through, "in nothing terrified by our adversaries" (Phil. 1:28). Though our opponents may seem very formidable, our Lord has triumphed over them gloriously, making a show of them openly. As we are in the Lord, born from above, the "evil one toucheth us not" (I John 5:18). **None, praise God, can grapple with our Lord without being shaken off and defeated!** I shall reside in His bosom, and trust to His strength, which is all-sufficient. If, after all, we have been "raised up together and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6), surely it is

(Please turn to page 7)

LET GOD BE TRUE

(From page 1)

The intent of this message is to throw us upon God and out of ourselves! Our very nature is such as demands that our trust be in God, who "cannot lie" (Titus 1:1-2). Our hearts are "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know them" (Jer. 17:9). But the Lord is true, praise His name, and He shall never be anything but true! Let our trust be in Him, and Him alone!

I find also great comfort in this teaching of Scripture, for it shows that no amount of opposition may nullify the power of God's word. Paul went so far as to say "The truth of God hath more abounded through my lie" (Rom. 3:7), thus indicating that even in his time of intense opposition against the Lord's Christ, yet the truth was not bound, but continued to increase and return unto the Lord accomplishing that whereunto it was sent (Isa. 55:9-12). "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" questioned the Psalmist (Psa. 2:1). He, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, affirmed the immutability of the Lord's counsel! HE IS TRUE, AND MAN, THOUGH A LIAR BY NATURE, CAN DO "NOTHING AGAINST THE TRUTH." Again, how we ought to praise the Lord that it is written of His people; "Surely they are MY PEOPLE, children that will not lie" (Isa. 63:8). This proclaims the blessed truth of conformity to the image of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. When man is found "walking in the Truth" it is because He has been invested with the "Divine nature" and been recreated in the likeness of God "in all true righteousness and holiness." It is in that state that he becomes deeply appreciative of the Truthful God, and becomes vexed at the TRUTHLESSNESS of man. "LET GOD BE TRUE AND EVERY MAN A LIAR!" This is the truth, and may we ever rest in it, realizing that man can do nothing to nullify what our God is or what He has said!

DEISM

Deism teaches that after God made the world, He withdrew Himself and left the world to run by its own forces—somewhat like a wound-up alarm clock—until it runs down; then the end. While this belief is held in contempt by most religious bodies, I fear it has nevertheless permeated some rather fundamental and conservative ranks. Many there are who believe quite strongly that God is no longer **personally active** in His creation and redemptive work. These are practical, though somewhat modified, deists! They have, for all practical purposes, an absent God, away on a journey, upon whom they may not personally depend for individual guidance and strength. Of course, if they find comfort in such a belief, we should certainly not want to deprive them of it—were that possible. But as for us, our only comfort is in the knowledge of a "very present" God in the time of trouble, who is "not far from every one of us" (Psa. 46:1; Acts 17:27). He is able and ready to "show Himself strong" to them that fear His name. The Lord has not forsaken His world, but still maintains it "by the word of His power" (Heb. 1:3), "sitting upon the circle of the earth." Nothing in Scripture indicates to us that God has ceased to be present, active, or working! As a matter of fact, in Jesus He personally takes up His abode with us (John 14:23). It is the height

(Please turn to page 8)

OUR GOD

(From page 2)

our God. God forgive us for neglecting your power and strength and struggling so feebly in our own! **The attributes of the Lord are such as are necessary for each one of us in daily life.** He is "mighty" (Job 36:5), "great" (Job 36:26), "King" (Psa. 47:7), "good" (Psa. 73:1), "gracious" (Psa. 116:5), "faithful" (I Cor. 1:19), "true" (II Cor. 1:18), "rich in mercy" (Eph. 2:4), and "love" (I John 4:8). How wonderful is this knowledge from above! He is mightier than our foes, praise the Lord! Yea, "greater than our heart" (I John 3:20). There is no phase of our lives which may not be gloriously victorious in the power and might of our God! What have we to fear? He is King, and there is none else beside Him! What He has promised, He is fully able to do. We would all do good to do less talking about what we can do for God, and more about what God can do for us! God has said; "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof" (Psa. 50:12). God is interested in giving to you of His fulness, and grace for grace (John 1:16). It is true that much of the preaching today is along the lines of what God wants of us; but the Scriptures speak graphically more of what God desires to give us. Indeed, "God commendeth His love TOWARD US, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6). What are we able to give unto the Lord? Alas, there is not much! The greatest of all is to offer Him our lives and hearts, that He might mould them in His own image, and bless them with His Divine Presence!

When the Scriptures speak of ability, it is always God's ability that is declared. It is pictured as abundantly sufficient to supply all of our needs, and meet all of our fears. Hallelujah! Perhaps we ought to view some of these declarations, for they are comforting to our hearts: God is "able to deliver" (Dan. 6:20). What are the circumstances in which you find yourself? Do they seem impossible? Do you feel as though you are unable to overcome them? Are they conquering you, and draining your spirit of joy and vitality? **GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER THEE!** Again, is there some truth of Scripture that you desire to lay hold of? Some promise you desire to be performed in your behalf? Take heart, for God is "able to perform what He has promised" (Rom. 4:21). It makes little difference whether or not it seems beyond the realm of possibility! **God is able to do it if He has promised it!** Whether it is strength for the day, or spiritual sustenance for the present hour - God is able to perform it! Perhaps you have an acquaintance, even a relative in the flesh, about whom you fret concerning their relationship to the Lord. You have tried to bring them closer, but seem to have little success in your endeavors. It happens frequently this way, doesn't it? Well, our God is abundantly able to meet this need! As a matter of fact, the Scriptures declare for our comfort, "God is able to make to stand" (Rom. 14:4). Why, then, ought we to despair over anyone if our feeble efforts fail. We will do well to commit ourselves and our friends into the power of the Almighty God and trust less to our own

inadequacies! Perhaps you are given to think often of the poor in this world's goods, who are continually in need of physical sustenance and help, and you feel that you are not able to provide for them the things you desire. Even, brethren, in such a matter as this, the Lord has made provision for our faith in Him. The Scriptures declare of this very problem; "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work . . ." (II Cor. 9:8-11). Some of these things seem difficult for us, because we view so much of God and His power through the veiled eyes of the flesh. God help us to rise above the normal plane and on wings of faith contact with "all power"! Our God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20). If it be countered that He is able, but that He is not during this age disposed to perform such things, we shall counter that if this were true the statement is pointless, and rather detrimental to our faith that encouraging. The Lord does not teach us to trust in the impossible, nor does He reveal Himself as one who is able but not willing! Such a concept is from the very pit of hell itself, and has lent itself to the tearing down of many high walls of faith! We are too small to even think in proper realms; God's ability far transcends our very imaginations. Our sphere is so limited, that we are able to grasp very little of what could actually be done by faith in the mighty power of God. To compound the humiliating truth, the Holy Spirit asserts that this exceeding power that is able to perform even beyond our fondest expectations is actually within us "now" (Eph. 3:20). May the Lord grant us a much larger portion of faith in Him and His great ability to perform all things! There is no insurmountable difficulties with the Lord! He is "able to subdue all things unto Himself" (Phil. 3:21), and that, praise God, includes all of **your** personal enemies and those powers against which **you** personally wrestle!

When we commit something to the Lord we ought to trust implicitly in His ability to keep it! None may wrest it from His hand! Paul, speaking in the Holy Spirit, said, "I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (II Tim. 1:12). Though all the world may consider you a fool, and believe that your life is characterized by only the most foolish of all committals. Yet, the world may not rob you of the joy of knowing the Lord shall keep it faithfully. They shall not deprive you of that blessing which comes from knowing the Lord does not forget His children, nor their interest in His truth and Kingdom! Commit your entire life to Him in full faith that He is able to keep it! Yea, much more, "He is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). What could be more wonderful than that; to know that **our Lord is able to maintain our position before Him in faith and love which was given us through His grace (I Tim. 1:14)!** He is not only "able to save" (Heb. 5:7), but "able to save to the uttermost" (Heb. 7:25), i.e. to the uttermost degree and to the uttermost one! Praise the Lord! Who has objections to trusting in an all-

sufficient Lord as this? Let them register their complaint, but as for me and my house, we shall trust in Him AND His ability! If you have been tempted, and feel that no one understands the rigor of that temptation, then we offer hope to you in the ability of the Lord! He is "able to succour them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:18). Our Lord walked a while in this strange land, and was "tempted in all points like as we are" (Heb. 4:15), and now He is not only able to understand your feelings, but also to minister to you in the presence of them, knowing just what you need! No situation, my friend, that the Lord does not thoroughly understand and in which stands ready to minister to you. Trust in His ability, trust implicitly in it! And, praise the Lord for such a wonderful God, who is able to minister to all of our needs, and who urges us to trust in Him and His power! Let us never be guilty of relegating God to a back seat in the church, but rather, acknowledge Him as He who is "above all, and through all, and in all" (Eph. 4:6). The wonderful part of it all is that this is the God that our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ has brought us to, and He has graciously made peace with God for us through His blood (Romans 5:1).

Spoiled Principalities and Powers

(From page 5)

through us that "principalities and powers in heavenly places" might come to know the exceeding wisdom of God as manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9-11). It was not Jesus alone that was raised, but the "body" was raised with Him in the mind and purpose of God. The Head was not raised without the body, praise God! We were in His loins, even as Levi was in the loins of father Abraham (Hebrews 7:9-10). The victory, then, is ours also, as we partake of Christ (Heb. 3:14). I urge you to live within the knowledge and joy of this victory. Shortly God shall finally bruise Satan under our feet (Romans 16:20).

A Word From a Departed Brother Concerning Works and Grace

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works, (Rom. 9:6). Whatsoever confer rumination of grace and works Papists dream of. They think that as he that standeth on two branches of a tree is surer than he that standeth on one only; so he that trusteth in Christ and works too is in the safest condition. But, 1. They are fallen from grace that trust to works, Gal. 5:4. 2. He that hath one foot on a firm branch, and another on a rotten one stands not so sure, as if he stood wholly upon that which is sound. But let them be Moses' disciples, let us be Christ's. Set not up a candle to this Sun of righteousness, mix not thy puddle with His purple blood, thy rags with His raiment, thy pigeon's plumes with His eagle's feathers."

BROTHER JOHN TRAPP - 1601-1669

THE INADEQUACY OF HUMAN WISDOM

(From page 2)

declaration of Scripture is that man in his "wisdom, knew not God." The wisdom of God is hidden from the world, and they cannot behold it; it is an absolute impossibility! The "carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). If this is the case, then how can reason be applied to revelation, and so discover fellowship with God. Begone, thou blasphemers! Thou hast brought reproach upon the Holy One of Israel! Can darkness discover the light? Can the unlearned enter into intellectual concourse with the great God of heaven? **The revelation of God is contrary to the highest form of human reason!**

God has "chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not to bring to nought things that are" (I Cor. 1:27-28). The "natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him, neither can He know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). If it be countered that human reason is used in the development of these truths in the hearts and lives of men, we answer that though Christ's religion does effect the reasoning processes of man, yet God has found man's reason, man's reason has not found God. The Spirit sensitizes the mind of man through the new birth in order that otherwise incomprehensible truths may be absorbed into the new man, thus affording life with God. Mankind groped for God on their own and found Him not, but rather "refused to retain Him in their knowledge" (Romans 1); and even when a chosen people were given the "oracles of God", they utterly failed - by reason or any other means - to find God out! No! Reason may not even peer into the Scriptures and find God; these truths are "spiritually discerned" - not by processes of reason! Man must be "born again"! He must be "born of the water and the Spirit" before he can either see (perceive) or enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:1-3). There is not so much as one spark of life that proceeds from the flesh - and the mind of the unregenerate is appropriately termed "the **fleshly mind**" (Col. 2:18). But, praise God, in Jesus Christ the reasoning faculties are regenerated to such an extent that it is proclaimed, "we have the mind of Christ" (I Cor. 2:16). The "new man" is "renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him" (Col. 2:10). Man's reasoning was not merely "seri-

ously marred" in the fall of Adam, but was so affected that the only way in which it may be accepted before the Lord is to be killed, and renewed! An entirely new principle of life must fill man's reasoning - and even then it is prayed by the Apostle that we might be given of God "the spirit of wisdom and **revelation** in the knowledge of Him" (Eph. 1:17-18). In closing his alarming article on reasoning (which, incidently was based upon a statement made by Moses Lard, "A pioneer thinker of the restoration movement") H.W.F. states, "For the academic record, man's reasoning that human reasoning is useless is a self contradictory position and cannot be accepted as a criterion in determining his relationship to God." But, it is quite the opposite! In the first place, this is not "man's reasoning!" The Scriptures ask, "Who can find out God by searching"? That which is inimical to God may not at all find Him out, and the natural or fleshly mind is enmity against God! All of the meditations of the flesh are at war with the will of God, for the will of God can be sought only where He has revealed it. It may not be countered that His will is revealed in the mere recording of the Scriptures! The natural man cannot receive those things for they are contrary to his reason, and thus may not be found out by it! Man must be regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit and impregnated with a new spirit of life whereby He will be enabled to discern what the Lord has declared. We are to be "taught by Christ the truth as it is in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 4:20-21). Let us, then, put away from us that non-Christian philosophy of the validity of man's reasoning in the appropriation of truth! "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given" (James 1:5). What a devastating blow to the doctrine promulgated by our erring brother! He states reason is that by which "revelation is understood." The Lord rebuke him, and forgive his sin!

Deism

(From page 6)

of folly to believe that He would do so unconsciously and without that work which is characteristic of Him. Let us seek to lay hold of a **present God**, yea a "**very present**" **God**, not an absent one. Let us have done with arguments against the power and activity of the Lord which suggest that He is away and no longer active in the world and church which He has created! The instruments which He uses (The Word, the church, etc.) do not all nullify His personal word and presence, for **without His presence all of these are empty and void of life.**

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