

May 2022

Braman Foundation of Charities
presents

DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine

HELLO
May

A vibrant field of colorful flowers, including pink and yellow ranunculus, under a bright sky. The foreground features two large, detailed pink ranunculus flowers in sharp focus, while the background is a soft-focus field of similar flowers in various colors like yellow, orange, and pink. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, suggesting a sunny day in a garden or field.

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DISCIPLESHIP

A Devotional Magazine

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Discover how to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit with BFC's book, *Favorite Scriptures & Prayers*

Welcome

We welcome May, here in the northeast as April was chilly and unpredictable weather, finally now to Spring.

Our risen Lord is celebrated, greatly as we move through the Church calendar of 2022 and May is welcome. In the precious name of our Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we welcome the beauty of the May flowers and spring season.

As disciples of Christ we are reminded that this is not our world as we are so called to “Love Our Neighbor” in Christ’s most urgent command. For it is the same today as was in His time on earth to love others. For Christ is, was and shall always be.

When you speak of Jesus, He is alive and active now regardless of how you may view the circumstances of the planet, now.

Many say, well we are in the end times, just look at the current darkness all over the earth. Yet Christ reminds us that not even the son, Christ Himself, knows the time or day. Therefore, my dear friends, let your focus be on today! Celebrate that today is the day the Lord has made. In Matthew 6:34, Jesus reminds us that today’s troubles are sufficient, therefore live in this day. This slogan “Live one day at a time”, came from Christ’s teachings.

Jesus is calling you into a deeper, deeper relationship with Him and only Him! Do not be distracted by world events, nor where you will rest your uneasy soul. For your home is in Him. In fact, He has gone before you to prepare a place for you.

Therefore, press into how you may serve Him through serving others. More than ever there are organizations, all over the world fulfilling the command, to “Love Thy Neighbor”. Sisters and brothers, look into how you may serve and be not anxious during world events.

God is, was and shall always be the same today as yesterday. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

Friend, try not to identify with the current world events. Of course it is good to be “in the know” so that you are aware of current events, yet try not to be preoccupied over the current landscape. For what you see or what you hear in your finite ways is very limited. Feat the devil lurks to seek and devour your peace, your joy and your love. Daily ruminating over our current difficulties does not bring you into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Of course, we do not live in denial. For yes the planet is currently struggling with various difficulties that are dark and the new does not predict a good outcome. Regardless of the outcome you can live a victorious life and overcome all obstacles. Why? Because you know that Christ is not only your King but the King of this current age. Friend, as stated earlier, He has gone before you to prepare a place for you. As His son and daughters, Christ is working for you, going before you, opening doors and making your path straight.

Christ is your rear guard, your vindicator and your way maker. Press into Jesus and celebrate the risen King.

Easter is a current event. Christ is alive and working through His people today! Can you not feel His presence? Can you not lay eye witness to His love all throughout the world as people love one another, help one another and reach out in forgiveness, peace and love.

Just as we welcome the blooming of the new flowers, let our soul open up to the light of Christ in each of us as we celebrate the Christ in all of us!

Be ever blessed!

The 2022 Scripture:

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

BFC Devotional Magazine

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The Sermons of Richard W. Braman



We continue to share the Sermons of Richard W. Braman. Pastoral churches throughout NY, Ohio and Illinois through the years of 1962-1989.

In these sermons we are exploring the idea of not judging others, judging ourselves, growing in Discipleship. We look at this theme of differentiating ourselves through love versus worldly love. We are growing in turning away from worldliness and taking on the likeness of Christ. We are encouraged to grow in forsaking the ways of this world.

For we can not practice the pride of life, the lusts of the flesh and loss of the eyes.

Also, these readings are to help in the transformation, growing in Christ and the Love of the Lord.

Continual Blessings

BFC

An Excerpt from RWB Sermons

“Why are you troubled, and why do questions arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

We can understand their feelings; have we not had experiences that were too good to be true? This is the beginning of the joy of the Resurrection. Possession of truth and the experience of liberty are the precursors of joy. Is not joy itself a rather Christian word?

Can the Gospel Save the World?

"I came not to judge the world, but to save the world."

- John 12:47

The Gospel of Jesus Christ came to save the world. That is the claim of the church and the claim of all Christians everywhere.

Ordinary men and women know well enough that they need to be safe. They know to what they need to be saved from. But when they cast about for the means of salvation they do not ordinarily turn to the Christian gospel.

What do they turn to? Some believe that democracy will save the world; but the people in a democracy must have beliefs deeper than that. Others believe that education will save it but there has to be something deeper behind the education. And still others believe that a particular system for producing and distributing of the world's goods will save the world. These people do not believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can save the world. They may admire it as a lovely idea but as a practical program it does not appeal to them. That's what is wrong with our churches today. There are the many members that do not believe what they profess to. They are willing to say it with their lips but they are not willing to live it in their everyday lives. You see the Gospel of Jesus Christ has to be taken on faith. It cannot be proven scientifically and that's what a good many people are looking for today—proof. If we do not possess the faith we cannot call ourselves Christians. That, I think, is so

obvious as to require no argument.

What seems to me more serious, however, is the mood of discouragement with which the church today faces the world's indifference. Many of us in the church tend to overlook many of the conditions around us and in our world because we say they don't concern us and we do not want to become involved. Many of us do not care. We will go along with the majority regardless of whether it is right or wrong. It really doesn't matter to us and we do not want to stand out in a crowd, as a radical so we say it doesn't matter one way or the other. Or many of us use the argument that it is old fashion and we have to keep up with the modern times. We need to remember the Gospel of Christ does not change, only we change. The forces of materialism seem too strong. Believe me, they are strong. Money and material possessions are the god of many. What chance has love of man against love of money? Or reconciliation against rockets? Or brotherhood against pride of race? No wonder Christians have become discouraged.

But look at the facts! Christianity has not only repeatedly made the claim that the Gospel of Christ is capable of saving the world, it has repeatedly made the claim good. The Christian church began with eleven men who set out to perform the seemingly impossible task of converting

the Roman world, and that world was quite as secular and irreligious and materialistic as our world today. It has lost its old faith and settled for the cynical belief that only two things really mattered—money and power. Yet those eleven men set in motion a force that was to overcome the Roman world. The Roman Empire is no more, but the Church endures. And what we call Western civilization is the new order, which the church erected on the ruins of the old. What is democracy but the political application of the Bible's teaching that all men are equally valuable in the sight of God who created them all and of Jesus Christ who died for them all.

Who needs to be reminded of the debt which education owes the church? In the dark ages it was the Catholic Church that kept the lamp of learning lit in Europe when all the other lights went out. In modern times it was the Reformation church that gave birth to the idea of universal education, so that every man might be capable of reading the saving gospel for himself. Who doubts the vital role of the church in the struggle for economic and social justice? It was the Christian conscience that brought about the abolition of slavery and its sequel, the emancipation of labor. In any great movement where men are set free to think and act for themselves the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been and will be behind it. The church, in short, has repeatedly made the claim that the Gospel of Christ has power to save the world, and it has repeatedly made the claim good.

What was the secret of the confidence with which the church made the claim in the other ages? It was surely not that of the world was less opposed to change then it is now. Kings did not favor democracy in 18th-century. Factory owners did

not favor universal education in the 19th-century. And many do not favor equality of the races in the 20th-century. You see if man becomes educated and is able to read and understand the Gospel, there is a good chance he will believe it and be set free. Dictators, especially the Communist leaders, want to keep the people ignorant, then they will have less trouble ruling them. Once the people begin to learn and start thinking for themselves, the leaders are in danger of losing their power and leadership. This is why the communists are able to go into backward countries and gain such a foothold. The communists tell them what to do and how to do it. Democracy on the other hand requires that people do their own thinking, that they make their own decisions, that they choose their own leaders. These kinds of people are not ready for this because they need to be educated first. They definitely need to hear and learn the word of God because the word sets men free. This is our obligation and duty as Christians to help in the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

But opposition did not and doesn't even today discourage Christians. From the very first days of the church, confidence has been the Christians watch word. What were the grounds of this confidence?

It relied first of all on faith in God. The first Christians were not concerned to prove philosophically that God existed. They believed that God created the world and that it belongs to him. They also believed that God had a purpose for the world, not because they could prove this as a philosophical necessity, because it seems perfectly obvious to them that if God had made the world and its people, he must intend them to enjoy a good life of justice, peace and joy. And therefore when they proclaimed the

Gospel of God's kingdom to the world, they proclaimed it not as the bright idea of clever men but us the truth of God.

What they preached was not their own gospel; it was the Gospel of God. Men who know that the Gospel they proclaim is God's Gospel can never become discouraged. Their confidence also rested on an experience of Jesus Christ that changed their lives.

That is what happened to the disciples when they met Jesus. Their lives were changed. He did not choose them because they deserve to be chosen, he took them as they were. But they were drawn to be like him. And in the end the change in them was so profound that they even faced the kind of death that he faced, rather than be unlike him. They were changed people, different from what they had been before. St. Paul was not theorizing but stating a fact when he said in a famous passage, "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature." These people had been changed. They led change lives. Those who have experienced the acceptance of Jesus Christ in their lives will testify to the fact that Christ does make a difference in your life. You feel and act differently; you live differently. Life takes on a new meaning. Your heart becomes filled with joy and happiness. There is no doubting and you are sure of what the future holds for you. You become filled so much with a presence of Christ that you were bubbling over and you want to share your experience with others. This is when Christ really makes a difference in your life and you actually become a new person in Christ.

The early Christians also had and awareness of the Spirit of God in their midst. Jesus told his disciples that he would always be in their midst. St. Paul you remember, talks about the

fellowship of the Holy Spirit. What does he mean by that? He means a community held together by the Holy Spirit. It was a community of friendship. It was a community of forgiveness. It was a community of unselfishness. But more important than these things, it was a community without distractions. The alienation between men was reconciled and the unity of God's family restored. This was a new community capable of embracing the whole world.

How could our world help but be saved if all men everywhere read and believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Peace would prevail throughout this world of ours because Christ love for us would shine through and towards all men. This is the aim of the Christian religion to make all men brothers in Jesus Christ. Those other things that made the difference—the belief that the Gospel was a message of God, the experience of Jesus Christ that had changed their lives and the awareness of the Spirit of God in their midst.

The obstacles that they faced are the same obstacles that we face today. The opportunities of which they availed themselves are the same opportunities that lie open before us today. And the confidence with which they spoke rested on the experience of God, which is ours also. And so I say, rejoice. For I know and believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has the power to save the world, will prevail. "Jesus Christ did truly come to save the world."

I'd like to say a few words about the Sacrament of Baptism.

In a very real sense the Christian church is the true sponsor of a child, and when receiving a child into its fellowship to see that the child is brought up in the Christian faith and with the Christian

church. Baptism is not the act of a minister or the parents but is the act of God working in and through the church ordinance. It is the church that administers the sacrament, and anything that tends to separate this supplemental service in the life and worship of the church robs it of its essential meaning.

Baptism is not primarily the act of the parent, nor of the child, but of the church and of Christ in the church. Sometimes we wonder why we get wrong answers and it's because we asked the wrong questions. What good does baptism do me or that child? Instead of, what is the Active witness in service the church surrenders to the Active Word of Christ's Gospel in the baptism of young or old?

Baptism is not there primarily for the individual, nor for the family, but for the church, to confess before God and man the Word of Regeneration. When parents realize that if they fail in keeping their solemn vows their child will lose what he or she ought to receive, then perhaps they will not seek to evade their obligation. And when the church takes seriously its pledged sponsorship of the child, then it will provide an adequate teaching staff and adequate program of religious education.

It will not spend more money on little needed luxuries than it does in training children and youth in the Christian life, for it will do what Jesus did—take, “a little child and set him in the midst.” Of course we all now realize the church is not this building or any other building. It is people—it is you. So when the vows are read and accepted by the parents this morning—you accept them also for you are the church.

Release from Resentment

Lord Jesus, Thou knowest me altogether.
Thou knowest that I have steadily refused to forgive this one who has wronged me, yet have had the audacity often to seek Thy forgiveness for my own wrong doing.

The acids of bitterness and a vengeful spirit have threatened to eat away my peace.
Yet I have stubbornly rationalized every unlovely motive. I have said, “I am clearly in the right. It is only human to dislike a few people. This one deserves no forgiveness.” How well I know that neither have I ever deserved the forgiveness which Thou hast always freely granted me.

So, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee now for the grace to forgive this hurt. Even now, I am divided about it, only partially willing to release it. But Thou canst manage even my reluctance, my loitering feet. Take now my divided will and make it of one piece, wholly Thy will.

And Lord, I give to Thee this emotion of resentment which clings as if glued to my heart. Wrest it from me. Cleanse every petty thought.
Make me sweet again. . . .

For these great mercies I thank Thee, in Thy name, who gave me the supreme example in forgiving even those who slew Thee.

Amen.

Peter Marshall

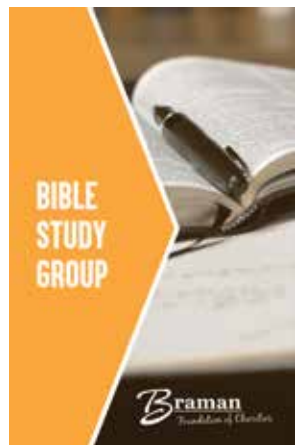
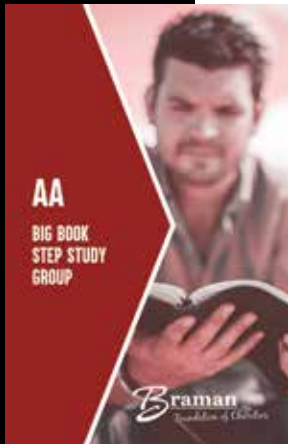
SPURGEON'S CORNER

"Continue in the faith."

Acts 14:22



Perseverance is the badge of true saints. The Christian life is not a beginning only in the ways of God, but also a continuance in the same as long as life lasts. It is with a Christian as it was with the great Napoleon: he said, "Conquest has made me what I am, and conquest must maintain me." So, under God, dear brother in the Lord, conquest has made you what you are, and conquest must sustain you. Your motto must be, "Excelsior." He only is a true conqueror, and shall be crowned at the last, who continueth till war's trumpet is blown no more. Perseverance is, therefore, the target of all our spiritual enemies. The world does not object to your being a Christian for a time, if she can but tempt you to cease your pilgrimage, and settle down to buy and sell with her in Vanity Fair. The flesh will seek to ensnare you, and to prevent your pressing on to glory. "It is weary work being a pilgrim; come, give it up. Am I always to be mortified? Am I never to be indulged? Give me at least a furlough from this constant warfare." Satan will make many a fierce attack on your perseverance; it will be the mark for all his arrows. He will strive to hinder you in service: he will insinuate that you are doing no good; and that you want rest. He will endeavour to make you weary of suffering, he will whisper, "Curse God, and die." Or he will attack your steadfastness: "What is the good of being so zealous? Be quiet like the rest; sleep as do others, and let your lamp go out as the other virgins do." Or he will assail your doctrinal sentiments: "Why do you hold to these denominational creeds? Sensible men are getting more liberal; they are removing the old landmarks: fall in with the times." Wear your shield, Christian, therefore, close upon your armour, and cry mightily unto God, that by his Spirit you may endure to the end.



Weekly Meetings at Queensbury Facility

LOCATION

**Braman Foundation of Charities
Conference Room and Community Room**
49 Glenwood Ave. Queensbury, NY 12804

Phone: (518) 636-5930

Email: info@bramanfoundation.org

Discipleship

Every Tuesday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

In the BFC Defined Discipleship Training literature, we examine the state of the church in America today. We spend time with the teachings of the great writings of: A.W Tozer, Thomas A Kempis, & A.B Simpson. There is time spent on the effects of Christ centered meditation, its scriptures and the significance of purifying the ego. We discuss regeneration, salvation, daily repentance and coming into a closer relationship with our creator. Finally we speak on a lifetime of devotion to God and Christ. Recommit your life as a Christ follower and continue your journey.

Worship Service

Every Thursday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Starting in September 2021, our worship service is a time to meet to praise, worship, pray to God and receive a teaching (sermon) based on the Bible along with a weekly communion.

Bible Study

Every Friday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Joining a small group is the best way to experience the incredible community here at BFC.

Healing & Restoration

Every Sunday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

As a brief history, we will explore the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Founded in June, 1935 the A.A. Program has helped millions recover from alcoholism. The essence and the backbone of the Program is the 12 Step Method. Healing & Restoration not only uses the 12 steps in a Christ centered format, it teaches CBT, meditation and has a focus on the body with nutrition and exercise.

AA Meetings

Big Book Step Study Every Saturday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

12 Step Women's Group Every Wednesday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Big Book Step Study Every Thursday, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

The purpose of this meeting is to help alcoholics fully recover by the studying, discussing, and practicing of the twelve steps as they are laid out in the Big Book. It has been our hard-learned experience that other methods did not work with us. Some of us have tried other methods and our results were disastrous, until we looked at the basic and simple approach the Big Book offers.

Re-Educating the Disciples

“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.”

- Acts 17:6

A few years ago, on the Monday after Easter the radio station broadcast this comment: “On this Easter more people worshipped in Christian churches and in the name of Christ than upon any other day in the history of the world”. That was a significant fact, especially when we look back to the first Easter. The first Easter really wasn't so long ago. Counting three generations to a century, only about fifty-eight (58) generations. When the astronomers tell you that the light from a certain star which falls upon our eyes started on its way to earth 30,000 generations ago, 58 seems a short time.

We know, too, pretty well what happened since the first Easter. From the standpoint of Christianity, let us consider what there wasn't in the world at the time of the first Easter. There wasn't a single Christian building in the world. There wasn't a single Christian book in the world. The world of A. D. 33 had the Jewish book of the Old Testament; The Greek classics, Homer, Plato, Euripides, Sophocles; the Confucian writings, the sermons of Gautama Buddha, the Hindu Vedas-but no Christian book or books. There was no Christian architecture or art in the world. There was the Jewish temple,

the Greek Parthenon, the Egyptian Pyramids-but nothing Christian, not even in the graphic arts. And so, we could continue; no Christian School, no Christian hospital, no written Creed or covenant that was Christian, no so-called Christian government or nation. The contrast between then and now is very strikingly, for most of us cannot imagine living in this world without the influence of the Christian religion in all areas of our lives.

What was there in the world? There most definitely was a unique person in the world. His uniqueness was evident in his life, his character, his crucifixion, and most significant, his resurrection from the dead. There were eleven devoted followers of the unique person; they were fearful and despairing, often mistaken persons, but they were there. Others made a small company of a few hundred who followed Jesus. They were a fellowship and had a place to meet. They also had a sacrament to keep. Yet from the small band of people, who believed in Jesus Christ, in what he taught and preached, who believed in the way he treated people as human beings, the world was to be turned upside down.

Perhaps the most important thing was that they were going to do this without the physical presence of Christ himself. They would certainly use the training he had given them in his brief ministry but even more they would need the faith and trust he had shown them over this period of time. They had no idea of the pain or suffering they were would be able to endure over the years ahead on behalf of their risen Lord. Could they communicate the message of Jesus Christ? They were without money. They had given all their possessions away when they became his followers and disciples. They would have to depend on the kindness and help of others. They were without literature, that which today we consider indisputable to getting a point across to others. At this point in time nothing had been written concerning the teachings of Jesus, at least nothing they could use in teaching others.

This brings to mind the story of Robert Freeman and how he recalled his helplessness in 1917 in France when it was expected of him to promote religion throughout the army there without testaments, without hymnbooks, without pamphlets of any sort. This job wasn't easy for him but with God's help he tried and was able to succeed. It would be like us, here this morning, trying to conduct a worship service without the help of the Bible reading, without hymnals, and without the organ and help of the choir. We would have a pretty hard time. Jesus had written nothing. None of the apostles had at that time written anything; and if they had there were no printing machines, no

multipliers. They were without social acking, save only from a few generous women who offered occasional lodging and made contributions to the treasury. They were no doubt courageous. They left all; and though that they may seem little to us, any man's all is a lot. I wonder how many of us would have that kind of courage today if we were in the same circumstance? The Christian life to us seems too difficult to live let alone trying to convince other people they should follow Christ.

When you get feeling sorry for yourself, think of these first apostles and what they endured for Christ sake. After his resurrection, Jesus had 40 days in which to prepare them for their great task. His task was to reeducate them. How did he do it?

First of all, Jesus re-educated his disciples by bringing them intimately into contact with himself. He had been intimate with them before, but now a new intimacy developed. He began with Mary Magdalene. In John 20:16-17 we read, "Jesus said to her, "Mary". She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni", (which means teacher). Jesus said to her: "Do not hold me for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God in your God. "He spoke to the disciples as they walked along the road to Emmaus. This is recalled in Luke 24:13-32. You remember that Jesus talked and walked with them and they were kept from recognizing him. They told him of Jesus death and resurrection and how they could not believe he had

risen from the dead. Jesus then said, "Oh foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? He then told them all the things in scripture pertaining to himself from the time of Moses and all the prophets. He stayed with them that night to eat and while at the table he took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them and their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight." They said to each other: "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"

He also met with his friends in the Upper Room. He gave special attention, you remember, to Thomas and Peter. At a seashore on a mountainside in Galilee he spoke with them on most intimate terms. From Matthew 28:10, we read, "Go tell my brethren to go into Galilee and there shall they see me." Just why go back to Galilee? Because their hearts will be more tender back home; Galilee was home to most of the disciples. And there are always some things back home that need to be perpetuated. Galilee was also where they had first met the Master. "When one goes back home it is a notable event in the soul's secret history only when one focuses his anticipations on the essential rather than the accidental. "There shall they see me." Go back to a great Christ for this was after the crucifixion and the resurrection. Go back to be saturated again with his personality. Going back to Galilee was a significant factor in the reeducation of his disciples.

Second, by this intimacy he confirmed his Resurrection. The Resurrection became a fundamental fact upon which the Christian Church could be built. The disciples had to be related to the basic fact of the Resurrection. Christ was alive. It is important for us as Christians and followers of Jesus Christ to realize that Christ is alive. It was not the end but the beginning. Christ is always here with us. In spite of many people today saying God is dead, don't you believe it because he is very much alive; and he can be as alive as we want him to be. Belief and faith in the living Christ is what the first disciples needed and this is what we ourselves need today.

Third, by his intimacy he quickened the memories of his disciples. He made a rendezvous with them in Galilee as recorded in Mark 16:7, "But go, tell the disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." He wanted them to work with him again amid the old scenes. There they would recall words that he had spoken and deeds that he had done. When Matthew and John should write their books, the old scenes, with their accompanying words and deeds, would come to mind. I believe it is true if we can go back to familiar surroundings and old friends, we can remember the words that were spoken, and they begin to take on new meanings. This is why Jesus wanted to meet his disciples in Galilee.

Fourth, by this intimacy he taught them concerning his spirited presence. His physical presence was now intermittent. He appeared to them in the Upper Room, at Emmaus, at Galilee; but there

were times when he was not present in person as we say. Yet his spiritual presence was not intermittent. He taught them: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." This was a proclamation of the divine presence.

The teaching conveyed by Jesus was fitted to make his disciples what they were required to be as the apostles of a spiritual and universal religion: enlightened in mind, endowed with a charity, wide enough to embrace all mankind, having their conscience tremendously sensitive to all claims of duty.

Fifth, in this intimacy Jesus promised his disciples to be with them always as recorded in Matthew 28:20. The disciples were given a message with which to turn the world upside down and established the church. It was not always a message theological, physiological, psychological, sociological-nor skeptical. This message was that of the living Christ, the Christ of history, the spiritual Christ, the present and the eternal Christ.

S. O. Gordon conceived an imaginary conversation between Jesus and Gabriel at the time of our Lord's return to heaven. "Master, you died for the whole world down there, did you not?" asked the Archangel. "Yes." "You must have suffered much." "Yes." "And do they all know about it?" "Oh, no, only a few thus far." "Well, Master, what is your plan? What have you done about letting the world know?" "I asked Peter, James, and John, and little Andrew and a few of

them, just to make it the business of their lives to tell others and so to pass it on." "Yes, but suppose Peter fails? Suppose after a while John grows weary in his well-doing, and neglects to tell others? Judas failed, and all the rest may too. Suppose their descendants in the 20th century get so busy about machinery and fortune hunting that they cease to pass on the good word?" Then came the quiet voice of Jesus, saying: "Gabriel, I haven't made any other plan. I am counting on them." That was the great presumption. And I believe it has worked thus far. Let us as Christians and his followers pass Christ message along to our children and families and friends, as it has been passed on since the first Easter day.



May
2022

May 1, 2022

Sunday

GOD OUR REFUGE

"Eternal God is our dwelling place..."

– Deuteronomy 33:27

Refuge or Dwelling place can be translated into “abiding place” OR eternal home. This is a place of security, of safety. A place you go for protection. A confident place that is eternal. You feel safe here. AND so the Lord tells us that we are as He is made in the divine image of God. Therefore, we must go deeper to abide in this place in which the Kingdom of God is, was and shall always be. This place is beyond the mundane of this realm, deeper than your thoughts. This place is pure, true and shall always be. This is the God within you as Christ said, “The Kingdom of God is neither here nor there but rather within you, in your midst.” Abide my friend and never stop!!

May 2, 2022

Monday

BE WITH CHRIST

“So walk in Him.”

– Colossians 2:6

If you have received Christ then a new life in Christ has truly begun. Yet walking implies an act, to put on your “new man”, your walk in Christ. If you so walk in Christ; do this always not just in your morning prayers or evening prayers. Walking implies continuance, always with Christ. And so we must be in forgiveness and repentant in order for His Grace to work in our lives. Keep to Him, Cling to Him, never letting go of Christ. This will transform the self into the I in me that is dwelling in Him now dwelleth in me. Therefore, I and my Father are one. This is what Christ meant. That the fact that He too was in God always so too shall you because greater works shall you do than Christ. So it is possible to overcome self and walk in Christ all ways in this life (READ John 14:12).

May 3, 2022

Tuesday

WALK IN CHRIST

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”

– Colossians 2:6

You are firmly rooted in Christ Jesus. You have received Christ as your Savior. Therefore, there is no thing that shall separate you from this relationship. Christ has poured out Himself for all the world to receive and you have done so. You also receive His Grace. His unmerited favor not because who you are or what you have done : ONLY because of who you are in Him. And you have received His mercy that though you sin and have sin you DO NOT get what you deserve. God has promised this through Christ our King. What more could you possibly need in your life? O praise Him, O lift Him up on Him!! Rejoice!!!!



May 4, 2022

Wednesday

YOU ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

"Can a mother forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will never forget you. Behold I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands."

– Isaiah

You are and shall always be made in the image of God. Before you were even thought of you were an eternal being and soon you shall shed this body and move on as the eternal being you have been made into. Remember the truth and you shall be free from the snares of this realm. Let not your heart be troubled nor your mind with anxious thoughts. Rather through prayer and supplications make your requests unto the Lord. Also, renew your mind that it does not conform to the standards of this world. You are a new creation in Christ, now go all the way and put on Christ. You are not a sinner, rather a saint that is now saved, sanctified, justified by your faith through the cross of Jesus. Work hardily unto the world and build His kingdom and save His people through the love of the Holy Spirit which is now in you. Abide!!!

May 5, 2022

Thursday

CHRIST CAME FOR THOSE IN NEED

"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but the sinners."

– Mark 2:17

Christ does not forget the humble, the lowly those that are in need. Those that live in the illusion that they are fine, that "I GET THIS", the proud He hears not. It is sad to think that a mere mortal can be proud for in a few short years he or she will be gone from this life, then what? If you are hurting, if you know you are a sinner, if you know that He that dwelthe in you is greater than He of this world then Christ is your King. You are part of a Royal Priesthood. Christ is your rock, your shield, your true North, and your salvation. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords of this age. If you know this you are in the right place regardless of your struggles, your pain, your dire circumstances, your lack of finances etc. Just read the book of Job then you will gain understanding.



May 6, 2022

Friday

THE LORD IS THE SAME TODAY

“For I, the Lord, do not change.”

– Malachi 3:6

As with the weather this earth and its inhabitants are ever changing. Affix your self to one the one unchanging, the one that is always the same and shall be and will be always. This is your true God, a real friend in which you shall always depend. Family will come and go, spouse will come and go, coworkers etc. but there is one whose name is above all names that is the one immutable Savior of this world: Jesus Christ. Get to know Christ through abiding in Him, in deep prayer and repentance of self. Learn to be like Christ in all you do, act and say. Press into this relationship for it is real and it is permanent. All else ever changes. You will hold unto no thing from this earth, but the love you have for your Jesus, the love you have given others. Press in my friend to your highest calling.

May 7, 2022

Saturday

IS YOUR HOME A CHURCH OF GOD

“...and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

– Philemon 2

Our lives are to be ambassadors of Christ. Does my home reflect the love of Jesus? Is there a heavenly peace through the Holy Spirit? Our home is a sanctuary in which the Holy Spirit indwells, gives peace and in which the love of Christ is manifested. Are all that dwell there followers of Christ? Pray for their salvation, that they be saved and that conversion occurs in their lives. For this is the will of God that every soul come home to Christ's heavenly place. Is your life a reflection upon which those around you are drawn to Jesus? Draw nigh my friend, draw nigh.



May 8, 2022

Sunday

GROAN FOR RESTORATION

“Create in me a new heart, O God, renew a right Spirit with in me.”

– Psalm 51:10

My friend perhaps the world has edged the focus of your life unto worldliness. If so, it is OK, simply ask God through the Holy spirit to renew you. Remember at your core you are made in His divine Image. You have taken on sin through the fall, however thanks be to God that you have been adopted, redeemed and are through regeneration restored. Yet you must strive, make the effort and take action to put on the “New self which is in Christ Jesus.” Seek ye a first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness then all these things shall be added unto you. The world can crowd out the true meaning of your life so ask that your spirit be renewed and it shall be done!!!

May 9, 2022

Monday

ARE YOU ON FIRE?

“I know your deeds, you are neither hot nor cold; I would that you were either cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, “I am rich and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.”; and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable...”

– Revelation 3:15-17

We must not lose sight of the fact that we are born in sin and live in a fallen world. There needs to be an acknowledgment of this wickedness and a spirit of repentance that you humbly yield to daily. It is this verse that describes the state of the current American Church. We are well. There is no need for repentance. For we are redeemed, saved and are going to heaven. AND yet we go about our days NOT speaking in love, not praying for one another. When is the last time you were used to bring another brother or sister to the Lord? When have you heard the still small voice within ask you to lay hands on another and pray for them and you ignored that calling? O let us humbly ask forgiveness.



May 10, 2022

Tuesday

THEREFORE BE GENEROUS

“You look for much, but behold, it comes little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. WHY? “ Declares the Lord of hosts, “ Because of my house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.”

– Haggai 1:9

The most generous Christian, generally speaking, is the most joyful, the most free. The Lord loves a cheerful giver!!! It is most generally a sign of selfishness when we see levels of poverty. It is not that the Lord punishes, it is a law, a spiritual law: None is yours and therefore the more you give of your resources, your self the greater is Thy Kingdom in which the Lord shall use you. Not one thing, not even your body is yours. Think of that, yet observe how you believe your money is yours, or your body, or even your children. Soon you will understand my friend. Give of yourself, surrender upon the stream of life your talent, your resources and your all. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added.

May 11, 2022

Wednesday

THE TRUTH IS IN YOU

“For the truth’s sake which dwells in us, and shall be with us forever.”

– 2 John 2

You have been bought with a price in which Christ now dwells within you and you in Him. It is this truth that you grow into as your regeneration takes place. You are a new person as the result of your confession that Jesus is your Lord, your true North. This is now your, “inner man”, in which has been enlivened through the activation, the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is the Love of God-given to us all through the sacrifice of Christ. “Seek yea first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all shall be added unto Thee.”



May 12, 2022

Thursday

GROW UP IN CHRIST

“...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects of Him, who is the head, even Christ.”

– Ephesians 4:15

Many Christians remain stunted and dwarfed in spiritual things, so as to present the same year after year after. No change, no growth no unfoldment into the greater knowledge of Christ. There is a lack of abiding. We need to be like John and place our head in the bosom of Jesus. There is a strength that one attains in Christ. For in this climate of sin there needs to be a separation of what is darkness and what is light. This is an inner strength that grows as God does for you what you cannot or are unable. Your life becomes used to build the Kingdom. Your talents are used in aspects that you never dreamed. Yet this will not occur if you stay a weak believer. Abide, repent and separate yourself from the sin of mankind. Be useful to Kingdom building.

May 13, 2022

Friday

BE STRONG

“The trees of the Lord are full of sap.”

– Psalm 104:16

O Christian, you filled with Holy Spirit!!! You have been redeemed, set apart and made whole through the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus. Through this redemption you are restored to the original Adam; yet you know not who or what you are as the result of His sacrifice. As a tree is full of its life blood the sap is cursing through its veins, so you are filled with the Light of Christ. You are strong as made in the Divine Image that presides over us all. In this strength you have been given the ability to be an overcomer, a man or woman of God that can change an atmosphere. My friend you are Strong, not in self, but in the Spirit of the Lord Thy God!!! “He that is in you is greater than he that is in this world. Abide in me and I in you may you may do the Will of God.”



May 14, 2022

Saturday

BABES IN CHRIST

“As to babes in Christ”

– 1 Corinthians 3:1

Do not be deceived by your thought that you are not a mature seasoned Christian!!!! Remember that though your sin may be crimson red you are rendered white as snow. Your sins are forgiven, so why do you dwell on the past. Why be downcast when you are to triumph in Christ!!!! You are rich in the inheritance of your adoption into His Royal Priesthood. An infant is as much a child of his parents as so the eldest adult child. And so it is with you; you are justified through your faith in Jesus Christ that He died for your sin nature and rose to Victory over death. This is your inheritance. Go with your head held high!!! Be of peace and be a peace maker.

May 15, 2022

Sunday

KNOW HIS WAY

“Make me know Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation; for Thee I wait all the day”

– Philippians 4:11

It is difficult to know Thy ways when your mind is affixed on the “things” of this world. We know the way of the Lord is loving kindness for those that abide in him. For many; His ways are the way of discipline for our lives are steeped in sin. Do not expect peace, inner joy and a connection to your true self when your life is steeped in habitual sin. It is an illusion that you will ever chase. To truly know the Lord there needs to be a churning away of the “Things” of this world. Whether good or difficult. The closeness, the nearness of His ways are only met through the sacrifice of being on your knees in repentance, the being alone in solicitude, the hours of forgetting self for Him. There must develop within you a resolve to be nearer to God as if a drowning man gasping for air. Then and only then will He reveal Himself to you.



May 16, 2022

Monday

MY STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD

"I Love Thee, O Lord my Strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."

– Psalm 18:1-3

It is so important to realize self VS the Spirit of God with in me. The Lord is always on my side, it is I that leave the Lord. It is me who turns my back and decides to open doors that I believe should be open. Examine your life: Are your failures, your set backs do to self will? Do you even understand that you need to put on your new self, the likeness of Christ? The Lord is always my defender, always my rock and always my shield. Let us not, then, reason contrary to the evidence. How can we ever be so ungenerous as to doubt our God?

May 17, 2022

Tuesday

MEDITATE ON GOD

"I will meditate in Thy precepts"

– Psalm 119:15

My friend, are you abiding more and more in Christ? You need to go deeper in Christ, with Christ. Are you identifying with this broken world? Then shut it out: Turn off the Smart TV, The Smart phone, back off your social media posts and spend time with me, says the Lord. In fact, more than your gathering in church the daily appointment with Christ is most vital. In this time spent with the Lord you grow in abiding. Christ cannot love you more than He does now, however it is in churning away, the sin nature of self and putting on "your new self" in Christ; (Read Ephesians 4:24) that will cause you to blossom and overcome.



May 18, 2022

Wednesday

BLAMELESS

“Now to Him who is able to keep you faultless and to make you stand in the presence of His Glory blameless with great joy.”

– Jude 24

You are faultless before God because of your salvation in Christ Jesus. He has made you blameless when you stand in judgement before God. He is your emissary. He will make us holy that we no longer have a tendency to sin. WE shall be holy as God is holy and dwell in His house forever. Sin gone, Satan shut out, temptation past forever and we faultless before God!!! Oh is that not heaven that awaits those that are in Christ Jesus. Deep upon deep!!! Abide in Christ and abandon your self.

May 19, 2022

Thursday

DRINK OF THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

“But who so ever drinks of the water I give him shall thirst no more. The water that I give shall become a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

– John 14:14

There is true satisfaction in Christ. Yield yourself in Christ. True contentment comes to those who abandon themselves to the Christ within you. Those that seek Jesus discover the bread of life and hunger no more. Abandon yourself in Christ and you shall have the true friend that will never leave you nor forsake you. Fix your heart on Jesus and you shall find the rock of ages. A foundation on which you shall always stand. Are your desires satisfied in any “thing” of this world? Then come continually to the fountain and drink the water of life. Jesus will never think you take too much, but He will ever welcome you saying, “Drink ye drink abundantly O beloved.



May 20, 2022

Friday

ARE YOU SAVED?

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who disbelieved shall be condemned.”

– Mark 16:16

Confession and turning to the Lord may seem simple yet the most important decision of your life. Friend it is so hard to believe in America today. Self is prompted so much; it is the fabric of our society. You can do it!!! Make it happen!!! Self improvement everywhere; yet look at our landscape. The Lord’s commandment is to love Him; love Thy neighbor as you love your self. This type of love is an abiding love of the Holy Spirit. This love is rooted in your conversion. It is not a worldly love, but a love from within your divine nature. To activate this deep love you must turn to the Lord, turn back within and begin this intimate relationship with He that created you. It is this turning within that is meant by being: “Born Again”. All who have been born again realize this process. The Lord awaits you. Simple ask and listen to the still small voice.

May 21, 2022

Saturday

YOU HAVE AN ADVOCATE

“I am writing these things to you that you may not sin . And if anyone does sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.”

– 1 John 1:2

Define Advocate: “A person who argues for the support of or the cause of another person OR A person who speaks in support or defense of a person.” Jesus Christ is your personal advocate. Christ goes before you and is the propitiation of your sin nature. Through Christ you are made righteous. Christ is the King of our current age. Our Father has incarnated through the Son of God Christ and through Him you are reconciled to God. This is Christ’s mission that all that believe in Him shall be reconciled. John goes on to say for those that keep His commandments which as we know are to Love the Lord, Love thy Neighbor as one’s self. Praise to the one that has gone before us for we are not only saved, but sanctified, reconciled in God!!!!!!



May 22, 2022

Sunday

STEP UP INTO YOUR CALLING

“For if I preach the gospel I have nothing to boast of for I am under compulsion for woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.”

– 1 Corinthians 9:16

My friend, you too are being called to witness, in some cases to preach, most of all you are called to love your neighbor. Paul is under a compulsion through the inner presence of The Holy Spirit to share, to preach the truth. Christ came, he died and rose again for all mankind in this age. This is the gospel message. That through Christ we are reconciled, we are whole again in full relationship with God. Christ has taken our sin away!!!! My friend does this not ignite your spirit??? All ministries should bring the individual back to this fundamental truth of their salvation. Then they are saved. Are you stepping up when prompted through the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel? Remember God will accomplish his purposes fully with you or without you. You are to make disciples of all the nations. Go forth and spread the good news.

May 23, 2022

Monday

THE LORD KNOWS YOU

“The Lord looks from heaven; and knows all the sons of men; from His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth.”

– Psalm 33:13

It so wonderful to rest in the knowledge that our great God that created the earth, the majestic mountains, the sunrise and the sunset, the oceans deep is a God that is personally involved with all we do, all we think and all we are. God is omnipresence, God is impotence. God is the Alpha, the Omega the beginning and the end. Most of all God yearns for you to turn to Him. He yearns to give you the desires of your heart. God loves can not be described through words. God’s love is greater than a mother’s love for its new born babe. Press in my friend and cast all your cares upon the Lord. Know this!!!



May 24, 2022

Tuesday

BLESSED ARE YOU!

“Blessed are you, O Israel, who like you a people saved by the Lord who is your shield of your help and the sword of your majesty!! so your enemies shall cringe before you, and you shall tread upon high places.”

– Deuteronomy 33: 29

You are blessed and protected those that have sought the blessing of Christ through salvation. If you have asked Christ into your life then you need to grow in confidence that Christ is with you, guiding you, opening and closing doors that no man can do. That Christ through the Holy Spirit resides in you has transformed you and is directing your path. Therefore, know the truth of having a direct relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Seek to grow more through abiding and you will not BELIEVE the inner joy that will transform your life. You are truly blessed, saved and protected super naturally.

May 25, 2022

Wednesday

YOU ARE A CONQUEROR

“In all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

– Romans 8:37

It is Christ who has gone before you and shed His blood. Abide in Me and I in you, Christ says. Jesus is the way out of all your troubles. In fact, here Paul is telling you that you are a conqueror through Christ who loves you. There is no thing that can separate you from His love. Through Christ you can do all things. Whatever your struggles are give them to the Lord. Surrender and win this battle. It matters little because He has already given you the victory. What ever your destiny is step up into that victory and claim it. Take back the territory the enemy has previously stolen. You can do this!!!! Press into Christ, surrender and step up into your higher calling!!!



May 26, 2022

Thursday

BE GLAD

“Rejoice, O sons of Zion, and be glad in the Lord Thy God.”

– Joel 2:23

The world will try to steal your joy. Yet get this: The Lord has died for all your sins. Rejoice in this freedom. The Lord is ever making your crooked paths straight. The Lord Thy God is ever with you, guiding you and your every thought. The Lord has given you a hedge of protection. You are ever in His Grace and His mercy is freely given. The Lord is opening doors for you that no man can close. REJOICE!!! Though you may wither like the grass or the lilies of the field your God is everlasting; All in All; the Alpha the Omega that beginning and the end. Though your body fades you are going to a heavenly realm. Rejoice my friend!!! Rejoice!! Though your circumstances are difficult REJOICE for your God is greater than any worldly concern. Amen!!! Believe!!!

May 27, 2022

Friday

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

“And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to them good; and I will put the fear of Me in them so that they shall not turn away from Me.”

– Jeremiah 32:40

Believer you are in an everlasting covenant with God. He has promised to never cast you aside and his promise is AMEN!!! Many times we know that there is no thing in this world that is everlasting but God. Everything is fleeting: Your family, your spouse, your children etc. This is why God says: Seek yea first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Where are you seeking? In whom do you trust? Are you building a world that has a foundation of sand Or is your foundation built on the everlasting word of God?



May 28, 2022

Saturday

THE LORD FIGHTS FOR YOU

“The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.”

– Exodus 14:14

“If God be for us who can be against us?”

– Romans 8:31

To all the believers in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit knows all your battles. The Lord goes before you and knows your path. In fact, the Lord is making your crooked path straight. The Lord is preparing a way in which you may believe impossible. It is your unbelief that causes failure. Believe in the impossible. Claim victory in your mind over the difficulties that seem insurmountable. Allow God to go before you and claim your victory. What ever the case may be. Nothing is too small nor too large for our God. He is the God of Noah, Moses and Paul. Remind yourself how God worked through those men to claim His victory. He can do the same for yours!!!

May 29, 2022

Sunday

CHRIST HAS SET US FREE

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free, therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to the yoke of Slavery.”

– Galatians 5:1

You know your freedom was bought for a price, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christ loves us so that He bore the sins of the world so that we in Him may declare freedom. We are made whole, white as snow. Christ has given us sanctification, redemption. Christ has made a way for us that was not there and on our own will was impossible to claim. Yet now we have arrived. The Lord has given us this freedom. Paul is writing in this verse that we must stand firm, strong and continue to grow into our sanctification and not fall back into slavery. For Christ has given us the freedom to stand firm and press into our future that is filled with His promises. O, Jesus be the Glory that we do not have to do this on our own.



May 30, 2022

Monday

BE NOT AFRAID

“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.”

– Psalm 112:7

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor afraid.”

– John 14:27

If God is in your life than stand up and be of good courage. Do not be as worldly men when confronted by difficulties; they cower and retreat. Rather be bold knowing that God is on your side going before you, opening doors that no man can close. Be bold my friend. And as difficulties arise do not blame God and be despondent. Rather go within and seek repentance. Correct what is wrong with in you. Wait on the Lord as Moses did at the Red Sea. Wait!! Listen to the still small voice within you. The ungodly will toil in their own strength and fail. You are bold as the Lord Thy God goes before you. How can you glorify God if you play the coward? Fear lurks in this fallen world. But remember whose you are and be courageous.

May 31, 2022

Tuesday

ALLOW GOD TO GUIDE YOU

“But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves in a stall. And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under your soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing.”

– Malachi 3:2-3

Strength comes to you who wait upon the Lord. Let us not go forth on our own self, which may have some success, but rather wait, yield to the temptation to do it on your own. The Lord will go before thee and you will be strong for He is with you working through you. The Lord knows your battles. Do you count on the Lord or do you run your own show? Greater would your life be if you allow God to control you and your circumstances. There is much freedom knowing that you are not responsible for your life; you are not your own. Go within and listen to the still small voice.



Grow in Listening to the Holy Spirit

We dedicate this work to the soul that seeks the mountain top in a sea of mediocrity. To the one that has had a climb of this truth and seeks it always. You are the warrior that will overcome, the one that understands the true North and knows that Christ is the Pole Star of their lives. Press on, go deeper, and never ever stop.



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In Such A Time As This

“For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God.”

- I Peter 4:17

The church people to whom Peter wrote we're facing a crisis. Our text is related to that fact.

Not only the righteous (the church people are supposed to be righteous), but the impious and simple also, faced a crisis. In fact they face the greater crisis, for we read in 1 Peter 4: 17-18, “for the time has come for judgment to begin with a household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who don't obey the gospel of God? And if the righteous man is scarcely saved, where will the impetus and the sinners appear?”

I definitely feel we need to judge ourselves, for we have no right to judge another. Remember we are all sinners, saved through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Those who live in the present time have almost become accustomed to crises. There are some who may even love a crisis. Prime Ministers and Presidents, generals and admirals, bureaucrats and cabinet members, though denying such emotion, may love it. They enjoy great conferences, banquets, decorations, etc., all spiced with a little danger. The common run of men and women may understand more clearly and feel more deeply the danger involved. These are crises that may bring war with all the

losses involved, loss in human lives; the prodigious cost in money, the moral cost exhibited in lower standards of conduct and the deterioration of basic social institutions. We all know that nothing good or worthwhile has ever come out of war. The losses involved can never be regained or replaced. Is there any wonder why we pray for peace to come to this world of ours, when each side has weapons that can destroy the world and all human life? Wouldn't it be wonderful if our young men, upon graduation from school, could go on with their education and their lives without having to spend a period of time in the Armed Forces? Wouldn't it also be wonderful if just part of the money that is spent for defense purposes, could be used to find cures for diseases that take thousands of lives each year? I know that we truly do pray for peace and that God will grant that peace unto each one of us.

Getting back to Peter's words, surely they are incisive. “The time is come for the judgment to begin.” He adds, “The place for judgment to begin is with God's own household.” Let us take those words seriously as we apply them to our time and to ourselves.

The time is come for judgment. Whose judgment? Our own, for it is to begin with God's own household and that's

what we claim to be. It should begin within the household of God because there the divine power is available to initiate judgment, carry it through and bring it to culmination. Divine help is given in all the disciples involved. Because within the household of God are felt the divine compulsions to face the world with truth, mercy, justice and righteousness.

What are we to judge? Who are we to judge? Judge ourselves, for we have been judging others all of our lives, now it is time to judge ourselves. And if you think you don't need to be judged you are sadly mistaken for a time is coming when we all will be judged by our Father in Heaven.

By what standards are we to judge ourselves? We might as well make our judgment real and judge ourselves by the character of God himself. Then our own judgment of ourselves will also be God's judgment of us. By this we shall arrive somewhere.

The 89th Psalm, verse 14, gives us four active principles of God's character and sovereignty, which may be taken as for standards of judgment. Verse 14 reads, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before thee."

Judging ourselves by these four standards of judgment—First of all, we should have a strong truth.

It is not true that in the crisis of our day we are in danger of becoming victims of lives? Our opinions, attitudes, acts are too often deflected from the straight and direct line by truth withheld, by falsification, by a deliberate propaganda of lies.

Such conditions demand cultivation

of truth at the grassroots, and that is with each of us. We must know that little white lies become cumulative in their affect and bring us to disaster. We must know that as agents of the lie, which we may become, we become also the perpetrators of great evil. The lie enslaves men.

What are some examples of untruths we indulge in? Perhaps one of the smallest (at least many consider it small) is cheating on a test in school. If we get away with it, it will become habitual. And really whom are we fooling? No one but ourselves—because later on we are going to be asked similar questions and we will not know the answers. It really isn't fair to those students who have studied and prepared and do know the answers.

Then as we get older and find our places in the world, there are great opportunities for being or only speaking a half-truth. Perhaps we try to excuse ourselves for a mistake we have made by telling only part of the story and directing the blame toward another individual. This will throw the boss off your trail on to someone else's and the other person is left with the explaining and proving his innocence. Untruths are quite often used to help advance ourselves but eventually are found out and when we fall it really hurts our reputation, our career, and ourselves. Many untruths are used in social climbing. We pretend to be something we are and for what good is it really?

Beginning right here in the house of God and with ourselves we should develop a strong sense of truth. For what purpose do we come to the house of God, if not to establish ourselves in the truth, to be rid of the false and untrue, to come into the presence of the fellowship with him who said, "I am the truth, the way and

the life,” and to experience liberation which truth gives, to go forth and walk all our ways in truth?

Not long ago a college student attended a service of worship in an unfamiliar Protestant church. She entered the church in a mood of mild curiosity, which as she lingered grew into frank amazement. Her critical mind was perplexed, even a little shocked, by elaborate surroundings and appointments, the ceremonious behavior, and the solemn exalted language. When she returned she asked a friendly instructor the honest question, “do these people really believe all they say and do about God?”

The need of the hour is for men who worship in the house of God to carry out into the world a strong sense of truth, truth spoken by Word and exhibited by deed. As Christians we have a great responsibility to the rest of the world. Christians are different; they live and act differently. Christ has to make a difference in our lives and others, to be able to see this difference and they have to want to be joined in the fellowship of Christians everywhere. If our faith and religion are not like this, then we need to take another look for we apparently do not practice what we say we believe.

Is liberty a byproduct of truth? It surely is for Jesus said, “you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.”

Second, we should practice a broad loving-kindness. The King James Version uses the word “mercy”. We shall use the words interchangeably.

Mercy is a spirit of providence, also its practice. We certainly see a good site when we see a neighbor mailing a large number of care packages to needy people in distant lands. That is certainly mercy. And when we help the person in

the community that is down and out, that is mercy.

Mercy is the practice of forgiveness. Forgiveness has its roots in the household of God. In the lives of men who themselves know the forgiveness of God.

I know that if we have experienced the forgiveness of God in our own lives, we will more readily forgive others. Certainly if we cannot forgive someone else for something they have done to us, we can never receive God’s forgiveness in our own lives. We have no right to judge another.

Jesus says, “why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” We all are human and we all make mistakes but it behooves us to notice and correct our own first.

Mercy is the practice of redemption. Redemption is sacrificing for another’s good. It is believing in another through thick and thin until the other believes in his own better self. If we give up another person as lost we certainly aren’t any help to that person. The knowledge of redemption comes through one’s own experience of redemption. Redeemed men go forth to redeem.

Here in the household of God, let us judge ourselves as to our experience of loving-kindness, mercy and its practice.

Is security a by-product of mercy? It certainly is.

Third, we should seek a balanced justice.

How often a factor of crisis is ill will born of a sense of injustice! Injustice is the crux of the matter in many conflicts.

Justice is the key to a better day in many areas of human life, beginning in the home and extending elsewhere, even into the relationship between nations, people and races. I think all of us expect justice. However sometimes our judgment of justice, for ourselves, is quite different than God's. But when we are administering justice we have to consider others and the best interest of everyone involved.

In the house of God, ever judging ourselves by this, God's standard, we should discover that self knowledge, and becoming willing to accept self-discipline, which makes for the establishment of justice.

Is peace a by-product of justice? I believe it is.

Fourth we should achieve a splendid righteousness. The Christian religion is an ethical religion. But too often by piousness goodness, is made drab and dull. It should be made splendid. Someone says that goodness is the most winsome thing world. Some have made it so.

There is a divine goodness, which stands above the desires in hopes of men, as the standard by which they are eternally judged. In the house of God better and more splendid men should be made. If not, we face the charge of hypocrisy. They should be made by all the ways that God has of making good man. In the house of God, by the making of splendid men, whose lights shine in the world, the nation might be remade along the lines of truth and mercy, justice and righteousness.

Is prosperity a by-product of righteousness? It certainly is.

I have said many times, the world isn't

going to get any better unless each individual in it becomes a better person through Jesus Christ. I believe that Christ and Christ alone can save our world and us.

What is the argument of this sermon? We are in a time of crisis. Crisis may lead to disaster. We must seek it to avert the disaster. We must do something. We definitely need to submit ourselves to judgment in the house of God. We will then come to four conclusions: we should develop a strong sense of truth; we should practice a broad loving-kindness; we should seek a balanced justice; and we should achieve a splendid righteousness. Judging ourselves fairly before God will definitely bring us to a realization that each one of us needs the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. There is no substitute. There is no life without him.

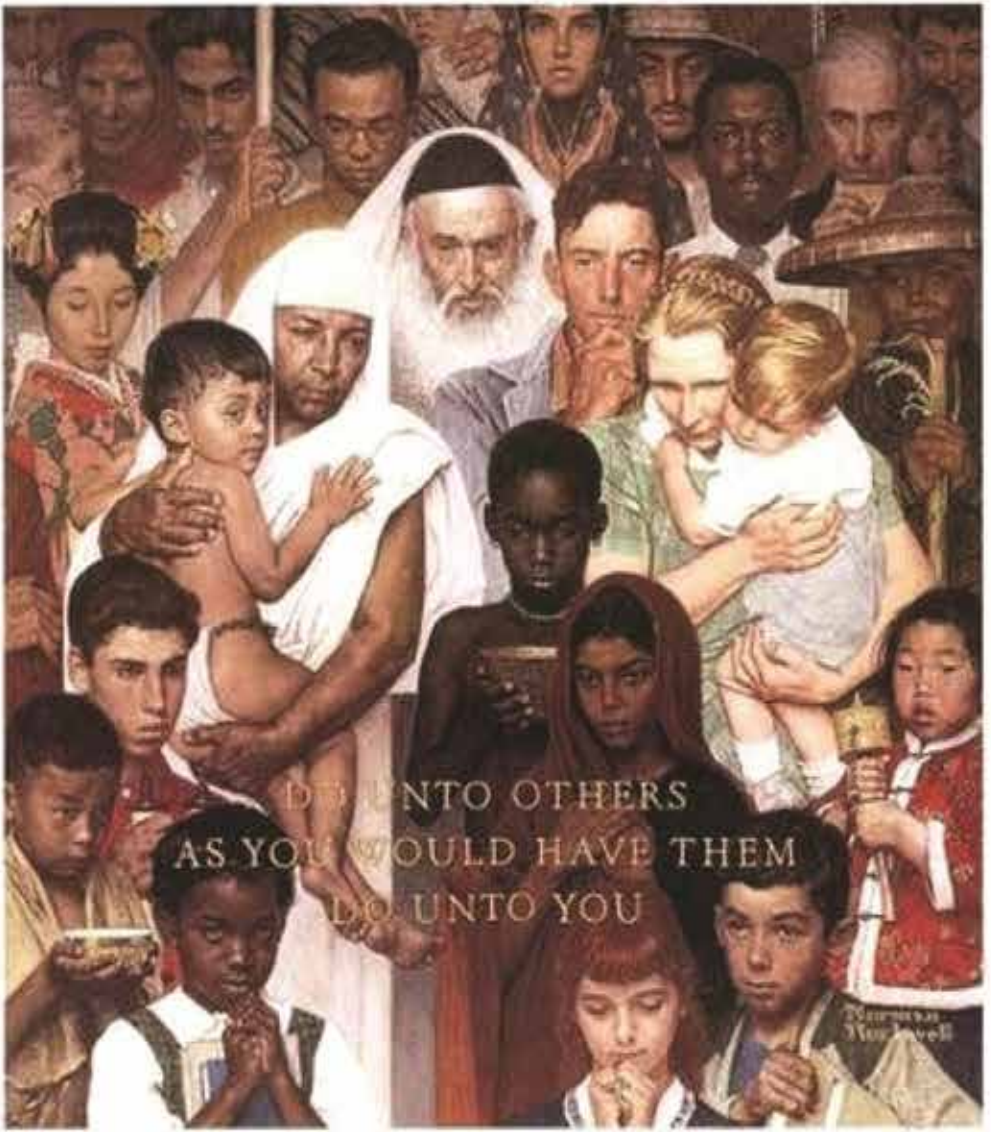
SPURGEON'S CORNER

*“Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
and he shall sustain thee.”*

Psalm 55:22



Care, even though exercised upon legitimate objects, if carried to excess, has in it the nature of sin. The precept to avoid anxious care is earnestly inculcated by our Saviour, again and again; it is reiterated by the apostles; and it is one which cannot be neglected without involving transgression: for the very essence of anxious care is the imagining that we are wiser than God, and the thrusting ourselves into his place to do for him that which he has undertaken to do for us. We attempt to think of that which we fancy he will forget; we labour to take upon ourselves our weary burden, as if he were unable or unwilling to take it for us. Now this disobedience to his plain precept, this unbelief in his Word, this presumption in intruding upon his province, is all sinful. Yet more than this, anxious care often leads to acts of sin. He who cannot calmly leave his affairs in God's hand, but will carry his own burden, is very likely to be tempted to use wrong means to help himself. This sin leads to a forsaking of God as our counselor, and resorting instead to human wisdom. This is going to the "broken cistern" instead of to the "fountain;" a sin which was laid against Israel of old. Anxiety makes us doubt God's loving kindness, and thus our love to him grows cold; we feel mistrust, and thus grieve the Spirit of God, so that our prayers become hindered, our consistent example marred, and our life one of self-seeking. Thus want of confidence in God leads us to wander far from him; but if through simple faith in his promise, we cast each burden as it comes upon him, and are "careful for nothing" because he undertakes to care for us, it will keep us close to him, and strengthen us against much temptation. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee."



NORMAN ROCKWELL
“DO UNTO OTHERS”

Braman
Foundation of Charities