

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

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NO. 7

INDEPENDENCE DAY

By DOUGLAS T. HAWKINS

July 4th marks our Country’s day of Independence. Traditionally, on this day, American families celebrate the day by getting together, cooking-out, and setting off fireworks. Too often though, we give little thought to what the day truly represents — the hardships, the sacrifices, and the lives of the original revolutionaries for our nation’s freedoms and liberties. This year marks 241 years since the signing of our Declaration of Independence. Instead of taking the day for granted, every American really should thank the Lord for being free in these United States. However, notwithstanding the greatness of the “Bill of Rights” and the protections afforded by civil liberty from — equality - due process — and a rule of law, another kind of freedom remains far more important, a freedom available to all people in the whole world, regardless of Country, Continent, language or tribe. Jesus declared, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36) Fortunately, this freedom is not limited to the people of the United States. It is a freedom available to every man and woman in the world - “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared unto ALL men” (Tit. 2:11). In Christ, a man is free “indeed,” showing its greater importance. The freedom in Christ pertains to the soul being free from sin’s bondage. Paul said, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” (Gal. 5:1) This yoke of bondage results from our inability to keep the law (Ro. 8:3), but in Christ we are free from condemnation (Ro. 8:1) because Christ hath fulfilled the righteousness of the law in us when we do not walk after the flesh but after the Spirit (Ro. 8:4). We, therefore, continue to herald this “glad tidings” of true freedom to every man in the world. We continue to go “into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mk. 16:15) Wherever you are in the world — the Philippines, Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, Central America, Australia, or

these United States and Canada, you can be free and enjoy “Independence Day.”

As indicated above, I hope you clearly begin seeing how the Bible uses the image of freedom as well as its contrasting part of bondage, captivity, and slavery. For example, Paul wrote in Heb. 2:14-16 “He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” When Jesus stood up in the synagogue, he found the passage in Isa. 63:1-3 and read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised” (Lk. 4:18,19). Again, the Lord said in John 8:34-35 “...I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.” Did you note the applicable terms: (1) Release and bondage (2) Deliverance and being set at liberty (3) slaves to sin?

Captivity describes the state of the condemned man, a man in sin. Paul so noted in Romans 7 when he said, “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Romans 7:23-24) What does sin do? It brings one into captivity. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Sin holds every man under its consequential power ie. death. Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:56 “the sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law.” That said, note Paul’s statements in Romans 7. He writes: “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without

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Editorial

SWEET MEMORIES

By DON L. KING

From time to time brethren have inquired how the work in the Philippines began. In 1976 a letter came to my father, Homer L. King, who turned it over to me. It was from Virgilio O. Danao asking about the Old Paths Advocate. The short story was that when a change of Publishers took place in 1976 there was a month the paper did not go out. Virgilio remarked that he missed the paper, and it seemed our brethren were closer to the Bible pattern than his brethren. He mentioned that he was a preacher of what would be called the Christian Church in the USA but was called Church of Christ in the Philippines. Since his interest was in our differences about the communion, bible classes and instrumental music, I sent him a box of tracts dealing with those issues and also an article written by myself on the music. It was four years before we heard from him that they had made some changes and were using one cup in the communion. We began studying by mail which lasted a few months, and finally he told us that they were convinced but still had some questions about the music issue. I sent him more information and we continued to study.

In 1981 I was asked to accompany Jerry Cutter on a trip to investigate the lead in the Philippines. He was going to India but wanted to stop on the way home in the Philippines and try to locate the people with whom we had been communicating. I had never had any desire to go out of the US but agreed to go. We met in Manila in March of that same year. A few weeks earlier, Brethren Paul O. Nichols and Jim Franklin had been to the Philippines and spent a short time with the brethren studying. Brother Danao had made a confession for worshiping wrong to them before they left. When Jerry and I arrived in the country, we had difficulty locating the brethren. While I had written Bro Danao weeks earlier that we were coming and asked them to meet us at the airport in Baguio City (in the mountains), we later learned that the letter arrived the same day we did. So it was several days before we actually met. That story would take many pages to write, but suffice it to say we finally got together in the city of Cauayan, about an hour's drive from Roxas. The first night it appeared we might have to sleep in a rice field but finally a fellow told us about a "first class hotel" in Cauayan. It

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QUERIST COLUMN

By *RONNY F. WADE*

Question: If a woman's husband dies and she remarries a man who is not in the church, what is the state of her soul? If such is a sin, could she repent and still remain married to him, since she has no scriptural grounds for divorce?

Answer: The verse in question, 1 Cor. 7:39 reads: "The wife is bound by the law so long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." The affirmation by Paul is simple and clear. The marriage bond between a husband and wife exists, barring the exception given by Jesus in Matt. 19:9, so long as both parties live. When one of them dies, the other is released from the relationship. Appended to her statement of freedom, however, is the limiting and restrictive phrase "only in the Lord." To be in the Lord is to be in Christ that is in his spiritual body (Eph. 1:19-23). Arndt and Gingrich, in their Greek-English Lexicon define the phrase *en kurioo* "in the Lord," "esp. in Paul or John usage, to designate a close personal relation...be or abide in Christ...gameethenai *en kurioo*, marry in the Lord--marry a Christian." These scholars plainly affirm that Paul's words, mean that a Christian widow may marry again only if she marries a Christian. Thayer's definition of the phrase, "in the Lord" "...that in which any person or thing is inherently fixed, implanted, or with which it is intimately connected...So used in the writings of Paul and of John particularly of intimate relationship with God or with Christ, and for the most part involving contextually the idea of power and blessing resulting from that union...of frequent use by Paul are the phrases, "in Christ, in Christ Jesus, in the Lord, ingrafted as it were in Christ, in fellowship and union with Christ, with virtue of spiritual fellowship or union with Christ... Finally, it serves as a periphrasis for Christian...." Thus in view of this eminent lexicographer, to marry "in the Lord," is simply to marry a Christian. Farrar in his commentary on 1 Corinthians writes "Only in the Lord. The second marriage of a Christian widow must be a holy and Christian marriage." Barnes says "only in the Lord, that is, only to one who is a Christian." B. W. Johnson "In the case of her husband's death, she is free from the marriage bond, and can marry whom she will, with one limitation, she must marry in the Lord; that is, a Christian." Conybeare and Howson, "She is free to marry whom she will, provided that

she chooses one of the brethren in the Lord." We could give quotations from many other recognized commentators who understand that the meaning of Paul's statement is clearly that a Christian widow, if she chooses to remarry, she must marry a Christian. When a widow disregards this teaching, what is the state of her soul? She has obviously disobeyed the teaching of the Apostle Paul. Hence she has chosen to do the very thing divine inspiration has forbidden. Can she repent? Of course she can. If through careful study she realizes she has violated the scriptures, in earnest and sincere repentance she may seek the forgiveness of God. Does this mean that she must break up the marriage and leave the unbeliever? I, personally cannot say that she must. Will she be lost? That will be determined by God. I can only rely upon what the bible says and teaches. It is never wise for anyone to do what the word of God has forbidden. For this reason I consider it my duty to teach all widows, who choose to remarry, that they should marry a Christian. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814 or ronnywade36@gmail.com)



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PAGES FROM THE PAST

The following article is from the July 1932 Issue of the Old Paths Advocate. It was written by Brother Homer A. Gay and deals with the idea of slander. Brother Gay shows us that slander is from the Devil. Those who stand for the truth do not have to resort to slander and it is a popular tool of those who propagate error.

Rick Martin

Slander Is of The Devil

The Devil's name in Greek is Slanderer, the Greek word itself being Diabolos meaning, literally, Through-caster, slanderer. It is from diaboloo, which means to cast aspersions because of (the accusative form of THROUGH), slander, Diabolos is often used as a name of Satan, as the Slanderer of the Saints, as in Job 1:9. "Slander, a false or malicious report; verbal defamation" (Webster).

Jesus said to the slanderous Jews: "Ye are of your father, the Devil, and the works of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

There is entirely too much slander in the Brotherhood. Last summer, while in Indiana, I heard it boldly declared that Bro. R. H. Boll, Editor of the Word and Work, was teaching "the second chance theory of Russelism." This report is false - it is a slander! I do not agree with Bro. Boll on several things, but I hate to see him slandered. A jealous and envious spirit is evidently behind it.

Bro. Daniel Sommer has been slanderously misrepresented because of his opposition to Bible Colleges. Many brethren say: "He does not believe in education."

The whole body known as the "church of Christ" has been slanderously accused of not believing in doing mission work. This accusation is made by those who advocate Missionary Societies to do Church work. This is a wicked slander.

We have been unmercifully slandered because of our opposition to Sunday Schools. Many brethren say: "They do not believe, in teaching the Bible to children."

Some have gone so far as to say: "They think it is wrong to teach the Bible!" The fact about it is, we believe in teaching the Bible to all classes of mankind just as strongly as anyone on earth. The Commission says: "Go, disciple all nations" - and we believe it. But, as other brethren oppose a Missionary Society as a means of preaching the gospel to the heathen, so we oppose a Sunday School society to teach people in the homeland. We insist that the church is "the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Timothy 3: 15-16) and that the work be done through it, thus preserving "the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3) and giving God the "glory through the church" (Ephesians 3:21): for it is through the church that "the manifold wisdom of God" should "be made known" (Ephesians 3:10).

Some good honest brethren have been maliciously slandered on the cup question. They have been represented as saying that the "drinking vessel alone is the cup of the Lord"! Nothing is farther from the truth. We teach, and so did the primitive church, that it takes both a drinking vessel and the fruit of the vine to constitute "the cup of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 10:21).

Brethren, let us leave all slander with the Devil, where it belongs. God shall bring all things into judgment, and all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire. I am glad that we who stand on the truth do not need to resort to slander to uphold our teaching. "Strong is the truth and mighty above all things, and will prevail."

Homer A. Gay

**"ON A LIMB FOR JESUS"
LUKE 19:1-10**

The divine Word of God tells the story of a man named Zacchaeus in Luke's gospel account, and this is the first and last time we hear mention of this chief among the publicans. We are not told much about this wealthy resident of Jericho, but what the scriptures do tell us of him speaks volumes about the things that were most precious to him. Scholars agree that Zacchaeus's heritage was no doubt of Jewish descent because of his name and the fact that the Lord calls him a "son of Abraham." But Zacchaeus wasn't some common Hebrew or your basic run-of-the-mill Jew! He was the superintendent over all the tax collectors of the region west of the Jordan River! Although tax collectors in Christ's time were known for being deceitful and greedy in their lucrative professions, the Bible tells

us that Zacchaeus was not at all typical in this regard either. Here was a man who gave half of his goods to the poor in order to prove his benevolence, rather than greed! But more than that, Zacchaeus also restored anything that he had taken from others fourfold in order to compensate for any wrongdoing, keeping with the commands of the law (Exodus 22:1). These attributes teach us that this man was concerned with obedience to the law, which was uncommon with the publicans.

Prior to the introduction of Zacchaeus in the 19th chapter, we read in Luke 17 how that Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and he performed many miracles along that route, such as he did in Samaria and Galilee when he healed the ten lepers in a village nearby. He also spake parables and healed the blind man who cried out to him as he walked through the streets of another small village near Jericho in chapter 18. Word began to spread in advance to the city of Jericho that the famous miracle worker of Nazareth would be traveling through, and the crowds flocked to the pathways so that they might see the Christ! Keep in mind that these events occurred not too long before our Lord would be arrested, held captive, and falsely accused to the point that he was sentenced to death by crucifixion in Jerusalem, despite never breaking the law. Zacchaeus was evidently amongst this large crowd gathered that day in Jericho to see the Savior. The text tells us that Zacchaeus was a man little in stature, meaning he was short in height and frame and he would not see Jesus if he stood there amid the crowd. So he climbed into a sycamore tree near the way where Jesus would pass by and stood there on a limb waiting for the man whose popularity and fame had spread so quickly throughout all the regions of Palestine. And it would be that day when Zacchaeus would find eternal salvation in Jesus who went to abide at his house. And it all came about because the chief among the publicans climbed up onto the limb of a sycamore tree to see the Lord. The lessons we can learn from this obscure character are fundamental to finding Bible salvation.

The first lesson seems obvious—Zacchaeus sought to follow the way of Christ. Today's world lacks a necessary desire to seek the truth! Most will accept whatever is convenient or sounds right so that it takes the place of actual effort needed to find the right way. Jeremiah prophesied that the chosen people of old would be delivered from their captivity if they would seek the ways of God once more (Jeremiah 29:12-14). In Psalm 14, David wrote of a time when God looked down from the Heavens to see if there were any who were seeking after him. Jesus once said that we should

seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and earthly needs and blessings would be added unto us (Matthew 6:33). This is what Zacchaeus did. He wanted to see the Lord that day, and no multitude too large would deter him from such. The Lord promised to those who seek His will that they would find it (Luke 11:9-10). But seeking the ways of the Savior cannot be completed carelessly! This is why so many are easily led by the modern trends of religion. The Hebrew writer said that the Father rewards those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6)!

We must also notice that Zacchaeus is an example for us to prepare our homes. The Bible tells us that Jesus called Zacchaeus down from the tree that day saying, "Today I must abide at thy house!" This passage of scripture beckons the question that some Christians do not want to consider. What if Jesus was to abide at your house on this day??? What would He find? Zacchaeus had no time to run home and rid his house of any spiritual impurities that might cause the Lord to frown on him. He didn't have time to set the roles of his house in order with regards to his children and spouse. He would not have the chance to erase the trends of society that may have crept into his home over time. Christ would abide at his house on that day! Not the next day, not the next week, not the next month; the Savior said, "Today I must abide at thy house! But this did not seem to bother Zacchaeus. He had apparently lived in a way that pleased God, for Luke describes the publican's disposition as joyful when he thought of the Lord abiding in his home! But not only did this rich man welcome Jesus into his home, he took the salvation offered by the Lord without delay! How many of us would receive Christ into our homes joyfully? Fact is, much of the world would be ashamed to have Jesus into their homes, and perhaps, some of his own disciples would be ashamed as well. If the Lord came to your house today, would he find the husbands expressing the love of Christ towards their wives (Ephesians 5:25)? Would the Lord find the women working towards being that loving, chaste keeper of the home that Paul instructed Titus to teach about to the congregations on the island of Crete (Titus 2:3-5)? Would the Son of God find the children obedient to the parents (Colossians 3:20)? Even more than that, would the Savior find us daily on our knees in prayer like the old prophet Daniel did (Daniel 6:10)? Or would Jesus find us searching the scriptures regularly, following the example of the Bereans (Acts 17:11)? Do you want to prevent being crowded out by the world's distractions? To do that, you are gonna hafta to put out an effort to develop an appetite for things that are spiritual. And that starts in

your mind. We must learn to create a sanctuary in our minds where meaningless distractions are discarded and spiritual thoughts abound (Philippians 4:8). Only then can we mold our homes after the divine Word and its commandments!

Finally, Zacchaeus teaches us a lesson in preparing for the Savior's appearing! The man called Zacchaeus teaches us many lessons that are key to our salvation, but perhaps none more direct than this one. He would not let anything stop him from seeing the Savior for the first time. That took preparation. It may have seemed like a small thing for this man to make it a point to be near the path where Jesus would walk. It may have seemed like no big deal for the chief publican to climb a tree so he could see over the crowd. But these were steps made in preparation for the Lord's appearing. Here was a man who strove for righteousness despite knowing nothing about the Lord. Here was a man who Jesus singled out of the crowd because of his "don't be denied" mentality to see Him. Here was a man who deserved salvation! How about us? We know the Lord will come, but the when is beyond our frailty of mind. Jesus said that we know not the day nor the hour when He will return (Matthew 25:13). We must understand how serious it is to prepare for meeting the Lord in judgment, while many allow it to pass them by. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he said that it was high time to awake out of sleep and seize salvation (Romans 13:11)! There are times in life when we do things because it is time to complete certain tasks. But when it's high time to do something, the opportunity has past, and we are overdue to complete the task at hand. In other words, this is something we cannot put off any longer. If we procrastinate further, the window of opportunity will close and our chance at salvation will have passed us by. You may have close friends like I have who need to obey the gospel but continue to let opportunity after opportunity pass them by. That's not what Zacchaeus did! Jesus told him to "make haste" in coming to gain salvation. He wasted no time because salvation from Jesus was valuable to him! Today Jesus says the same thing to us. "Make haste!" Salvation is available to everyone who is willing. And we ought not turn it away! We can hear the word (John 6:45), believe the Bible's claims that Christ is God's Son (John 3:16), repent of your sins (II Peter 3:9), confess Jesus as Lord (Matthew 10:32), and be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). Then, upon remaining faithful to the Lord until death (Revelation 2:10), we will have prepared for the Savior's appearing the way the scriptures teach us to.

SWEET MEMORIES continued from page two

certainly wasn't first class, but to us seemed as though it was. Over the next several days we studied together during the days and evenings in their homes. Several were baptized and others converted from digression; and by the first Lord's Day, we had about 25 members with whom to worship. Services began in the Christian Church building at 6:00 A.M. They had two later services but allowed us to use their building early on Sundays, but within a few Sundays we were told we would have to find a place elsewhere. By that time we had more with us than they did and were no longer welcome. Amazing things take place in pioneering a new work in a foreign land.

The next year we made another trip in January and found to our delight 17 congregations worshipping according to the Bible pattern. A number of preachers had also been converted, and the work took off like wild fire. Since the beginning, we have made 36 trips; and each year the work has grown and matured. By the way, when I asked Bro Danao how he began to receive the OPA, he told us he believed a fellow by the name of Carl Ketcherside had sent it to him to show them how old fashioned we were. Amazing how the seed of Truth, once sown, can take root and a whole new work begins.

Allow me to mention some conditions we had to deal with in those early days. Almost no one had electricity in the areas away from major cities such as Manila or Baguio. This meant that any drinks we found would have to be consumed warm. Cokes and orange soda (warm) made up our drinks because bottled water was nowhere to be found in the outlying places. Since we didn't know what we were going to find there, we were woefully unprepared for it. We had no food, no bottled water and no place to stay with electricity. The small hotel we slept in had only a common bath at the end of the hall and no hot water. For several days we ate only bread we found at a nearby bakery and a warm drink. Light was furnished us each evening in the form of a small birthday candle stuck in some wax at the bottom of a small Vienna sausage can. A young boy would meet us at the door of the hotel when we arrived each evening around 11:00 P.M. carrying a lighted candle. He would lead us upstairs to a very small room about 6X10 with two small cots on each side of the room. The walls did not go all the way to the ceiling so privacy was at a minimum. It was a real challenge to undress and get into bed before the small candle was consumed. By the

end of the stay we were famished, and very thirsty for water. One day before we left, I went to the common bath to brush my teeth. Their water was not safe for Americans to drink and Jerry had cautioned me not to drink it under any circumstances. However, that water was so delicious in my mouth I just couldn't resist. I took one swallow and before I recovered had lost 15 pounds. Many have gone with us since 1981 and we are the better for every trip. I especially learned from Jerry Cutter and Bennie Cryer who had many years of experience in foreign work which they thankfully passed on. The Philippine work has been one of the greatest works in modern times and continues to flourish. To God be the glory and praise forever.

In the many trips since then, things have improved considerably. Some places still have no hot water, however, bottled water is readily available everywhere. Most hotels have air conditioning in the rooms and the beds are clean. While we are still very careful what we eat, and where we eat, we normally stay three weeks and remain healthy. Best of all, the Filipino people are gracious, hospitable and kind beyond belief. We love the people. The churches are many, and growing stronger as time goes by. The work is now in all the groups of Islands. There are over 7,000 Islands in all, but they are not all inhabited. We have work on Mindanao, Palawan, and Luzon as well as many places between. It is still common to see 100 or more baptisms during a three week trip. Bro Danao, and his brother Eduardo have passed away and I miss them. Virgilio, Eduardo and I traveled together for thirty years in the Philippines. Great fellows to work with. Virgilio also went with me to Canada and Hawaii, as well as the USA. As an outgrowth of the Philippine work, we began work in Hawaii with Bro Danao, and that is doing well also. Duane Permenter is there now and it is growing. Yes, there are areas that are unsafe in the Philippines for Americans to go and we do exercise caution. However, in all the years we have been involved in the work, we have never been mistreated by a Filipino anywhere. Even strangers are kind and helpful when needed. It is wonderful now to go places and see young people who have never known anything but the Bible way. Young preachers are now preaching the gospel who have never worshiped anyway but according to the Bible pattern.

A book could be written about all the things we have encountered, but in short we are grateful to have been a part of such a gratifying effort for Christ. Think on these things. -DLK

"I CEASED NOT TO WARN EVERYONE"

By PAUL O. NICHOLS

The title of this article is from a speech made by the apostle Paul to the elders at Ephesus. It is recorded in Acts 20. He was reminding them of his preaching and teaching while he was working with them. He had come there and established the church and for three years he continued to teach them: He was continually making known to them duties and responsibilities, and warning them of the consequences of sin and unfaithfulness. He had "not shunned to declare...all the counsel of God" (V32), and had "kept back nothing that was profitable" to them (V20). In short, he was a courageous and faithful servant of the Lord.

In the Old Testament Ezekiel, the priest of God, was told by the Lord. "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: Therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul" (Eze. 3:17-21).

Ezekiel could have excused himself by saying the people would not listen. But the Lord precluded that in the previous chapter. He said, "And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: For they are most rebellious" (Eze. 2:7).

A warning would serve two purposes. (1) It would make the person warned aware of the sin and the consequence of it. (2) It would make Ezekiel free from the blood of the individual warned. It was primarily for the benefit of the person warned, but it also benefited the one doing the warning by keeping him free from guilt.

In the New Testament it was the apostle Paul who wrote to the Thessalonians, “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God which trieth our hearts” (1 Thes. 2:4). He writes to the Galatians, “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10). The apostle was a servant of Christ, not a politician. He was not out to please men, but God. Paul was not interested in popularity, but the salvation of souls. Thus, he wrote the Corinthians, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor. 5:11). We have insight of his attitude when he writes to these same people, “Therefore seeing that we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 Cor. 4:1,2).

When the apostle addressed the elders of Ephesus, he could boldly assert, “I am pure of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:26,27). “...I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears” (v 31).

To Timothy, a preacher of the gospel, Paul wrote, “If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained” (1 Tim. 4:11). To Titus he writes, “These things speak, and exhort and rebuke with all authority” (Tit. 2:15). In Paul’s second letter to Timothy he wrote, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine....For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine....And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:2-4). He also informs us that men would be “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Tim. 3:4). I believe that all honest men can agree that we are living in such a time.

When Jesus was on earth He preached. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matt. 5:6). But all men do not take kindly to instruction. Jesus was crucified for His teaching. John the Baptist was beheaded for the truth he spoke. And Stephen, a faithful disciple of Christ, was stoned to death for preaching the truth to the Jews. And when Paul writes to the Galatians, he asks, “Am

I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16). Truth only makes friends of those who want to know and do what’s right.

It is dangerous for one not to love the truth - all of it. Because of a wrong attitude some “changed the truth of God into a lie” (Rom. 1:25). Paul said of others, “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thes. 2:10-12).

The wise man of the Bible, Solomon, declares, “Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov. 1:7). The man who does not want to be warned of sin nor instructed in righteous living is foolish and jeopardizes his own salvation. The word of God teaches us, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works” (Heb. 10:24).

Remember, Paul told the elders of Ephesus, “I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.” And if we love the souls of men and women and want to see them saved, neither will we cease to preach the truth and warn people of the need of doing what is right. -OPA

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

The following is something to ponder...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle the loneliness of Imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death ... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... you are very rare even in the United States and Canada.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful ... you are blessed because the majority can but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder ... you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you can read this message you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you and furthermore you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all. -OPA

INDEPENDENCE DAY continued from page one

the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful." (Rom 7:7-13) From these statements we conclude: (1) Sin takes occasion by the commandment to arouse sinful desires (2) A person is slain through succumbing to this desire and the power of sin (3) What could give life produces death that sin might be seen for what it is —that law in one's members warring against the law of their mind. But Paul exclaims, "But thanks be to God that gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:57). Thus, the conclusion of this good news: Paul writes, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom 6:16-18). Note the contrast of past and present — and the change of service from sin unto death and obedience unto righteousness. The saved were the servants of sin BUT they have obeyed from

their heart that "form of doctrine" which was delivered them. Being THEN made free from sin they became the servant of righteousness. When does a man obey from the heart that form of doctrine? The first order of business is to understand to what does the form of doctrine refer? What doctrine has been delivered? The answer to that is found in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. There, Paul says, "Moreover, brethren, declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For! delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" The doctrine Paul delivered is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is the gospel, which is God's power to save (Ro. 1:16). Paul says again back in Romans 6:17,18 - you have obeyed a form of the doctrine delivered, meaning you have obeyed a likeness of the death burial and resurrection of Christ. How and when does someone obey a form of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ? The answer is in Romans 6:3-5. Paul said: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:" Our conclusion? A man by faith, repenting of his sins, making the good confession with his mouth of his faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and in water, being baptized into Christ becomes FREE from sin. And whom the son sets free is free indeed — Independence Day! May the Lord bless you in searching for the Old Paths.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT - Brother Don King has broken his arm and is currently sidelined from doing his normal activities. Until further notice send all material for the Old Paths Advocate to Ronny Wade at P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814 or ronnywade36@gmail.com.

NEW SONGBOOK - The new songbook "Wonderful Name" is available for order. It is a large collection of timeless hymns, yesteryear's favorites, and fresh new songs that will invigorate and challenge your congregation in singing. The books are \$5 each and

a demo CD is available for \$15 containing close to 50 songs from the book, plus shipping. You may order at legacymusicpublishing.com or email legacymusicpublishing@gmail.com or call (334) 618 1550. - Kevin W. Presley

Announcement: [Where the Saints Assemble](#)

The 2017-2018 directory is now ready:

Price: \$5.00 each.

Shipping: 1-6 books-\$4.00, 7-12 books-\$6.00, 13-18 books- \$7.00, 19-24 books-\$8.00, 25-30 books-\$9.00, 31-36 books-\$10.00, 37-42 books-\$12.00, 43-48 books-\$14.00, 49-over books-\$35.00

You may order from: RAM Publications, 300 Clubview Terrace, Woodstock, GA 30189. Or send orders to mmartin@bellsouth.net. -Rick Martin

Our Departed

TRENT - Janet Trent, May 26, 2017. An overflow crowd of at least 200 filled the Clovis, CA church building to share the sorrow of the passing of Janet Kay Rowland Trent. Janet was born July 21, 1955 and entered into rest May 18, 2017 at age 61.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Geary Trent, of their home in Clovis, CA; three children: Matt Trent and wife Rachel of Norman, OK, Andy Trent and wife Rendi of Oakdale, CA, and Lori Culver of Fresno, CA; her parents: Don and Lyndell Rowland of Clovis, CA; one brother: Jim Rowland of Sacramento CA; one sister: Jackie Rowland of Seattle, WA; and 11 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by daughter in-law Megan Trent and son-in-law Michael Culver.

Janet was a delight to her family and friends with her great wit and sense of humor. She loved the Lord from an early age and was baptized into Christ by Lynwood Smith at age 12. She loved attending worship and looked forward to every service. She was diagnosed with MS in 1992 and, because of complications with strokes, was confined to a wheelchair the last 20 years. In her career she was a labor and delivery room nurse, but in her life she was a child of God, which was her greatest priority in life. Like the wonderful woman in Proverbs 31, Janet's children and her husband rise up to call her blessed and praise her (Proverbs 31:28).

Terry and Brian Osburn skillfully led songs selected by the family in beautiful congregational singing, a taste of heaven to come. The sisters from the congregations at Bakersfield and Oakdale thoughtfully shared with

Clovis in providing food for the meal we shared after the service. Janet awaits the judgment now, safe in the arms of Jesus. We continue till our turn comes and look forward to being with all the redeemed. I was honored to fulfill Janet's request to conduct the service.

-Greg Gay

Field Reports

Roy Baagin - Palawan, Philippines - Greetings in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hope that you are always in good health sir.

Our Labor to the Lord here continues to do well. I'm glad to report to you that last Sunday, we had 27 in attendance including the children. I'm glad also to report to you that one brother restored after almost a year not active or not attended, but thank God he is active again.

Last Saturday, we have also good preachers meeting and Bible studies at the area where brother Dumal is working. The subject that they gave to me to teach is about the CHURCH OF THYATIRA.

At present I also continue doing my best in preaching the gospel here through conducted Home Bible studies and restored our brethren that lost in faith.

P. Duane Permenter - Duane_and_laurie@yahoo.com, cell: (808) 773-5523; home: (808) 600-5909. June 6 - Aloha, from paradise in the central Pacific Ocean. The church in Waipahu is doing just fine and to God we give the glory. We started a radio talk program two weeks ago, and we shall see what good can come from this. It has been a learning experience to say the least. It is KPRP 350 AM on the dial. It is a locally owned and operated station; nonetheless, it reaches throughout the state of Hawaii. Please pray for this new effort. We are holding the Tennessee Labor Day meeting again this year at Chapel Grove. This of course is near Lawrenceburg, Tennessee and we would love to see you during the meeting which begins August 30-Sep 3. Laurie and I are doing well and we send out our love to all the brotherhood! God bless!

Don L. King - 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, oldpaths@juno.com. June 14 - The congregation here is doing well and at peace for which we give thanks. Lord willing, we are to preach at the Stockton congregation next Lord's Day and then we are to begin a meeting at the Broken Arrow congregation very soon afterwards. We look forward to it. We were last there in 2006. Our

plans are then to be at the 4th of July meeting a few days before returning home. The news from the Philippines is encouraging and we are happy to report that the work is growing and they are at peace. We have enjoyed attending meetings in the area recently and were glad to see and be with old friends and brethren. Pray for the work.

Herman Cola - Palawan, Philippines. June 7 - Greetings in Jesus name! The work of the Lord here in Palawan Island is still going on through the help of God. Last May 27, 2017 we had one day fellowship and Bible study at Bono-Bono congregation, Bataraza, Palawan with the topic of Unity. Glad to know that all of our preachers attended including Bro. Roy Baagin and Bro. Samuel Magan. I'm always helping them the best that I can through God's words as a brethren in Christ, and in God's will our next fellowship will be at Poblacion Bataraza, Palawan. I always thank the Lord for your love and concern to the work of the Lord here in Palawan, Please extend our warmest greetings to your family and to the family of God in your good congregation.

Kevin W. Presley - 108 Mulberry Court, Dothan, AL 36303. May 20, 2017 - The first half of 2017 has kept me busy in meetings and television evangelism. It has been my joy to be with churches in Manteca, CA; Lee's Summit, MO; McGregor, TX; OKC (21st Street), OK; Neosho, MO; Napoleon, AL; Turlock, CA; and by the time this appears, Galey, OK. Each meeting has been fruitful in one way or another and I appreciate the brethren who have the interest and zeal to still support such efforts to preach the gospel and build up the saints. Lord willing, Joe Hisle holds the summer meeting in Earlytown and we are anticipating that. My next meetings, Lord willing, will be with the churches in Piedmont, AL (July 26-30), Little Rock, AR (July 31-August 6) and then the annual singing from the new book (see announcement) at Marietta, GA (August 19). Come join us for some great singing. Our television program, Let the Bible Speak, continues to reach many over the air and internet. If your congregation would like to broadcast it on air or use it online, contact me. The fields are white unto harvest, let's get busy.

Douglas T. Hawkins - 409 Worthington Place, Richmond, KY 40475, douglast69@bellsouth.net, (859) 353-2538. May 29, 2017 - Since last writing, I have had the good pleasure to be with the brethren in Grapevine, TX. That was my first trip there and I enjoyed the brethren tremendously. I have known most of them the better part of my life, but hadn't had the opportunity to work directly with them. Brother Lyndon Cox, an elder in the congregation probably has as good of a perspective on leadership as any brother I know.

May the Lord continue to bless him as he leads and instructs the flock. My sincerest thanks to he and Lynn for their gracious hospitality and kindness to me. I am soon to get back underway with a series of meetings beginning in June. At this reading, I will, Lord Willing, have finished in LaGrange, GA (June 4-11) and be planning for the meeting in Rogers, AR (July 9-16). The remaining part of the year I plan to be in: Napoleon, AL (Aug. 6-13); Cave City, AR (Sep. 20-24); Fairview, LA (Oct. 4-8); Hartwell, AR (Oct. 15-17); Neosho, MO (Oct. 18-22) and Turlock, CA (Nov. 15-19). We pray for good to be done and trust it will as we seek to faithfully sow the seed of the Kingdom in the hearts of men. God bless you in his service.

Stan Owens - 8432 Cox Rd West Chester, OH 45069. May 27th - Recently I have been able to hear excellent sermons from William St. John and Joe Hisle. In April I had the privilege of conducting a meeting at the Hillcrest, MS congregation. It was great to be in that area once again. It was enjoyable to see and get reacquainted with everyone. Attendance from the surrounding congregations is always good in that area and very much appreciated. From there I went to Chestnut Ridge, KY. It was my first opportunity to preach there. Ova Baker has been there for many years and he continues to study and work with a number of young couples there. Members from surrounding congregations are always a tremendous help in that area as well. It was a pleasure to be there. This year I have also had the opportunity to be with the congregations in Rockville, MD in the Washington D.C. area; the Pleasant View congregation in Springfield, MO where Irvin Barnes and Kent May oversee the faithful; and I continue to be able to be with those in Bandy, KY and Green Acres Road in London, KY where Robbie Barron and Philip Scott respectively labor. Keep The Faith.

Bennie T. Cryer - 4635 Larkin RD, Live Oak, CA 95953 - Because of long going sickness I have not sent in a field report in a while. I want to thank the brotherhood for the hundreds of telephone calls, Emails, cards, letters, and personal visits. These have been a source of encouragement for Joann and me. Many of these came in some of the darkest hours of our lives when we did not know whether I would live or die. During these dark moments so many in our brotherhood came through with prayers and messages of hope. What a brotherhood we have! And with God's help it is still growing. While I am not completely recovered I can once again preach a little. Joann has and is helping in this recovery process. My preaching has been confined to Olivehurst who has continued to support me and I preach in Yuba City. We look forward to receiving the OPA each month. God has been good to us and we pray his blessings on all of you.

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THE BACK PAGE...

HOW MUCH FURTHER CAN WE GO?

By CARL M. JOHNSON

Several months ago I bought a new turntable record player and I have enjoyed playing some of my old vinyl record albums that I have had in storage for 30-40 years. One song that grabbed my attention is titled, "How Much Further Can We Go?" It was written by Duane Allen about 50 years ago. One stanza says:

The common forms of decency have fallen beneath our feet / The Golden Rule that God gave us has only met defeat / We even recognize a man who says that God is dead / How much further can we go?

Mr. Allen's lyrics are even more appropriate today than they were 50 years ago. I am not sure who he is referring to when he says, "We even recognize a man who says that God is dead," but I do remember a "God is Dead," controversy in this country in the 1960s that was led by Thomas J.J. Altizer, a professor of religion at Emory University in Atlanta. His radical theology was supported by other liberal theologians and philosophers and reflected many of the broader cultural and political changes in American society often associated with that decade.

Altizer is quoted as saying, "We must realize that the death of God is an historical event, that God has died in our cosmos, in our history, in our existence." Altizer became a minor celebrity in the popular media for a brief time because of his outrageous, provocative manner of speaking. One of his trademark lines was, "God is dead! Thank God!" It was not uncommon to see throngs of young people on television news at Altizer rallies waving signs and placards emblazoned with the words, "God is Dead."

Actually, Altizer did not coin the "God is Dead" phrase. German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche coined the term nearly a century earlier, and a theological movement adopted the phrase to express its belief that life is a product of random, unconscious, evolutionary processes. Such a belief does not allow room for God, so they adopted Nietzsche's slogan, "God is Dead."

The controversy did not fully erupt, however, until 1965 when **Time Magazine** published the first of two issues dealing with Altizer's radical theology. The front cover of the magazine had a black backdrop and asked the question in large red letters, "Is God Dead?" **Time** repeated the controversial discussion in the April 1966 Easter issue.

Outraged readers responded to **Time's** sensational coverage by flooding newspapers all over the country with letters to the editor. A couple of years later Altizer left Emory and the "God is Dead" movement lost much of its steam.

While it may be phrased a little differently, the "God is Dead" belief is still very much alive today. A majority of the people in the fields of science, philosophy, and psychology cannot harmonize their modern worldview with the existence of the God of the Bible, so as far as they are concerned God is dead. Furthermore, if God does not exist, then nothing is morally wrong; there is no curb to ungodliness, and no limit to depravity.

Paul describes the process perfectly in Romans 1, ". . . although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened, Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools", And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting (21,22,28 NKJV).

In Paul's day Rome was filled with orators, scholars, philosophers, statesmen, and authors who not only professed to be wise, but were world-renowned, Yet, Paul dismisses them as "fools" because they were attempting to explain this universe apart from God's revelation of Himself. The problem was not that they COULD NOT know God, but rather that they did not WANT to know God, Consequently, God allowed them to have what they wanted-a lifestyle of unspeakable moral depravity (1:28-32).

Can anyone deny that we are living in the midst of strikingly similar conditions today? In May of this year both **Gallup** and **LifeWay Research** released polls showing that 4 in 5 Americans are worried about the moral state of the country, and 77% say the country's values are getting worse. The pollsters found record-high acceptance for gay relationships, divorce, pornography, polygamy, and physician-assisted suicide, 69% of Americans say they approve of sex between unmarrieds; 63% approve of Gay or lesbian relations; and 43% approve of abortion (**Christianity Today** May 2017).

There is no question God is dead to a large segment of people in the USA, and you may be an unwitting part of the segment yourself, If God does not make a difference in your life, if you feel no need for Him, do not commune with Him, or depend upon Him daily, He is unquestionably dead, The only question that remains is the one posited by Duane Allen 50 years ago, "How much further can we go?" cmjthebackpage@gmail.com