

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Living In Expectation

William R. Newell; William MacDonald; William Lincoln, Spiros Zodhiates; F. B. Meyer; and G. Campbell Morgan

The hope of the imminency of our Lord's coming, with the consummation of salvation in bodily redemption and glorification, is constantly used by the apostles in exhorting believers to a holy walk in love. (William R. Newell)

1. EXPECTATION WAKES US UP. "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." (Rom. 13:11) This verse sets before us the awful tendency to sink down (as did the ten virgins in Matt. 25) into slumber and sleep - into a state of spiritual torpor in which no Christian duties are effectively done. Believers are to "know the season." Our Lord sternly arraigned the Jews of His day for their ignorance concerning "the time." Their Messiah was, in their midst, and they knew Him not! why? Because they did not apply themselves to know the time they were in, although they could have known it, both from the prophetic Word which was being fulfilled before their eyes in Christ; and also if they had set to judge truly of the moral conditions about them and the necessities of action involved therein. If the Jews even then were called by our Lord "hypocrites," how much more this should arouse us who have so much greater light and knowledge, in view of Christ's death and resurrection, and the presence of the Holy Spirit; and the certainty of our Lord's coming, and our uncertainty as to the day and hour! (William R. Newell)

2. EXPECTATION PRODUCES AN EAGER RESPONSE. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil. 3:20)

Eagerly wait for is strong language to express the earnest expectation of something believed to be imminent. It means literally to thrust forward the head and neck as in anxious expectation of hearing or seeing something. (William MacDonald)

3. EXPECTATION BRINGS ABOUT DEATH TO EARTHLY DESIRES. "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth." (Col.

3:4,5) Faith brings future things into the present, and puts present things into the past; faith beholds unseen things, and lives on them. The more we allow our affection to be set on earthly things, the more do they become dead to things above. How we ought to be humbled, that we are so little drawn and moved by that love of His. Next time the world sees Christ, His saints will be with Him. When He appears, they appear; all together and with Him. He never will be seen alone again. God has called us to His eternal glory. One use of the glory is to teach us to deny the flesh, to give it no place, not to give way to its lusts. As we get glimpses of that glory to which we are going, they nerve us to be in arms against all that is of the flesh. In the days of our former life they were natural to us, but now that we have Christ's life flowing into us, and the glory before us, they are to be stripped off. (William Lincoln)

4. EXPECTATION RESULTS IN PATIENCE. "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:7,8) For the anxious heart, any time is too much time. A day may appear as if it were a year, and a year a century. The psychology of expectancy has the ability to make time appear longer than it actually is. This is not an event that affects only you and me, but the entire universe. It ought to be considered in that respect - not in its individual perspective, but in its cosmic involvement. For the timeless God, time is only an accommodation for finite man. Shall we human beings, finite and the slaves of time and space, try to squeeze God within our own boundaries and limitations? God's days may mean our millenniums, and the sooner we understand that, the better we shall understand God. The farmer plants the seed and then leaves it. For a long time there may be no visible indication of anything happening under the ground, but something is going on all the time. But there is very little the farmer himself can do in determining the exact fullness of time for the yielding of the fruit. That is in the hands of the earth and the God of the earth. The only thing the farmer can do is patiently wait and look forward. And that is exactly what we should do, not knowing the hour or the day of His appearing. If the fruit of the farmer is so precious and worth waiting for, how

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Psalm 3: The Way Out Of Depression

Erling C. Olsen

As we examine the 3rd Psalm we shall observe it has an appropriate message for this particular hour. "The Depression Psalm" would be a good title for it.

THE INTRODUCTION. "A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son."

A man can stand almost anything except his own family turning against him. David tasted such an experience. Absalom was the one son who constantly plagued David, yet he was greatly loved by his father. In 2 Samuel 15 we have the record of David's flight from his palace. As David journeyed from his palace to the Mount of Olives he observed the revolters and listened to the jeers of the crowd. As he sat on the Mount of Olives looking down over the valley he penned his impressions in this Psalm.

Verse One: "Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me." David must have realized that his enemies concluded that he was in an absolutely hopeless condition. Not only had he a revolt in his own family and lost his chief adviser, but his enemies had increased on every hand.

Verse Two: "Many are they who say of me, there is no help for him in God." They had concluded that God Himself had forsaken David.

Verse Three: "But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head." He turned about in his distress to his Lord. David knew he could not rely upon his army of faithful friends. As a shield the Lord would stand between his enemies and himself; every dart that his enemies addressed to him would be borne by the Lord. It is the position that God is willing to take.

Verse Four: "I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill." In this verse David gave the panacea for every depression. It is a pity that we in this nation have lost sight of the fact that this is the only way out of our depression. There is a worldly philosophy which ridicules a man when he sheds a few tears. Need we be reminded that our Lord knew what it was to shed salty tears? David cried unto the Lord and He heard him.

Verse Five: "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me." Most of us when we have a few trials and difficulties are unable to sleep. We toss from side to side, even though before getting into bed we may have poured out our heart unto the Lord, but we do not have confidence enough in Him to rest in the fact that He has heard us. When David prayed, he rested his case with the Lord.

Verse Six: "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of

people who have set themselves against me all around." In Acts 12, Herod, the king, killed James, the brother of John with the sword, and because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him." He might have delivered him to ten thousand soldiers for all it mattered. When God wants a man to witness for him, even a king and an army cannot prevent that man from bearing his testimony. At any rate, the night before Peter was to be brought before Herod, he was sound asleep between two soldiers, bound with chains. He slept because he rested in the Lord.

Verse Seven: "Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For you have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly." Smiting a man on the cheekbone is not a dignified manner of warfare; it is a sign of contempt. God smote the cheekbone of the enemies of David. He did so literally, for at the height of the battle, Absalom, riding upon his steed through the wilderness, was unable to stoop quickly enough beneath the thick boughs of an oak with the result that his head caught hold of the oak and he hanged in the tree, while his steed ran from underneath him.

Verse Eight: "Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people." No greater lesson can any man learn than the lesson which David learned, that salvation belongs to the Lord. Only two men in Scripture used this expression. David was one and the second was none other than Jonah. Both were in such pitiful positions that they rightfully concluded that the deliverance which could come would be by the grace of God. Jonah in "the belly of the whale" had an opportunity to pray. He prayed as only a man in distress can pray. He closed his prayer with: "Salvation is of the Lord." (Jonah 2:9) Irrespective of what our financial or physical circumstances may be, they are not nearly as important as our soul's welfare. *

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Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7

Milk & Honey Information

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Thank You!

2011 was a different kind of year for Spread The Word. While the economy was suffering, many encouraging gifts were given to STW, including two large gifts which came by two completely different paths. One August gift of \$15,000 was from the estate of a dear brother and sister who went to be with the Lord. A September gift of \$46,900 came from an assembly which closed its doors after 104 years and sold its building. It then distributed those proceeds to a number of ministries and assemblies. The latter gift came with the suggestion that we distribute much of it to other ministries, missionaries, and workers involved in the spread of the Gospel by way of the printed page. It has been the practice of STW to minister from its general fund to assembly camps and ministries when possible. Over the course of 2011 STW was able to send ministry of \$55,000 to a number of assembly missionaries, workers, camps, and ministries who are involved in the distribution of the Gospel. We will continue to distribute funds from our general funds in 2012 as led of the Lord.

We want to thank each one who financially supported Spread The Word in 2011. Your gifts have enabled us to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide spiritual food for the Lord's people around the world. Over \$107,000 was distributed to over 130 commended workers and widows in North America and to assembly related ministries.

In addition to the 80,000 issues of *Milk & Honey* which were sent to over 30 different countries there were many thousands of Gospel tracts, and teaching booklets distributed free-of-charge. A few new Gospel tracts and teaching booklets were printed in 2011. Your gifts have also supported the 7th Shepherding Conference held at Greenwood Hills—next conference 9/20-22/2012—and the York Bible Study Program, which in its 23rd year continues to be well attended each month.

It was certainly encouraging to see such generous giving in a poor economy. "...for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

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Spread The Word, Inc.

2011 Income-Expense Report

Beginning Balance	\$87,819.02
Income	
Suggested –Workers/Widows	\$107,334.29
Estate gifts*	61,900.00
Tax Deductible Gifts	56,847.25
Other Income	2,447.89
Literature/CD Sales	<u>2,370.00</u>
Total Income	230,899.43
Funds To Workers & Widows	\$107,334.29
Ministry from General Fund	55,000.00
Postage/Shipping	16,836.36
Printing	12,328.70
Bible Study Program	5,043.25
Conference Expenses	4,730.38
Office Supplies & Expenses	3,278.21
Equipment & Software & Misc.	2,915.70
Literature/CD Expenses	152.47
Miscellaneous	<u>112.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 207,731.36
Net Change	\$23,168.07*
Ending Balance	\$110,987.09

* See article on this page. In January and the early part of February an additional \$10,000 had been distributed to camps, orphanages, and printing ministries.

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But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 1 Chr. 29:14

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Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money). Lk. 16:13

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much more the precious and glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ when the believer will be found in His presence forever. (Spiros Zodhiates)

5. EXPECTATION MAKES OUR HOPE A LIVING REALITY. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." (1 Pet. 1:3,4) We already have something of our inheritance, but at the best it is only the earnest (a token of what is to come), But the time is coming when we shall know even as we are known, and see face to face; when our communion with God shall be as unfettered as our service; when we shall love Him better, and possess Him more fully. Towards this blessed consummation, as yet reserved, our hope stretches out both her hands; meanwhile, it is an inspiration and stimulus for every moment of our life. It is, indeed, "a living hope." Hope is said sometimes to die; this never can. Sometimes, though it lingers in the breast, it is inoperative; this is always quick and powerful. "Worldly hopes often mock men; they are not living, but lying and dying ones. We live to bury them. But this hope answers our expectations to the full, and deceives in no way, but far exceeds them." (F. B. Meyer)

To me the second coming is the perpetual light on the path which makes the present bearable. I never lay my head on my pillow without thinking that, maybe before the morning breaks, the final morning may have dawned! I never begin my work without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin His own. This is now His word to all believing souls, till He come.(G. Campbell Morgan) *

Free 68 page booklet **Christ As Seen In The Old Testament Sacrifices**

This booklet was published by Spread The Word with the desire to exalt Jesus Christ in the eyes of His saints. The booklet brings to light the beautiful truths considering Christ and His redemptive work. Any reader, or assembly, would be blessed by the truths set forth by the four writers. Questions at the end of each lesson make it ideal for use as a study guide by individual saints or an assembly.

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York Bible Study Program

March 10	Divine Titles	Bruce Hulshizer
April 14	Elisha	Bob Spender
May 12	Living By Faith	Steve Hulshizer

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Starts at 10AM. Ends by 3PM
Lunch provided.