

# THE WORD OF TRUTH

Published Monthly

*"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"—Jno. 8:32.*

Volume 9

JULY, 1965

Number 6

*"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

### HOW CAN I KNOW?

Frequently the question is asked: "How can I know of my relationship with God"? Here is an important question, for until an affirmative and positive assurance is received in this matter, we cannot hope to stand against the inward assaults of Satan, or the outward persecutions administered by those born after the flesh! It is absolutely imperative that we "KNOW whom we have believed, and are PERSUADED that He is able to KEEP that which we have committed unto Him against that day" (II Tim. 1:12). Do you seek assurance that God loves YOU personally; that there is a specific "crown of righteousness" laid up for YOU; that Christ Jesus "loved YOU and gave Himself for YOU" (Gal. 2:20)? Do you desire the knowledge of the truth that "God is for YOU" (Rom. 8:32); that "none is able to pluck YOU out of His hand" (John 10:28-30); that He is "able to keep YOU from falling" (Jude 24); that there is truly an "inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled, reserved in heaven for YOU" (I Pet. 1:3-5); that nothing is "able to separate YOU from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord" (Rom. 8:35-39)? Is this your desire - your persistent wish? If so, then here is an answer for you. It is not systematic; it is not a plan that is subject to the analysis of men; but it is the truth of God.

YOU MUST SEE JESUS! "Sir, WE would SEE Jesus" (John 12:21) must be the request of your heart unto God! You must see Him dying for YOU, being raised for YOU, interceding for YOU, coming for YOU! Whether anyone else sees it or not, YOU must see it if you are to be a true overcomer, and have confidence and assurance before the Lord. Once see Jesus Christ in a proper relationship to yourself, and confidence and assurance will be the joyous fruitage. This is what is called the "full assurance of understanding" (Col. 2:2). There shall never be a soul firmly rooted in the faith who is not certain of his relationship to the Lord Jesus! Obscure this knowledge and you at once obscure confidence, assurance, victory, joy, peace, and fervency! These are but shoots off of the tree

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**In This Issue . . .**

**THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD  
THE MINISTRY OF THE SPEAKING CHRIST**

# The Word of Truth

Published monthly by The Church Meeting at 26th and Colfax Street, Gary, Indiana.

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Crown Point, Indiana.

Sent Free upon request to all interested parties.

## HOW CAN I KNOW?

(From page 1)

of knowledge; "Ye shall KNOW the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Jesus is not here speaking of some mere abstract Scriptural truth that comes to your attention; there is infinitely more involved than that. He identified Himself as the Truth (John 14:6), and is here speaking of one coming to know Him, and the reality of His work. Once know that in truth, and you shall be free from the doubts and fears that presently assail your mind. If God saves at all, He saved individuals and those individuals, having communion with Him Personally (John 17:3) are given the joyous privilege of KNOWING Him in whom they have believed. Oh, that more would seek such a knowledge; that they would peer into the word, and into their hearts, and discover afresh that truth that "Christ died for sinners, OF WHOM I AM CHIEF" (I Tim. 1:15).

If you desire to see God's love for you, then you must see Christ dying for YOU: "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us . . ." (I John 3:16). *You will never be personally convinced of the reality of God's love for you until that truth is seen.* Press toward it; seek to obtain this knowledge. By the grace of God, all of His people may say with Paul in personal declaration; "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in ME; and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved ME and gave Himself for ME" (Gal. 2:20). This may not be apprehended by following a plan, or by adhering to a system, *but it may be apprehended by faith!* I would remind you that Jesus has faithfully promised; "He that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE cast out" (John 6:37). And, as is always the case with our Lord, what we need is found in Jesus Christ and our apprehension of Him, for "we are complete in Him" (Col. 2:9). I joyfully commit you to the Lord, and urge you to "seek" with the unequivocal promise that your seeking shall be rewarded with "finding."

## The Promises — In Jesus

No promise of God may be sought apart from Jesus! "All the promises of God are in Him yea, and Amen, unto the glory of God" (II Cor. 1:20). He is the "one Mediator between God and man" (I Tim. 2:5), and any traffic between the two must come through and by Him!

**If God has made a promise it may only be procured in the Person of Jesus Christ!** Do not per-

mit a devilish curiosity to look into "new things" draw you away from the "Lord's Christ!" Nothing is effectually transmitted to you save through Him who hath "come and given us an understanding" (I John 5:20). Take hold of Christ "by faith", and you will have with Him "all things that pertain unto life and godliness!" **God has nothing to offer that does not come through Him; even judgment has been "committed to the Son"** (John 5:22), **so that if you will not receive the blessings of God through Him here, you shall receive damnation at His hand there!** I bid you, in Christ's stead, "Be ye reconciled to God"! Focus your attention upon the Son, and seek to be found in Him without "spot or wrinkle or any such thing." Through Him "obtain promises", by the which you will become a "partaker of the Divine nature" (II Pet. 1:3-4).

## Seeing the Faults

I am convinced that when a person visualizes an actual fault prevalent among the brethren, or a brother, and becomes deeply concerned about it, God means for him to be used in the changing of the situation. Too many times there are those who see faults spread a cloud of despondency over their own soul, and consequently over the whole assembly. Such ought not to be the case. Recognize this as a sign from God, and beseech Him to reveal to you what to do. It may be that you shall pray, and thus secure life for the needed one. It may also be that you will verbally bring a message that shall meet the problem. Whatever the ministrations of the Lord is, seek it from the Lord, together with the power to perform it. Don't become "cast down" about the situation; seek grace to be a part of its answer!

Attainments of religious scholastic recognition as seen in such titles as "doctor" do not necessarily mean that one may speak with more certainty than those who have simply "learned Christ." Many people have a warped sense of values along this line and would sooner believe a cultured and educated speaker than one of lesser formal attire, even though they speak the same truths. Such an attitude is basically carnal, and evidences a lack of pure love for the truth, which takes no cognizance of the speaker, but rather the content of the speech. This is but one of the attitudes that many rather religious folk have assimilated from the world.

The Scriptures assert with staggering clarity that "no flesh shall glory in His (God's) sight." In view of this, all efforts to vaunt the flesh are clearly attempts to find good favor with mere men!

"Hope thou in God", the Scriptures assert (Psa. 42:5), and a blessed prospect it is, for God never fails. He always hears the cry of the helpless and needy. He promises to all His children the vindication of all they have embraced in Christ, and sets before them immortality. He is sure to fulfill His word. In view of this, if you are ever burdened down with care, think upon Him and what He has said, and "hope thou in God!"

"If what's above you does not control what's within you, what's around you will."

## The Faithfulness of God

"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God of none effect? God forbid; yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That Thou mightest be justified in Thy sayings, and mightest overcome when Thou art judged. — Romans 3: 3-4

The overt vision that confronted Paul was much like that which impresses saints of every age. There was a great sparsity of true believers in the Lord God. This has, in every age and time, induced evil minded men to invent unto themselves systems and programs designed to increase the number of disciples and followers of Christ. The result is that these come to rest in their systems and boast in their traditions. Rather than possessing a living and vital faith, they possess a "form of godliness, but deny the power thereof" (II Tim. 3:5). Rather than considering the committal of the Scriptures unto them (Rom. 3:2) as a definite "advantage", these pretenders rather trust in their own schemes, and thus "make of none effect the commandment of God" through their "tradition" (Matt. 15:6, 9). Paul was writing to people who had, in part, imbibed this contemptible form of religion. Many of them were Jews (in the flesh), and were making their boast in the flesh, rather than in the Lord (Rom. 2:17-26). Paul is writing to correct their misgivings, and to steer them into that "strait" gate that leads unto life (Matt. 7:13-14), and to show them that the increase of the body of Christ is faithfully being maintained by God Himself. After he has propounded to them the truth of God's word, he anticipates that some will come back with the argument that the Word of God is not enough. Many have not believed, and thus there must be efforts made other than those ordained of God (I Cor. 1:18). **There will be, in the minds of the carnal, a continual reversion back to the Law and the commandments, simply because the effectuality of the proclamation of the Word is considered insufficient.** The majesty of the Holy Scriptures has really never dawned on them, and thus they rest in the external ordinances like the law-monsters that they are. We ought to rise to a higher level of understanding and see that we are not to suspect that all who hear the Word of God will turn to the Lord; nor are we taught to be greatly disappointed when our preaching falls upon deaf ears. Particularly, here, I address those who minister the Word of God.

Often do those laborers in the fields become discouraged because much of their words are met with the complacent attitudes of benighted people. Ought that to be the case? Does this not rather display a lamentable want of faith in those that are seeking to disseminate the faith through the God-ordained means of preaching? Are we to understand that God is "hamstrung" when the Word of God is not literally pushed from our mouths into the hearts of the listener? Paul speaks concerning this matter when he says; "FOR WHAT IF SOME DID NOT BELIEVE?" How we need to ask ourselves that question? Is the perfidy of men to cause the Word of God to lose its effect-

ality, and the Lord God Himself His constancy? "SHALL THEIR UNBELIEF MAKE THE FAITH (faithfulness) OF GOD OF NONE EFFECT", asks Paul. Is man so infinite in his power that he may thwart the God of heaven? Isaiah asks the Lord; "Lord, who hath believed our report, and unto whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed" (Rom. 10:16). God had commissioned Isaiah to preach; was God to be found unfaithful because Isaiah's message was not received by the masses; because Isaiah was considered a thorn in the side rather than a messenger from the Lord? Why is it that men persist in believing that God calls men to preach only to make resounding successes of them, and if they are not hailed as highly favored men, that surely they were not called of God. Considering that a man's message is from God, let us not reproach God with ideas of unfaithfulness if his report is not believed.

This is precisely the situation that Paul is here dealing with! The message has gone forth, and yet has been met with cold, hard unbelief. Was God to be considered unfaithful? Had man's reluctance to receive the message moved upon God to deny the promises that He had made? Is God so weak as to be discouraged from His purpose by the antics of man, who is but a worm? **GOD FORBID! God is faithful, and none can nullify His great faithfulness; not even those who are complacent with the truth! LET GOD BE TRUE AND EVERY MAN A LIAR!** Now, that is a statement of truth, not a mere suggestion. **If the two propositions, that God is true and man a liar, stand together, and indeed agree, it follows that the truth of God is not rendered void by the falsehood of men!** The meaning is quite clear — the faithfulness of God, so far from being overthrown by the perfidy and apostasy of men, becomes thereby MORE EVIDENT! Herein is found great consolation. Man possesses by nature such wickedness in rejecting and despising the counsel of God, that he would often doubt its certainty, if he did not recall that the truth of God does not depend upon the truth of man. Now, I am fully aware that this may sound very questionable to those of my colleagues who are yet wandering in the dim light of tradition; but I care nothing for that. Praise God, the Lord, in spite of the lies of men (and all men are liars by nature), which otherwise hinder His truth, **will make a way for it where there is no way, that He may emerge victorious by correcting in His people the inborn unbelief of nature, and by subjecting to His obedience, those who seemed to be virtually invincible.**

As it is written: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power" (Psa. 110:3). Now, I have sought to establish in a small measure that God's faithfulness is by no means conditioned upon the truth of man; that His character is not changed and disordered because of the rebelliousness of His creation. You will never be able to fully appreciate the faithfulness of God until this is brought home to your heart. It is not that we seek to justify that despicable slothfulness and hesitancy of belief that characterizes so many; but rather to comfort and console the hearts of those who well know by experience that the "heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked"

(Jer. 17:9). Indeed, it is imperative for us to realize that in ourselves we are often prone to doubt what the Lord has said, and thus to withdraw from a course of trust. The only access we have to God is "through faith" (Rom. 5:2), and faith feeds upon the Word and promises of God, not upon the conceptions entertained by our natural minds, or by the efforts expended in our natural energies. Whatever your frailty may be, whether or not you feel strong enough to maintain a straight path, and to fight a good fight; I would have you know that if you are leaning strong upon the bosom of the Lord, if you are trusting not in your own understanding, but in the Lord — that the Lord is faithful, and will not suffer you to be taken from His hand (John 10:27-30). Our exhortations, while they are full well intended to stir up the hearts of God's children, and to move upon them to shake off the dust of complacency, and to put upon the armor of light, are still meant to convey to men the stable thought of God's faithfulness toward His people. Nothing can nullify His faithfulness, and once you are persuaded of the truth that He is your Lord, your Savior, your Propitiation through Jesus' blood, then you may recline in His faithfulness, knowing that "your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).

Too, like Paul, we are not to consider that the circumstances about us actually nullify the judgment of the Lord, or that He has become unfaithful because of them. God has not forsaken His people, nor has one good thing failed that He has promised. This is the great difficulty with man — believing that this is so. There is something inherent in man that insists upon doubting God, and refusing to trust in His faithfulness. Feebly man struggles to maintain a course of his own choosing within his own strength, and soon finds that it is futile, and with Solomon declares; "vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Eccl. 1:2).

It is the burden of this ministry to substantiate to your heart that God is faithful, and though every man be found a liar, yet is He found true; Praise the Lord! Let your heart be caught up with this thought, and see what comfort it will minister to you. We are told by the Holy Spirit that God's faithfulness "reacheth unto the clouds" (Psa. 36:5). Even there may be witnessed His steadfastness and His lack of variableness. Is it not seen in that blessed bow in the sky, which signifies that He will not destroy the world by water again? (Gen. 9:16). If you cannot rise one whit higher than that, you still have a token of His faithfulness. But, praise God, there are still higher levels than this, and to them let us ascend with the wings of an eagle, as is comely for the children of the King.

Are you seeking the Lord? You have not found Him? You are wondering if you will ever find Him? Are you desirous for Him to fill your life, to give you a sweet release from sin and all that enslaves? Then, the faithfulness of God is for you! "And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou Lord, hast not forsaken them that SEEK Thee" (Psa. 9:10). You may personally claim that promise by continuing to seek Him. The promise is "Seek and ye shall find"

(Matt. 7:7), and a blessed promise it is! **Before one seeking person may be turned down, God must deny Himself!** He has pledged Himself not to forsake any that seek after Him. Praise God, then I will continue to seek Him in greater and more wonderful dimensions in my own personal life! Jesus, as the "express image of His Person" (Heb. 1:1-3) has announced that He will "in no wise" cast away them that come to Him (John 6:37). Why, then, ought anyone to be discouraged if they seek the Lord. He is faithful, He will not deny Himself; He will not turn away nor forsake them that seek after Him. I bid you to avail **yourself** of this promise!

Are you a child of God? Have you been born again? Then you know something of the road that leads to glory; it is a path of suffering, where the world is set at enmity against us, and he that is "born after the flesh persecuteth he that is born of the Spirit" (Gal. 4:29). This is a toilsome road at first, and many recoil from it, drawing back, and beginning to believe that God has forsaken them. But this is not at all the case! God is faithful. He promises "The Lord will not forsake His people" (I Sam. 12:22; I Kgs. 6:13), and again; "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). "The Lord forsaketh not His saints" (Psa. 37:28), and to that you may trust. If the storm seems strong, and the boat begins to tip, you still need not fear; He will not forsake His people; He will not do it! Through the storm of adversity; through the trial of affliction; through the winds of doubt and fear; amidst the burning persecution ministered by the hands and mouths of the enemies of the cross, God stands, faithful to His children, ministering comfort to their hearts, strength to their minds, with joy and peace in the Holy Ghost! Though they are forgotten of everyone else; they are "not forgotten of God" (Isa. 44:21), for they are "engraven on the palms of His hands" (Isa. 49:16). Although there has been "sin the land", yet the children have "not been forsaken of their God" (Jer. 51:5), and praise be to His Holy Name! Hallelujah! Is not His faithfulness "great" (Lam. 3:23)? Have there not been a thousand reasons why He could have forsaken us? We have often rebelled against His will, both knowingly and unknowingly. We have not always proved faithful; and yet He has not left us desolate! This faithfulness of God is demonstrated in the "elect" from the beginning of their new life until the end. This I seek for you to see, and once seen with the eye of faith, it will encourage your heart and bolster your confidence. Hear the word of the Lord, and suffer the word of exhortation.

In the eternal ages, God selected a people in His foreknowledge. Those He "chose" (II Thess. 2:13) or "predestinated" (Rom. 8:29-30). They are said to have been "elected" (I Pet. 1-2). These were "ordained to eternal life" (Acts 13:48). They were "chosen in Christ" from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-11) and "preserved" for Christ (Jude 1 ASV). These people God both brings to Himself and keeps in faithfulness. He will not forsake His own decrees! **They were called in faithfulness!** "But God is faithful, by whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus

Christ OUR Lord" (I Cor. 1:9). The very fact that **you** have been called into the fellowship of God's Son; that **you** have been made aware that Jesus Christ died for **your** sins, and that He lives to Intercede for **you**; that **you** have been given the grace to walk in the light as He is in the light, and to avail yourself of His Personal fellowship, is proof to **you** that God is faithful; praise His holy name! Were it not for the faithfulness of God, none would even be brought into an intimate communion with Jesus! Is it not Paul that wrote: "God hath not cast away the people that He hath foreknew" (Rom. 11:12). Shall I not, then, praise His name, and render the homage of my heart to Him for manifesting His faithfulness to me by bringing me to Himself? As the favorite song "Oh Happy Day" puts it; **He drew me and I followed on, charmed to confess the name Divine.**" Oh, blessed God of my soul, I thank Thee for calling me in faithfulness; for making Thyself known to me, and for revealing Thy well Beloved Son to me.

I see Thy faithfulness, oh Lord  
 In my reaction to Thy Word  
 When I beheld the sacrifice  
 I am compelled to come to Christ  
 I know not why Thou didst choose me  
 Nothing in myself I see  
 But yet I praise Thy holy name  
 That Thou hast made me not ashamed!

But here, in this hostile world, I am confronted with "divers temptations" and snares. Daily I am confronted with the beguiling trickery of Satan, and would soon sink in the pit of despair and sin were it not for the great faithfulness of my God. This is a hurdle over which many fear to leap; the hurdle of despondency in temptation. The path seems too rough; the gate too narrow, the road too long. But listen, here is where God's faithfulness comes in. He knows your proclivities and inclinations toward evil; your own weakness and inability to meet temptation and overcome in your own strength. I bid you to claim this promise; "But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which ye are able; but will **with the temptation** provide a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13). Oh, I can stand the course of life with that promise! Little wonder that James wrote; "Brethren, count it **all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; **KNOWING THIS**, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2-3). God provides "**WITH**" the temptation a way of escape because of His faithfulness! Both come together; temptation and a way of escape, in order that we might not be "cast down". What soul in Christ Jesus (Col. 3:1-4) will not rejoice in such a truth as this, knowing the multiplicity of trials that come his way, **together with** a multiplicity of escapes. Praise God for His faithfulness in maintaining us throughout all of our temptations.

Most contemporary religion of our day presents spiritual perfection as the result of mere human effort. Religious leaders, pastors, teachers, etc., lose their constituents in a labyrinth of activity, with the vain promise that this will bring their perfection or maturity before God. Myriads are the people that hold their heads high because of their achievements in the behalf of their local

## TRACTS AND PAMPHLETS FOR BRETHREN

The following tracts are available to our readers free of charge. We urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to receive them, as they will be a source of edification to you.

**GOD AND MAN**—a series of four small tracts acquainting you with God and man, and their union in Jesus Christ.

**THE ELECTION OF GRACE**—a tract designed to give you an appreciation for God's Sovereignty.

**SHORT POEMS FOR A CLOSER WALK WITH HIM**—short poetic expressions of the personal relationship with Christ.

**POETRY FOR BRETHREN**—expressions of the joy of the Lord as experienced by the children of the King.

**PEACE**—a small pamphlet declaring the magnitude of peace received in Christ, its nature and scope.

congregation, supposing that this has, in some way, made them more fit for God, and more fully matured in His Kingdom. But this is not at all a fair representation of the case. **Our spiritual perfection is not conditioned upon our activity, but upon God's.** Here is a realm where we may be brought to appreciate the wonderful faithfulness of God. **Our activity is but a product and manifestation of the perfection which we have already received by faith.**

Hear what the word of the Lord speaks: "And the very God of peace sanctify **you** wholly; and I pray God **your** whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **FAITHFUL IS HE THAT CALLETH YOU, WHO WILL ALSO DO IT**" (I Thess. 5:23-24). That is like a balm to the discouraged heart — discouraged because of the great inadequacy of its own efforts, because of the constant reminder that "without Christ, we can do nothing". Our state of blamelessness — our state of perfection — is not dependent upon us, but upon the Lord; Praise His Holy Name! I know that this will bring about an inclination in flesh to be slothful and dilatory. **But, the slothfulness and complacency of the impudent do not nullify the faithfulness of God.** God is pledged to perfect His people, and that He shall do. He who leans on the Lord, and acknowledges Him **IN** all of His ways, possesses the promise that God will "direct his paths" (Prov. 3:5-6). Here, then, the objective of man's efforts is not so much **DOING** as it is **TRUSTING!** The Lord Himself will "perfect" us (I Pet. 5:10) if we but trust in Him, and permit the "living waters" to "flow out of our belly" (John 7:37-39). **This does not eliminate activity, but rather makes true sanctified activity a reality!** I bid you to cease from your own carnal works, and "present your body a living sacrifice unto God, wholly acceptable, which is your reasonable service; and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of **your mind**, that **YOU** may prove (find out to your satisfaction)

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## The Ministry of Christ's Speaking

Jesus Christ in His ante-incarnation state was called "THE WORD"; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we beheld the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,14). He was, and remains, the Communicator of the work and thoughts of the Father. In the capacity which He now fulfills for us, He is known as the "express image of the Father" (Heb. 1:3), and the glory of the knowledge of God is "seen" in His "face" (II Cor. 4:6). It has pleased the Father to make the Word known as "THE WORD", though veiled in the "likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3). To those whose eyes have been opened to discern the "mystery" (Col. 1:27), **Jesus is seen as the Person through whom the mind and purposes of the Lord may be seen and known.** Effectually does He communicate, to the hearts of those who believe on Him, the "eternal purpose" (Eph. 3:11) of God, and the "truth" whereby they are "set free" (John 8:32, 36). **Everything that God has for men is channeled through the Son!** He is the "One Mediator between God and man" (I Tim. 2:5). It is according to the "wisdom of God" that the "world by wisdom knew not God" (I Cor. 1:21); i.e., God has wisely (in His own sight) determined that those of the world may not through their own ingenuity aspire unto the knowledge of God. Men cannot sidestep the Lord Jesus Christ, for to do so is to become a "thief and a robber" (John 10:1). Many people, devout embracees of religious persuasions, have utterly failed to catch the truth that Jesus Himself is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6); i.e., **He Himself is the means of attaining God and Heaven; He is the message and reality of God; He is the very life and manifestation of God's eternality.** No man is effectually taught until he is "taught the truth as it is in Christ Jesus" by Jesus Himself (Eph. 4:20-21).

In the passage just alluded to, the apostle states that God's children have not been taught to submit to the fleshly and idolatrous practices of the world; "But ye have not so learned Christ, **IF SO BE THAT YE HAVE HEARD HIM, AND BEEN TAUGHT BY HIM THE TRUTH AS IT IS IN CHRIST JESUS**" (Eph. 4:20). There is no question concerning the ministry of Jesus to His saints now. He is still teaching, still speaking, still instructing. The point of question lies in whether or not they have heard Him! God's people ought not to be alarmed at the thought of Jesus instructing them, as though some strange and mystical thing happens; a voice out of the blue, or a sharp arresting of the attention by means of a physical display. Their hearts have been moulded anew, so as to receive communication from heaven; "They shall all be taught of God", is the promise of the Spirit through the prophets (Isa. 54:13; Micah 4:2). Jesus is pictured as "standing" at the hearts of men, knocking, and seeking entrance (Rev. 3:20); and it is no small observation that the statement is addressed to the churches. **This is but a metaphor that instructs us that Jesus is seeking to hold communication with the hearts of men; to speak to them in a "word" unto them, saying "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa. 30:21).** This is one of the

great benefits of the new birth; it sensitizes men's hearts in order that they may see and hear the "truth as it is in Christ Jesus." Remembering that "he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit" (I Cor. 6:17), it is easy enough to discern why we may "all know Him, from the least unto the greatest" (Heb. 8:11). It is the very "life" of Christ that is placed within us, by God's grace (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:4); not a life similar to His, or bearing the image of His — **but it is the very life of Jesus Himself.** Because Diety encounters no difficulty in consulting with and communicating with Itself, it is no surprise that God is said to Personally instruct and lead His people; they bear His own nature, and possess the very life of the Son. Why should this be thought an impossible thing?

On the last night of our Lord's pre-sacrificial ministry, He met in the upper room with His disciples. There He graciously instructed them, preparing them for His death and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them (John 13-16). It was on this solemn occasion that He declared, "I have spoken" (John 14:25). What a marvelous display of grace! "I have spoken" — yea, "THESE THINGS have I spoken unto YOU. . ." Here was "God manifest in the flesh" (I Tim. 3:16), descended from heaven, and yet "in heaven" (John 3:13). Does it not touch the strings of your heart to know that as Infinite as He was, eternal and forever the same (Heb. 13:8), that He humbled Himself to speak to men — yea to speak to us? And do not His words yet minister to us in power and effectuality? What Jesus spoke did not simply go into the air. **It yet circles about until it finds its resting place within the humble and contrite heart.** His words are eternal, and though "heaven and earth shall pass away, His words shall never pass away" (Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). When He speaks it is infinitely more than mere enunciation. **It is the veritable proclamation of the eternal counsels of God! That word which is "forever settled in the heavens" (Psa. 119:89) is brought by the speech of Christ into the proximity of the heart, and driven into it with the very breath of God.** Glorious truth of the speaking Christ; I would have no other.

So potent is the word that He speaks, that He declares; "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **THE WORD THAT I HAVE SPOKEN, THE SAME SHALL JUDGE HIM IN THE LAST DAY**" (John 12:47-48). You cannot afford to treat with contempt those things which come from "the mouth of the Lord" (Duet. 8:3; Josh. 9:14); I Kgs. 13:21; Isa. 1:20; 40:5; 58:15; Jer. 9:12; Mi. 4:4; Isa. 62:2; Jer. 23:10). **So far as you are concerned, Jesus has spoken to you when the Word is realized as from Him to you; when you realize that you are at variance with what He has said, and you feel the weight of your own sin; when you see that "God is true, and every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4).** There are times when the people of God are stricken with a sense of the magnitude of God; that His word is surely omnipotent. Suddenly their hearts are melted, as it were, and they desire whole-heartedly to perform the will of the Lord. That is the Lord speaking to you, and you are admonished not to "harden

your heart" (Psa. 95:8; Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7). On the other hand, those who hear the voice of the Lord, who are not of the "fold", sometimes are made aware of the implications of that word; that it is an indictment against them; that if it is true, then they are surely to be damned. Those who so hear the word of the Lord, and yet obstinately refuse to "follow on to know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3) shall be judged by that selfsame word in the last day. So shall it be with those who profess to know the Lord also; if they have received of the Lord the implications of the Word, and yet refuse to accept it, they shall surely stand in the scope of its judgment to their own condemnation. Christ's spoken words are not opinions! They are settled truths (Psa. 119:89)! None of them shall "fall to the ground" (I Sam. 3:19). They shall be a refuge of safety to those who receive them, and a source of damnation to those who reject them. Oh, hear the speaking Christ, and give heed unto His words. Those who hear what He says, and performs His counsels, are likened to wise men, which built upon the solid rock, whose house the storms of adversity could not shake or fell (Matt. 7:24-27).

Again, Jesus speaks in order that our joy might be full and genuine. In a day that is marked by much frivolity, the meaning of joy has been much obscured. Some suppose that it is a fleshly excitation, or an unwholesome enjoyment of the lusts of the flesh. But, the elect of God know what joy is; that it stands solid in the times of adversity; that it is rooted in the work of Jesus Christ, through whom we have NOW received the atonement" (Rom. 5:11). This joy does not always have the appearance of joy; but that is because it is sown within the cords of our hearts, which may not always be conveyed in truth upon our faces. This is a "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Pet. 1:8); it is inexpressable, unutterable; but real nevertheless. This joy is the result of an established communication in the Spirit with Jesus. He speaks in order that His "friends" (John 15:13-15) might have a real and full joy: "These things I have SPOKEN unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Our joy is like a vessel; a mere shell, prepared by the Spirit to contain a substance that can never be produced out of anything we possess. The "joy of the Lord" (Matt. 25:21) is the real substance that fills our hearts. **Jesus speaks to us in order that His joy might remain an integral part of our being.** He is joyful; the "joy that was set before Him" (Heb. 12:2) is now His, and He speaks in order that He might convey it to us. He is made glad by the presence of the Father, by the glorious promise that all His enemies shall be placed under His feet, that the heathen shall be given to Him for an inheritance, and that the Lord has seen the travail of His soul and has been satisfied. Oh, when He speaks to the hearts of His people, He speaks of these things: of the "offering for sin", of the "death" that He has "accomplished", and of the effectuality of the new life in Himself. What joy does this bring to our hearts; how they well up within, so that we "may with joy draw water out of the wells of salvation" (Isa. 12:3). Those who have not "heard Him" possess not lasting joy. Theirs is but a fleeting joy, conditioned upon circumstance and the condition

in which they find themselves. Actually, they are miserable within, but they constantly are running here and there, attempting to pad their misery with activity which they suppose will produce joy. It shall never do it. **The labyrinth of activity is a despicable substitute for an attentive and uncircumcised ear.** If you would not hear Christ, you shall forever be cast down within. Jesus speaks that your joy might be full — oh, that you would hear Him. Let His sayings "sink down into your ears" (Luke 9:44).

There is yet another ministry performed by the Speaking Christ. He communicates to us in divers ways in order that we might have peace; "These things I have SPOKEN unto you, that in Me, ye might have peace" (John 16:33). Jesus is quick to point out that "in the world, ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world". **The work of Christ appears quite unglamorous and fruitless to the mind of the flesh.** There seems to be little there to merit a peaceful heart. Yet, hidden there amidst that mysterious appearance lies the seed of all your peace. Jesus speaks to you of His death, of His ascension, of the sending of the Comforter, in order that your heart might be "established with grace" (Heb. 13:9). What Jesus has done, He has done for you, brother and sister; and it is effectual, and able to make peace grow bountifully in the garden of your heart. Has a sense of the instruction of Jesus ever blessed your heart? Have you "heard Him?" Do not turn Him away; He is speaking now! Read Ephesians 4:20-21 again and again; catch the truth that is couched there! Jesus is speaking, teaching, leading! The question is, **Have you heard Him? If not, then you possess no real peace!** Yours is but a lull of the storm; the worst is yet to come; But, praise God, if you have heard Him, and been taught by Him the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, you have a peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7), which "rules" (Col. 3:15) your heart, driving out fear with the mighty thrust of omnipotence. Forget not this benefit of the Lord's speech; true peace! This peace is a legacy of the Lord, left to His people; "My peace I leave with you" (John 14:27). Here is how He leaves it; by communicating with them; by speaking of the great effectuality of His work; of the blessed promises which are all "yea and amen" in Him (II Cor. 1:20). Oh, hear, that you might have peace!

Finally, there is a great cleansing effect to this speech! Jesus Himself declared; "And now are ye clean through the word that I have SPOKEN unto you" (John 15:3). Catch that, and hold it tightly to your bosom! This is a most blessed and precious truth to those who have felt the sense of their own vileness before the Lord God of heaven. As Jesus speaks to your heart there is a sanctifying and cleansing work that is performed. As simple as that may sound, it is still profound. Once hold concourse with the Savior of men, and you will become clean "every whit" (John 13:10). We are actually made fit to dwell before the Pure God of heaven by the Word of Christ. Little wonder that we are told to "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16). "God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds"

(Heb. 1:3). He bids you to hear Him, to attend unto His words, that you might be made clean.

Oh blessed fountain of Christ's words, that flows with cleansing power into the hearts of His people. Speak evermore, Thou Blessed Savior, Thou Fairest of ten thousand! **As I feel an awareness of the instructing Christ, ministering to my heart out of the Word, through the brethren, in the various circumstances of life, I feel the filthiness of self and nature begin to subside, and its power to cease.** I cannot hold communion with my Lord while the cross of this earth lies upon my soul. Therefore, the Word comes with cleansing power. Yea, Jeremiah said that it was "as a fire" (Jer. 23:29). Let it burn within your soul, and see if Jesus will not speak to you, as He did to those of old; "Now are ye clean through the Word that I have spoken unto you!"

And now, I commend you to that Christ that I know, who yet speaks to the hearts of men, bringing joy, peace, and cleansing! Covet earnestly communion with Him, and your life shall be brought into a conformity to His image, both to your salvation, and to the glory of God.

### The Faithfulness of God

(From page 5)

what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12:1-2). Speaking from the standpoint of our finite understanding, this submission places us in a position to consciously experience the glorious perfecting work of our God. It is God that works within His people, "both to do and to will of His own good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). If, therefore, you would be perfect, you must, by leaning upon the Lord and presenting yourself as a living sacrifice unto Him, trust wholly in His faithfulness to bring about that perfection. May we not expend more energies in this area, rather than lunging out in our own strength and being met with constant defeat and anxiety?

Have you ever felt that you were not appreciated? Has your heart been filled with a love that compelled labor, and a faith that constrained work? Has that work gone unnoticed by the people with whom you are acquainted? How did you react to that? The answer will prove where your faith lies — manward or Godward. "Faithfulness" being the "girdle of His reins" (i.e., the means by which He is held to His own purpose and promise), and His people being "engraven upon the palms of His hands" (Isa. 11:5; 49:16), we may trust implicitly to God's faithfulness not to "forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered unto the saints, and do minister" (Heb. 6:10). **He takes cognizance of the activity of**

THE VOICE OF TRUTH PUBLISHING ASSN.

P. O. Box 1684

Highland, Ind. 46322

### Pungent Points

So many people tend to major upon the incidentals of the faith instead of the fundamentals. Let us never be guilty of such a misguided emphasis. True knowledge and ascertainment of the incidentals proceeds from an adequate understanding and firm grasp of the fundamentals!

If we do not begin the day with the Lord, we shall find it exceedingly difficult to either continue or end it with Him. We need to become acutely aware of our need for the Lord, and start the day by earnestly seeking Him. David declared, "early will I seek Thee" (Psa. 63:1). You will find a positive element of victory in your life if you so pursue your daily activity!

The important thing is not merely to see, but to see properly! This is a provision granted only as the "eyes of the understanding" are opened by God (Eph. 1:17-20).

A stream may rise no higher than its source. Likewise, the mind can rise no higher than its source of feeding. If it feeds upon the things of the earth and man, it may rise no higher than the cursed. On the other hand, if the mind becomes saturated with thoughts Godward, and if the affections are set on things above and not on things on the earth, there is no limit or restriction placed upon it. There may be continual growth and spiritual succour until we come to "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Seek the high source of Divine life, and then be ever rising!

Many religious leaders are quite dogmatic in the matter of the name of the church. They insist that there is a specific single name that is to be applied to the household of believers, and any other is quite improper. But, after their dogmatism has been heard, the fact remains that such a teaching is not only never emphasized in Scripture, but that it is not so much as mentioned in this light. This alone constitutes sufficient proof that our sophist friends are merely cavilling in their insistence that the church be named this or that. Verily the days of "Shiboleth" have not ended (Judges 12:6)!

**His people, and will righteously remember their heart-offered sacrifices** (Heb. 13:16). If we do well and suffer for it, well may we thank God for the honor, that we have been "counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41).

(Continued in next issue)

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