

# THE NEW CREATION

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*“Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.”* – 1 Thess. 5:21.

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## Then and Now

We do not often think about the “World That Was” before the flood. The angels which kept not their first estate chose to inhabit the earth as materialized human men and take wives of the daughters of Adam and his descendants, and thus propagate a race of children called Nephilim. The Nephilim were evidently a race of greater strength mentally and physically than the children of Adam. The result was an accentuation of the downward course of sin. When the flood finally came, the angels dematerialized and returned to their spirit condition, while their Nephilim offspring died, as well as all living, breathing creatures. But God punished them with incarceration to “tartarus”, and as near as we can know, tartarus refers to the confines of the earth’s atmosphere. They no longer have the freedom to socialize with the angels that kept their first estate. God saved Noah and his family. They had not been contaminated with the fallen angels in their ancestry.



These fallen angels had an influence in our Lord’s day. They did their best to communicate through human mediums and often were said to be in possession of an individual. Our Lord often cast out demons from many so possessed.

Continuing down through the gospel age, these demons have had a degrading influence on whoever they could to carry forth their nefarious plans.

What can we do in our own lives to make sure we do not fall under their influences? One necessary action is that we resist everything connected with Spiritism and Occultism. Satan is out to keep our Lord Jesus from restraining him and putting him in the bottomless pit for the 1000 years. It’s a fight for his survival. We must look to our Lord for help and pray every day to be kept from the power of the Evil One. His associates in evil, the fallen angels, will have their judgement and will come to destruction if they have not repented. *“Know you not that the saints will judge the world, and not the world only but the angels.”* So brethren, let us watch and pray. Keep away from everything that has to do with the Occult and Spiritism. Pray to the Lord to keep your mind from wandering into sinful thoughts. May His grace be with you.

R. Whittaker

## Abraham and Abimelech

### Important Lessons to Remember

In the account of Abraham and Abimelech found in Genesis chapter 20, we read in verses 2-6 *“And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, she is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, she is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother. In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore, suffered I thee not to touch her.”*

We learn from these verses that Abraham made an assumption, which he later found to be incorrect. Here Abraham assumed that Abimelech did not reverence the Lord, and would kill him to take his wife. Because of this assumption, Abraham himself sinned, telling Abimelech a half truth, that Sarah was his sister, which she was, being the offspring of his father, but not his mother. So, what can we learn from this important real-life story that is shared with us?

### Five Lessons for the Christian

**First of all**, half-truths are lies to cover up a fact or facts, in this case that Sarah was his wife. It was fear that caused Abraham to lie, something we saw Peter do out of fear when he denied Jesus (Luke 22:57). Let us strive to love, which is the fulfillment of the law, (Rom. 13:10) and remember 1Jn 4:18, *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”* Being led by the spirit of love ultimately demonstrates faith in our Heavenly Father, and

thus the refraining from the use of our own devices that lead us to sin. The importance of this is expressed in Hebrews 11:6, which says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* Pleasing the Lord should be “job one” for all of us.

**Secondly**, as already noted, we should question our assumptions, acting only on real facts, and not look for trouble where it may not exist. Why, because we cannot read the hearts or virtues or lack thereof in people. If we think we can, we are presumptuous, and not humble. We, by faith should leave all such matters in the hands of the Lord who tells us in Luke 12: 6-7, *“Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not** therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.”*

Whatever the outcome may be, we would be wise to leave all matters in God’s hands, never leaning on our own understanding as Abraham did, especially when it involves taking action contrary to God’s Word. We must believe from the heart that God knows what is best for our ultimate welfare, and does care for us. This does not mean we cannot or should not use discernment, and walk foolishly to tempt the Lord to save us, but in every situation, we should restrain from sinning against the Lord’s precepts as Abraham did by leaning on his own understanding rather than by faith, leaning on God’s Word (Prov 3:5).

I too often hear people ask, “but how do I know who is right and who is wrong in a matter? When matters have a moral bent to them, which make them important, we must always measure the opposing views against God’s Word...which is why we must study as admonished in 2Tim 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* When we make God’s Word a part of us, and lean on it, we will not be easily deceived by contrary views.

**Thirdly**, in telling a lie, as in this case, who is being sinned against? Was it Abimelech who was on the receiving end of the lie? Let's look at this from God's point of view, which we should always do, relying on His Word to guide us, as we will see in this case. Now we know that Abraham was greatly favored by God, and yet not being a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34, Jas 2:9), God warned Abimelech in a dream and clearly stated "*I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.*" Note the Lord said sinning against Me, not Abraham. So it is clear that when we break God's commandments, the sin is against God.... something to take to heart, for it is the Lord who will ultimately judge us, not humans who may oppose us. Remember what Jesus said in Matt. 10:28 "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*"

**Fourthly**, what did God require in this matter, which is very important to take to heart. We read in Gen, 20:7 "*Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.*"

Now here we see the Lord cared for Abimelech, protecting him from sinning, yet required that Abraham show mercy, and pray for him. We read in Luke 6:28 "*Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.*" Also remember Job's friends who were accusatory, and how in the end, because they were being held accountable for **assuming** Job's guilt, in like manner it was required that Job pray for his friends to absolve them of that error against the Lord. So, Job's friends needed Job's prayers to be forgiven (Job 42:8), which in reality was also a test for Job. We too must have a forgiving spirit if we are to be forgiven (Mark 11:26).

How interwoven are God's precepts, which when followed provide a respite from all the evil and troubles that can entangle us in this world, when we adhere to and are led by them. We see in our world today that lies motivate people who are not led by God's Word to see the truth. Such find themselves in trouble. The Lord makes it clear that he who cannot do the little things or who is not faithful in the least of matters **cannot** be faithful in much (Luke 16:10).

**Fifthly**, God's intervention in the lives of His children on a grand scale is expressed in John 3:16, and on individuals as expressed here when He stepped in and caused Abimelech to refrain from touching Sarah, thus keeping an "innocent" man from sinning. Concerning Abimelech's question, "*wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?*" Knowing God's character, we should be absolutely convinced that God never acts unjustly, yet gives favor to the faithful, whomever and wherever they may be.

Remember what Jesus told the Jewish people in the synagogue in Luke 4:25-27 "*But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.*"

God's eyes are upon His children the world over, preserving and allowing providences that in every way work for the betterment of His children.... those He loves. (Jn 3:16)

J. DiCesare

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28 NASB*

## Powers Ordained by God

*"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." [Romans 13:1]*

*"Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men -- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." [1 Peter 2:13-17]*

These are hard sayings; very important and also very difficult. On the one hand, we know we should respect authority; on the other hand, we struggle with the concept that God has apparently "*appointed*" some very awful persons to positions of authority. Paul further tells us --

*"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake." [Romans 13:3-5]*

Yet we know that, actually, rulers do not always reward the good, or punish the evil, but can be quite evil in themselves, and their actions and results can be immoral and evil.

We need to dig deeper to find some resolution for this quandary. So, what would Jesus do? Or, rather, what DID Jesus do?

Jesus pursued a course of simple obedience to the laws of the civil authorities; he did not enter politics or the theory of civil obligations. In religious matters He did, however, chal-



lence the Jewish religious leaders about their traditions, their hypocrisy, their incorrect interpretations of the Law, but he also said, *“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat; therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.”* [Matthew 23:2-3]

On one occasion, Jesus was asked about the Roman tax -- a should pay it or not. His reply was *“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”* [Matthew 22:21] The answer essentially left matters where they stood; the ambiguity was intentional. It was left to each individual to decide this matter for themselves.

But later, when some Jews became Christians, and still later when some gentiles left pagan idolatry and became Christians, the basic question about taxes remained -- must one pay taxes to a pagan government that does not represent one’s beliefs at all; that spends the money in areas one is definitely opposed to, such as promoting pagan beliefs or war? The principles involved could be expanded to many areas where government and individuals seem at cross-purposes.

*“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”* [1 Timothy 1:8-11] This passage may be talking about the Law of God given through Moses, but the principles should also apply to earthly laws and rulers.

We need to dig still deeper. What is the purpose of government anyway? The primary purpose of government is to protect individual liberties and rights, and secondarily to provide for a common defense against enemies. But where do these governments get their authority over the people anyway? In

many cases brute force has been used to obtain, and maintain, power. In more enlightened societies authority comes from the approval of the people. Yet all are still, to a greater or lesser degree, whether they acknowledge it or not, under the overruling providence of Almighty God.

When the text says *“Let every soul be subject...,”* we must note that it says *“be subject,”* not *“be obedient”*. This subjection must certainly be limited to what is lawful according to God; otherwise, one must do as the apostles did in Acts 4:19-20 *“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”*

It was apparently Polycarp who said, “We are taught to give honor to princes and potentates, but such honor as is not contrary to true religion”.

But, where to draw the line? And in what cases? This was a question of great importance, and one which was not then, and still is not, easily answered. Lines drawn too narrowly and tightly could cause one to always be opposed to the authorities, and be branded as a troublemaker or rebel; a Christian should not be viewed like that, but should preeminently be a supporter of law and order. On the other hand, God is not honored by one’s thoughtless obedience to the state.

“There is no legal authority but may, in one sense or another, be said to be from God, the origin of all power. It is His will that there should be magistrates to guard the peace of societies; and the hand of his providence, in directing to the persons of particular governors, ought to be seriously considered and revered.” [Benson commentary]

Insofar as possible, Christians are to be obedient to the laws of the countries wherein they live, even if such governments be heathenish, idolatrous, atheistic, corrupt, or incompetent, because there is no power except such as is permitted by God [gentile governments are shown in Daniel as wild beasts tearing at each other, influenced no doubt by Satan, *“the god of this world”*]. If some find themselves living under a terrorist rul-

ing power, or a cartel, or criminals, then this problem of what rules to obey, and where to take a stand for the gospel and what is right and good, can be very problematic. One should be very careful as to where and when to take a stand; we are not to unnecessarily provoke the authorities. Pray to God about this, and then proceed as seems best. God knows the heart intention.

Christians in early days, and until now, profess supreme allegiance to The Eternal God, and to the Lord Jesus Christ. But, what kind of allegiance were, and are, they to render to the various governments and rulers and their laws, which provide various degrees of protection and services, and who are better, it would generally seem, than anarchy?

Soon after Jesus' time, the hands of these Roman rulers were to be raised against Christians in the fiery scenes of persecution; and the duty and extent of submission to them became a matter of very serious inquiry. The apostle Paul himself, who wrote of being "*subject*" to the powers that be, was put to death by the Roman Emperor Nero.

We can honor the "office" of rulers, such as presidents, chairmen, kings, dictators, etc., but we need not pray for specific leaders such as Pilate, Caesar, Herod, or any others -- except that they should turn to righteousness. Neither Jesus, the apostles, nor the early church were involved in any revolutionary movements; no marching in the streets, no protesting. Christians were then, and still should be [it seems] outside of politics; religion and politics do not mix, except with bad results. We should engage those in authority, when necessary, with the principles of Christ.

It is stated, as a primary truth of human society, that "civil authority is, as such, a Divine institution. Whatever may be the details of error or of wrong in its exercise, it is nevertheless, even at its worst, so vastly better than anarchy, that it forms a main instrument and ordinance of the will of God." [Cambridge Bible]

All civil rule that exists does so by God's arrangement, appointment, or permission. God instituted the office of civil rule to which we must be "*subject*," not of the person, nor of the abuse of office, nor of the manner of getting into power, but of the office itself. The apostle Paul, it is noted in Scripture, was always respectful of the various authorities he faced, even though some of them had very unsavory characters. God often claims and asserts that "He" sets up one, and puts down another. [Psalm 75:7; Daniel 2:21; 4:17, 25, 34-35]. Paul did witness to Agrippa, but was not confrontational; he urged him to repent and rule with right principles.

God's plans for eternity are so far above us as to be almost incomprehensible. He may cause or permit things that seem strange, unjust, and even harmful to humans, at our lowly level of understanding -- yet we have to trust Him that all will eventually work for God's glory. We are simply not able to know all the things that may be progressing in this world and in the spiritual heavens under the direction of Almighty God and His son Jesus.

God, after all, is planning for eternity and the eternal welfare of all created beings who will accept life on His terms. In the short term, with our limited view, events and actions may seem to be contrary to what is good and righteous -- but be assured, these experiences will be quite useful in the restoration processes of the Millennial Kingdom, and in the ages to follow.

We are to be in this world as law-abiding aliens, but our true citizenship is in heaven; be true to that. God will take care of the rest.

*"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."* [Philippians 3:20]

L. Schneider

Scriptures from NKJV unless otherwise noted.

## Acquiring a Discerning Spirit

*“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness, but solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”* Hebrews 5:11-14

Discernment is the ability to make sound judgments by perceiving what is not readily obvious. This is especially critical when in our Christian walk we seek to know what God’s will is for us in our everyday activities. As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus there are many choices we make that may not be for the best. It is important to realize that in making our decisions, it is good to first go to God in prayer, seeking His guidance and wisdom.

We have been promised a “Counselor,” the Holy Spirit, which will help to guide us in all truth. God’s word is also indispensable in seeking discernment. *“My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God”* (Proverbs 2:1-5). Also, David was of like mind to his son and said, *“I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes”* (Psalm 119:125).

Sometimes, the answer to our prayers for discernment may seem illusive, and we are not sure what to do. It is important at such times that we do not give in to our immedi-

ate desires. Oft times, we must exercise patience and continue to persevere in our search for God's will for us. *"Trust in the Lord, lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path"* (Prov. 3:5,6).

Paul tells us in verse 14 of Hebrews 5 above, *"...the mature, who by constant use, have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."* Training by definition, involves constant use or repetition in order to be able to distinguish right from wrong. The more we pray and search God's word, the more we will become discerning. This was Paul's prayer for the church, *"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment"* (Philippians 1:9).

At the beginning of Solomon's reign he prayed, *"Now Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?"* The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, *'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be'*" (1 Kings 3:7-12).

Because of his humility and desire to rule wisely, God granted him discerning wisdom, and abundantly more than he asked.

We read in Acts 8:15-23 of the Apostle Peter discerning the heart of Simon, the sorcerer. *“When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, ‘Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ Peter answered: ‘May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that He may forgive you ... For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.’”*

In John 4:42 we see the discernment of the people in Samaria after the woman at the well had proclaimed Jesus as Savior to them. *“They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.’”*

Jesus had spent two days with these people. They not only listened to Jesus proclaim the word of God, but they were able to discern He was the promised Messiah. By contrast, His own people of Israel had rejected Him. Hard-hearted people are unable to perceive when truth is spoken to them. Preconceived ideas are one of the things that throw up a roadblock of unbelief to one’s understanding.

A researcher concluded that when people draw conclusions about particular events, they are not just weighing the facts. Without knowing it, they are also weighing what they would feel if they came to one conclusion or another, and they often come to the conclusion that would make them

feel better, no matter what the facts are and no number of facts would change their original position. Findings also suggest why, regardless of whether we are talking about diets, exercise routines, political disposition, religious indoctrination, or strategies to compete in business, most of us refuse to change until a full-blown crisis hits. Our need to process information in a way that provides maximum emotional comfort found that the facts make virtually no difference in predicting what the vast majority of individuals will decide to do or think.

This was the case with the religious leaders of Jesus' day and has been true down through history, and sad to say, this is also true with many of our day as well. If we think we know it all, we have stopped learning, thrown discernment out the window, and can make no further progress.

Let us ask God to give us "a wise and discerning heart" to better know His will and be of better service to Him and to others. And may the abridged poem below not be a description of us.

E. Weeks

### **How Readest Thou?**

Some read to bring unto themselves repute,  
By showing others how they can dispute;  
While others read because their neighbors do,  
To see how long 'twill take to read it through.

Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,  
Thus understand but little what they read;  
And every passage in the Book they bend  
To make it suit that all-important end.

Poems of Dawn



## Being Overwhelmed by the Word of God

*“Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness”* (Jeremiah 23:9 KJV).

The anthological reading of the Scriptures is easy for everyone: but it does not honor the Bible that we read. If badly used, this method becomes harmful because **the verse taken out of context becomes a pretext.**

I heard preaching on this verse to justify religious exuberance, but the experience of Jeremiah must be contextualized to fully benefit from it. It would be wrong to say that an enthusiastic, emotional Bible reading corresponds to what the prophet lived. Jeremiah addressed a strong rebuke against false prophets. It is for this reason that his heart is broken! I was struck by the prophet's reference to the heart.

Elsewhere, he was somewhat pessimistic about this topic: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”* (Jeremiah 17:9 KJV).

Is there a contradiction in Jeremiah? Not at all. Here we must contextualise what he wrote: The Hebrew word *Leb* means the heart as the inner man, therefore the will. When he speaks of his own heart, Jeremiah makes it clear that it is in harmony with God. The Prophet did not write that his heart is like that of others, so the believer should not understand his heart as perpetually corrupt.

If we believe that the Holy Spirit has been poured out into our hearts (Romans 5: 5), then there can be no pessimism about our new life in Christ.

The holy words involving Jeremiah were not the complete written Bible we possess today. They were oracles of God transmitted to him, called to be spokesman of the Lord.

Studying the life of this prophet does not leave the reader indifferent: Jeremiah was a man of God, **unpopular, but true.** And this condition **is the same** for the preachers of the

Gospel: *“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”* (Galatians 1:10 KJV).

That of the prophets was not an easy life, and I am not referring only to the unpopularity as to the particularity of their experience with God:

*“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations”* (Jeremiah 1:5 KJV).

When I read this, God's declaration to Jeremiah, I think of the evidence that vocation is something external to us: we can not create it for ourselves. The life of the prophets is addressed to everyone, but it is not for everyone.

Everything that I have shared with you here is not intended to discourage believers from being passionate about the Word of God.

But I conclude with this exhortation:

*“Rather than being drunk from the Bible, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit”* (Ephesians 5:18).

M. Soranno

Holy spirit, faithful guide, Ever near the Christian's side,  
Gently lead us by the hand, Pilgrims in a desert land.  
Weary souls for aye rejoice, While they hear that sweetest voice,  
Whisp'ring softly Trav'ler come! Follow me, I'll guide thee home.

Ever present, truest Friend, Ever near thine aid to lend,  
Leave us not to doubt and fear, Groping on in darkness drear.  
When the storms are raging sore, Hearts grow faint, and hopes give  
o'er,  
Ah, then whisper, Trav'ler, come! Follow me, I'll guide thee home.

Hymns of Dawn

## Rivers of Living Waters

*“He who believes in me ... “Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38).*

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, *“The water I give you will become in you a spring.”* Then on the great day of the feast he said to the crowd, *“He who believes on me ... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

Note: *in you a spring ~ out of you rivers.* In us, the Holy Spirit is like a spring; an artesian well that is constantly fresh and never runs dry. Out of us, the Holy Spirit flows like rivers, bringing the water of life to thirsty people all around us. Thus, the Spirit-filled life is not like a vessel filled with water up to the brim and then left standing. Rather, it is like a vessel placed under an open faucet so that the water is incessantly flowing in, the vessel is always full, and the water is constantly flowing out.

The in-filling of the Holy Spirit is not an end in itself. The Spirit flows *in* only so that it may flow *out*. As E. Stanley Jones used to say, *“The Holy Spirit is like electricity. Never going in where it can’t flow out.”* The in-filling of the Spirit is for the supplying of *my own needs*; the out-flowing is to help me supply *the needs of others*. The infilling is for *Christian character*; the out-flowing is for *Christian conquest*. The in-filling goes to my *innermost heart*; the out-flowing goes to the *outermost world*.

The spring—rivers analogy emphasizes the fact that the in-filling and out-flowing of the Holy Spirit are without measure. Life is no longer a reservoir with limited resources so that if we draw on them, we have only so much left; therefore, we must ration or conserve them. Life now becomes a channel attached to infinite resources so there is no danger of exhausting the supply. We do not have to dole out our resources, for the more we give, the more we have. We are now living the inexhaustible and abundant life.

J.T. Seamonds

## The Life and Light of Men – Part 1

***"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."***

***John 1:4***

The excellencies of character possessed by his Lord and Master were repeatedly emphasized by the Apostle John. How much he loved to dwell on the beauties of His person, and direct attention to the fullness of life and light inherent in Him. This is characteristic of his Gospel record, likewise the first of his three Epistles. The reactions of his own spirit in response to the influence of Jesus' words and life may be seen throughout his writings. This is revealed in the frequency with which we find him using the words "life" and "light." He loved to pen such words as *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"* (Jn. 1:14, 16, 17).

Then, when he again takes up his pen, possibly at a later date, we find him writing in the same habitual trend of thought, saying, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of life (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us); that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you that your joy may be full"* (1 John 1:1, 3, 4).

The character of Jesus was radiant with life and light in the eyes of the Apostle John. Therefore, being so profoundly impressed himself with these qualities inherent in Jesus, he could not but reiterate and emphasize the fact that a

constant stream of both life and light may flow from Him into every sincere heart prepared to receive Him in truth as the *"life and light of men."* Thus, consistent with his own close affinity of spirit with his Lord, and true to the principle that *"out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,"* he records the wonderful words of life and light heard from the lips of Him who spoke as never man could speak. Such words as these were impressive words to John: *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* Again, *"Whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life"* (John 4:14). Remembering as he does these and other similar words, no wonder this disciple who enjoyed so much intimate friendship with Jesus is led to gather up the sum total of Christian experience in the brevity of a few sublime words: *"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son of God has not life"* (1 Jn.5:12).

The same great truth was, of course as clearly seen by the Apostle Paul and as faithfully presented, as a vital feature of true doctrine. He, too, made it the final objective in our life of faith in Christ. With him, to have the life of Christ experimentally known and its reality borne testimony to in daily life was the end toward which everything in true experience must contribute. We have in these two outstanding Apostles another illustration of that diversity which is so much a part of all God's operations. Each in his own way gives emphasis to a truth that, like so many other truths, may be seen in greater beauty as it may be framed in the language fitly expressive of diversified personal experience. John, in his writings, particularly so in his first Epistle, is concerned almost entirely with stating facts.

There is little of elaboration associated with the clear-cut facts set forth. May we assume that to a mind such as his, these facts seemed so much a part of what should be understood by all, therefore so easily applied in practical life,

that explanation seemed unnecessary? It frequently happens to be so among those equally devoted, to the same Lord. This is particularly true in the realm of deep spiritual truth. There is no "*last word*" in this field of expression. Very truly has it been said, "Oh these last words, these finalities, these inclusive conclusions of the whole matter! We know it is the purpose of God to bring us out of darkness into His most marvelous light. But the vision of God must ever be too wide and wonderful to be gathered into the compass of one luminous hour, to be held in the limits of one passage of clarified feeling and thinking. It is through many minds and spirit shadows that the children of men come truly to the underlying divinity of life and the face of the Father."

So we need a teacher such as Paul, one who will elaborate on these profound facts, to the end we may know how they operate in a practical, every-day experience. We find the need for his way of teaching us how the seemingly impossible may become the attainable as we follow on to know the Lord. How very much we need his reminder that we have not yet laid hold of all things possible to us in Christ Jesus. His own confession of not having attained the perfect goal speaks volumes to us: "*Not as though I had attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:12). It was true of him when he penned these words, and how manifestly true of us now. To him, and to us, *growth in grace and knowledge must ever be seen as progressive.*

The words "*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God*" are words that can never be other than an admonition fitly spoken even to the most advanced among God's children. For ourselves, we have not yet comprehended all truth. Not yet have we seen the King in all His beauty, nor as yet received the full impress of His image on our soul. Though graciously privileged to be of those "*seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*"

it is well to remember that the heavenlies may yet be opened still more wonderfully to us, if so be the hunger of our hearts finds true expression in the words:

*“And still new beauties may we see, and still increasing light.”*

The thought is this: we are to recognize that in as much as Jesus is our life and light, He is both of these to us in a measure inexhaustible. Our aim must therefore be that of pressing on, as did Paul, toward a more complete experience of our life in Christ, and of the power of His light in daily life. The facts, therefore, relating to how He is our life and light have been brought out of the shadows of uncertainty by Paul, and set before us as the true goal toward which we may make our way confidently, assured of an end never to be denied to those who follow on to know the Lord. What is this attitude of mind but that of desiring to drink deeply of the water Jesus can give, which being received in the measure He delights to give, leads to a progressive fulfillment of His promise, "a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." (To be continued.)

J.J.Blackburn

Proverbs 4:25 tells us: "Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you." This wise principle is equally applicable to our spiritual walk. If we want to walk a straight path, then we must also fix our eyes on a distant object. Heb. 12:2 says: "Looking unto the author and finisher of our faith." Yes, Jesus Christ is the one we must fix our eyes upon if we are to leave behind us a straight furrow which will glorify Him and our Father in heaven. If we become distracted in things of this world because we lose our focus on Him, it will be obvious to all by the crooked furrow we have left behind us.

Selected

## Where Will Everyone Live?

*“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited.”*

Isaiah 45:18

After Jesus' return, all the dead [except those who receive heavenly life] will eventually return to human life on earth in the Millennial Kingdom -- plus the then-living generation already on earth. Where will all these people live, and grow food?

This is often the first objection raised when one hears about the Millennial Kingdom and the resurrection of the dead. A little calculation may serve to ease some minds on this matter: The 'World Almanac' gives these figures for the state of Texas [USA]: **Size** 268,581 square miles [including water areas]; **Land** 261,797 square miles.

One square mile (5280 feet on each side) contains 27.88 [followed by 6 zeros] square feet [ft<sup>2</sup>]. Multiply this by the land area of Texas and you get 72.99 ft<sup>2</sup> [followed by 11 zeros]. Then we ask -- How many people have lived on earth since Adam and Eve [including the current 7 billion]? Well, no one knows for certain, but estimates range from 35-50 billion. The population was apparently fairly small until about 1000 AD, and since then has grown rapidly, even exponentially. The plagues [Black Death, etc.], famines, and the various wars, have hardly made a dent in this increase. At some point, of course, population growth must cease.

So, let's assume 50 billion humans for the total population that has ever lived. Dividing the land area of Texas [72.99 ft<sup>2</sup>, followed by 11 zeros] by 50 [followed by 9 zeros] gives us 145.98 ft<sup>2</sup> for each person -- or a space of about 12 feet x 12 feet for each! Of course, no one could live on such a small space, but it shows how much of earth's surface is



[theoretically] available for all the people to live on, and to grow their food.

There are many inspiring prophecies in God's Word that foretell of the restoration of the earth to its Edenic condition during the times of restoration [Acts 3:21]. Most likely, humans will again eat fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries, grains, etc., as originally intended [Genesis 1:29-30; 2:16], and not animal meats; only after the Flood was consumption of animal meats allowed [Genesis 9:2-4].

For those who might still like a juicy steak or burger, today [2020] there are being produced, but not yet available for sale, "lab grown" or "cultured" meats [no animals need be slaughtered]. This is real meat, grown from a sample of muscle tissue! Note this, from 'Scientific American' Sept. 14, 2018:--

"Imagine biting into a juicy burger that was produced without killing animals. Meat grown in a laboratory from cultured cells is turning that vision into a reality. Several start-ups are developing lab-grown beef, pork, poultry and seafood..."

And, of course, there are plant-based substitutes for meat that are currently more-or-less satisfactory.

Thus, large grasslands and pasture-lands may be available for other uses. The land will no longer be polluted, or depleted of nutrients such as vitamins and minerals; the water will be pure; the people will not need to eat as much food to get all the nutrition they need. And, as people progress towards perfection, they will digest and assimilate foods more efficiently, and with less waste.

Climate extremes will be moderated; patterns of rainfall will possibly change; extreme storms, earthquakes, floods, etc., will be minimized or eliminated. These favorable conditions will tend toward larger, more dependable, crops.

*“Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.” [Psalm 67:6]*

Eventually, there will be no more weeds, plant diseases, or destructive insects. All creatures need to eat, of course, but perhaps birds and animals will have their instincts, or DNA, changed to eat only grasses [including their seeds]. Genesis 1:30 seems to indicate it was originally so designed -- or perhaps they will eat only in certain areas, to eat efficiently, and not to cause so much needless destruction and waste. The dental structures and digestive systems will apparently be changed for those that were once carnivores -- merely change the DNA of mature animals, and their offspring [to the surprise of their parents!] will eat plants, as originally designed in Eden.

*"The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox..." [Isaiah 11:7; 65:25]*

But what if humans still need more space? Humans now live on only a portion of the earth, mostly because of extreme climates and lack of water. If that could be remedied [and it will be], there would be plenty of room for people. Land that is useless now, such as salt flats, open-pit mines, contaminated dump sites, garbage landfills, paved-over areas, etc., will be reclaimed and made productive. Mountainous areas not suitable for dwellings can be terraced and many useful plants grown [grapes, olives, tea, coffee, berries]. The earth will become like the “Garden of Eden.”

We should note that there is much empty space just in the western USA [a staggering 47% of the country remains unoccupied]. There are also many lightly populated lands in other areas, such as Canada and Russia, the deserts [Sahara, Gobi, Australian Outback, and others -- covering about 33% of earth's surface], tropical forests [Amazon, Africa].

Or more islands could arise from the ocean. Or the shallow Continental shelf around most land-masses could be exposed. The continental shelf is geologically part of the continental crust, but now covered by water. [Continental shelves make up about 8 percent of the entire area covered by oceans]. If still more land is needed, the ice covering Antarctica could be melted and an entirely new continent would be available, in size roughly comparable to the USA and Mexico combined, nearly the size of Europe, and nearly twice the size of the continent of Australia.

“Once before, the land under the ice caps was suitable for vegetation. Why not again? Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the explorer, brought back from the South Pole region samples of tropical plants found under the ice. And we know that the same warm climate which could grow such tropical flora in the Antarctic also was present in the Arctic Circle. There have been found in Siberia complete mastodons embedded in ice, and, in the same general area, were discovered tons of elephant tusks. Although differing somewhat from our present-day elephant, these extinct mastodons, in order to live, required the same warm climate and lush vegetable growth. And, of great interest, is the fact that these animals, found embedded in ice, had undigested food [such as buttercups] in their stomachs and un-masticated grass in their mouths. This shows that the change of temperature at the poles was virtually instantaneous, causing the beasts to be overtaken in a crushing fall of snow while feeding.”

Dawn Magazine [April 1952]

Coal [from once-abundant plants] has also been found in Antarctica.

...Many Scriptures reassure us that all will be well in the Kingdom, under the beneficent rule of Jesus Messiah and his Bride:

*"The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose". [Isaiah 35:1]*

*"Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us." [Psalm 67:6]*

*"Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes." [Isaiah 35:6, 7]*

*"The tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them." [Ezekiel 34:27]*

...God the Almighty, and His Son Jesus Messiah, are fully capable of meeting every need of humanity -- now, and forever.

*"Oh, the depth of the wealth of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgments, how trackless his footsteps! Who hath known the mind of the Lord or shared his counsels? Who has first given God anything, and thus earned a recompense? For all proceeds from him, and exists by him and for him. To him be glory forever!" Romans 11:33-36 [Weymouth]*

...Genesis 8:22 God promised, *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."*

L. Schneider

## Christ's Victory over Death

The transgression of our first parents in Eden is the cause of death for all mankind. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 5:12, *"Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* Without this violation of the Law of God, there would not have been any death. Man would have lived forever in a condition of Edenic perfection in endless peace and happiness to this very day.

In harmony with the Bible we come to the conclusion that God has subjected man to death according to a pre-ordered plan which will reach its completion in due time -- at a time when all mankind will have learned the great lessons that sin and death teach us. Then God will restore all the dead to life, not for a few centuries, or a few millennia, but for eternity.

God's plan holds only one hope for the liberation of the whole human race. This hope has always been a *living hope* to God's chosen people even many centuries before the first advent of Jesus; this living hope is the *resurrection of the dead*. Speaking of God's ancient chosen people, the writer to the Hebrews says, *"By faith ... women received their dead raised to life again."* (Heb. 11:35) These words simply mean that they had faith in that future time when there will be a resurrection and they will receive their departed loved ones alive -- back from the dead.

This hope was based on God's promises such as we read in Hosea 13:14 -- *"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plague; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes."* Also in Ezekiel 37:12, *"Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."* These promises and many others like them

were the hope and the heart of that people. In due time, they will see these fulfilled in their long awaited Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns.

Jesus' resurrection was the only reason for this splendid hope, which like the morning star, gives light to the world. No one before Jesus had been raised from the dead with any right to life. The prophet Elijah had returned a dead boy to life, and Elisha had done the same, but these were not true resurrections but only a resuscitation to their former life.

Jesus himself had awakened three persons from death. But all of these died again because they had no right, as yet, to eternal life. Jesus was perfect, holy, sinless and thus not subject to Adamic death as all of us are. Jesus perfectly obeyed the Mosaic law as given by God – that Law which none before him had been able to obey. Because of his obedience and being the perfect sacrifice, his *ransom for all* was acceptable to the Father. He suffered death for the salvation of the entire human race.

In prophesying the redemptive mission of Jesus, Isaiah wrote: *"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed...Yet, it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he shall make his soul (life)an offering for sin. By his knowledge my righteous servant shall justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities."* Isaiah 53:5, 6, 11.

By his death, Jesus offered a perfect sacrifice. His was a voluntary death, which he could have avoided if he had so desired. He had told his disciples of his coming death, as well as his resurrection; but evidently they had not understood the full meaning of his words, therefore, the crucifixion was, to them -- a terrible shock.

For the evil creature, Satan -- the death of Jesus seemed his greatest triumph. However, when our Lord rose from the

dead, Satan realized his greatest defeat. Actually, Jesus' resurrection was the greatest event in all of history – the most splendid light in this world of darkness. Such an event reassured the broken hopes of his disciples, because it was proof and an undeniable manifestation of his divine power, and as such, it filled the hearts of his disciples with a living hope, peace, and joy.

### **He is Risen**

*“He is not here”* said the angel to the sorrowful but surprised women who had come to the sepulcher. *“He is risen!”* This great news filled their hearts with wonder and joy as they ran to bring these tidings to Jesus' grieving disciples. After the manifestation of skepticism by the disciples at this unbelievable news, later in that evening, it gave place to joy and wonder when the Lord appeared among them. That day darkness was changed to light because death had finally been conquered and the brilliant star of the Resurrection was shining across the sky.

The Resurrection of our Lord furnishes us the divine assurance of the coming liberation of all the prisoners in that huge prison house of death, which is the grave. Jesus proclaimed in Rev. 1:18, *“I have the keys of hell (the grave) and of death,”* and in God's due time, he will unlock and open wide the gates and let the prisoners free. He predicted this would take place in due time by saying, *“Marvel not at this, but the hour is coming in which all those who are in the graves shall hear my voice and shall come forth (John 5:28).* The Apostle Paul also affirmed there shall be a resurrection for all in 1 Corinthians 15:22 and Acts 24:15.

In view of these wonderful promises in the Word of God, we have strong faith in the promised resurrection of the dead. Before long, we shall see the miracle of millions and billions of the dead returning to life, and there will be untold numbers of families and good friends reunited with joy and happiness. At that time, no one will ever die again the

Adamic death – rather there will be a great flood of life and vitality for all which will enrich the human family from generation to generation with complete victory over the forces of evil. In that new world there will no longer be any temptation for drugs, alcohol and other vices; no more diseases, no more hospitals, clinics, funeral parlors or cemeteries; there will be no more constant struggle for money, privilege or power. All these things will be over forever. The return of Christ will bring undreamed of joy, peace, health and life to all the obedient in that blessed Millennial Age.

In the resurrection not only will all these wonderful things be restored to mankind, to all who will obey the laws of the Kingdom on their way to the perfection that was lost in Adam, but death itself will be finally destroyed (Isa. 25:7, 8; Rev. 21:1-4). The Apostle Paul in his glorious vision of the Kingdom of God on earth, evidences its triumph with these words, *“For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet, the last enemy to be destroyed is death”* (1 Cor. 15:25, 26).

Thus God’s Plan will reach its glorious fulfillment, when heaven and earth will again be united in full harmony under the Fatherhood of God, in a spirit of universal brotherhood, because of the death and resurrection of Jesus – the precious Lamb of God, *“which takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29), the Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5,6), the One *“Who is worthy to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing”* (Rev. 5:12)

Therefore, let us humble ourselves so that in due time the mighty Hand of God will exalt us. Let us place all our plans, worries and problems in His hands, because, *He cares for us.* 1 Peter 5:7

Gaetano Boccaccio



## Peter and Fire

*“When they had kindled a fire ... Peter sat among them” (Luke 22:55).*

If we take this passage of Scripture and add it to Acts, chapter 2, we will discover three interesting vignettes in the life of Peter.

**The first** is that of Peter *near the fire*. When Jesus was arrested and brought into the high priest’s house, Peter followed at a distance and entered into the courtyard. In so doing he exhibited both courage and fear. Evidently he was apprehensive of being found too close to Jesus and His accusers, so he stayed back with the fringe of the crowd and followed at a distance. But at the same time he had enough courage to enter into the courtyard. The rest of the disciples had all fled and taken refuge in their homes. Some of the servants of the household had built a fire in the middle of the courtyard, so Peter joined them and warmed himself by the fire.

**The second** picture is that of Peter *in the fire*. He soon got into trouble. Just a few hours earlier he had boasted before his Master that he was ready to follow Him to prison and even to death. Then when a maid and two other servants confronted him and said, *“You are one of Jesus’ followers,”* Peter vehemently denied the charge three times. Next, we are told, *“the Lord turned and looked at Peter.”* Something in that look must have pierced that very soul of Peter, for he immediately *“went out and wept bitterly.”*

**In the third** vignette, we see Peter *on fire*. After Christ’s resurrection, Peter was reconciled to his Lord, and was later present in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost, no longer the fearful Peter. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, he boldly proclaimed Christ to the multitudes in Jerusalem. He became the interpreter of Pentecost to the new Christians in Samaria and to the household of Cornelius. Today we remember Peter not so much for his denial as for his faithful leadership in the early church.

**J.T. Seamonds**

## A Portrait of Jesus: Alone in Prayer

*“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” Luke 5:16*



Luke tells us that Jesus OFTEN went off to lonely places and prayed. In fact, that is how he started and ended his ministry. Matthew 4 tells us that Jesus began His ministry in the wilderness, fasting and praying. It says that He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. After 40 days of prayer and fasting, the devil thought he had the perfect opportunity to wreck God’s plan. What Satan didn’t know was that during that “40 days”, Jesus was fortified by those prayers. He was stronger than He had ever been. His mission was clear and He knew without a shadow of a doubt what the Father’s will for Him was. The devil never stood a chance!

Often, I would guess meant as much as He could, perhaps daily. Every morning, I suspect He snuck away to be alone with His Father, seeking direction on every aspect of His ministry. Mark 1:35 tells us, *“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”* Luke 6:12 tells us that Jesus went out to the mountains and prayed all night when He was getting ready to call His disciples.

Jesus ended His ministry alone in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had hoped his disciples would stay with Him in prayer, but they were overcome with fatigue and He found Himself alone with His Father. This time of prayer, even though He was really struggling and in agony, fortified Him to endure what lay before Him. He was able to suffer the humiliation of being mocked, beaten and death on the cross because He had taken the time to pray.

What a wonderful example our Lord has set for us. We should follow his example and withdraw *often* to a lonely place to pray. Do you have a place where you can be alone with Him? Where He can fortify you and give you direction? Where you can come out ready to fight the devil and carry out the mission He has set before you. If you don’t, I would urge you to find a place to be alone in prayer and commune with Your Father and watch what He will do with your life!

D. Mathewson

## Prayer List

*“Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.” (1 Samuel 12:23)*



**Let us be Prayer Warriors for our Brethren!**

Adkisson, Grace – TX	Howes, Paul & Carla - UK
Boswell, Arlene – IL	Karavas Family – CA (d)
Buxton, Jean & Family - UK	Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME
Cannon, Melissa (Bews) – TX (d)	Lepitre Family - IL
Casell, Agnes & Family –VT (d)	Mazzotta, Eva – VA
Cooper, Carmela – NJ	Miller, Alain – Canada
Csutor, Judith – CT	Moore, Maryellen – CA (d)
Day, Ronald – PA	Ostwald, Dick - WI
Dalesandro, Jim and family - IL (d)	Parker, Geraldine – CA
Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA	Parrinello, Sue MI (d)
Dunn, Kim - IL	Penton, Jim – Canada
Feliciano, Carmen - NY	Phillips, Stella – OK
Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI	Rowe, Bryan - UK
Foster, Jean – IL	Schwartz, Ruth – TX
Hauslein, Karen – MD	Seminoff, Brenda – CA
Hawk, Barbara – PA	Spano Family – IL (d)
Hildebrandt, Lois - FL	Tuscia, Priscilla – FL
Hoffner, Steve – NH	White, Joan - NY (d)
Hogrebe, Joan – MO	Wolfenberger Family (d)

(d) = death in the family

### **Entered into rest:**

Mary DeWys, MI - February 2024

**Important:** If you know anyone in the names listed above whom no longer needs special prayers, please advise us so we may remove their names. Also, if any of the information is incorrect, please let the editor know. Thank you.

*People do not care what you think until you care what they feel.*

*“Rejoice evermore. **Pray without ceasing.** In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1Th 5:16-18 KJV*

## **Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Websites**



*Congratulations* to the following students who have completed their course and have been awarded a Certificate.

### **Ransom Course Graduate: Monday Udo, Nigeria**

You are invited to view the following websites:  
(copy and paste the address into your browser)

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)  
(Current/past NC magazine issues are available on our website)

<https://www.christianbelieversconference.com/>

<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship in NH)

<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk> (Bible Fellowship in UK)

<http://www.bbschurch.org> (Lombard, IL)

<https://sites.google.com/site/quietwatersdevotions>

<http://www.cartyorkshire.co.uk> (CART)

<http://www.campblessing.com> (Camp Blessing)

<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News, Australia)

<https://e-biblia.org/> (Os Estudantes da Bíblia, The Bible Students, Brazil - Portuguese/Span) email: [contact@e-biblia.org](mailto:contact@e-biblia.org)

## 2024 Christian Believers Conference Invitation

Dear Brethren,

We are excited to announce the 115th annual Christian Believers Conference to be held at the beautiful Gordon College campus in Wenham, Massachusetts, on July 24-27th, 2024. Please mark your calendars, and make plans now to attend.

This year's theme is: ***"Fix Your Eyes on Jesus"***

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Come join us in lifting a triumphant shout to the Lord!

The fellowship and spiritual insight that CBC provides is a great treasure indeed. It is our fervent hope you will help to make the conference even more meaningful by your presence, for we all need the encouragement and support of those of "like precious faith."

Through God's grace we are able to offer a free conference again this year, but we do ask that if you are able, please consider making a donation to defer in part some of the room & board costs of the Conference. Your support is greatly appreciated.

A conference program and registration form with more information will be available in mid-May, but we urge you to make your plans now if you are planning to attend. We look forward to being with you this next July.

Yours in Christ,

2024 Christian Believers Conference Planning Committee

Visit <http://ChristianBelieversConference.org/>

## Conferences & Conventions

### Christian Believers Conference

Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts

July 24-27, 2024

See announcement on previous page and

Visit <http://ChristianBelieversConference.org/>

Accommodations: Diane Allen & Julie Polychronis

cell: 540-908-6558 email: justdiane48@yahoo.com

### Bible Students Fellowship Conference

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, England

14-18 August 2024 DV

**Note:** If you would like to have your Convention, Conference, Camp, or Seminar published in The New Creation Magazine, send information or a program *at least three months in advance* of the issue month of the magazine to the editor, Bob Whittaker.

**Notice:** If you know of Christian friends who would benefit from receiving the bimonthly New Creation Magazine via mail, send their names and addresses to the CDMI main office, care of Bruce Blake. The address is inside the front cover.

### Donations

Many people around the world appreciate the New Creation magazine. For many, it is their only source of Christian communication. Also, for many, they only have it through the generous contributions of others. If you feel moved to help them in continuing to get the New Creation, please consider a donation to CDMI.

### Article Contributions

Please send articles for possible publication to Dennis Gorham, 4 Alicia Street Somersworth, NH 03878  
email: [dennisgorham@comcast.net](mailto:dennisgorham@comcast.net)

*Any information published in this magazine that you know is incorrect should be brought to the attention of the editor at his email address: [bobwhittaker64@gmail.com](mailto:bobwhittaker64@gmail.com). We strive for accuracy but do not have full knowledge.*