

Milk & Honey

Vol. XXX October 2016 No. 10

Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

And Can It Be

Lindsay Parks

(Excerpt from Truth & Tidings. Used by permission)

It would be hard to quantify the full effect two brothers had on the spread of the gospel in 18th-century England. The entire world has been spiritually improved by the words and works of John and Charles Wesley.

Samuel and Susanna Wesley lived in significant poverty, but their lives, and that of their family's, were rich in the things of God. Samuel was a preacher, faithful to God in his ministry and preaching. Susanna was a faithful mother to their children – all 17 of them. She trained and taught them, until they were old enough to go away to school. She had a simple set of rules under which she brought up her children in the fear of the Lord: subdue self-will in a child, and thus work together with God to be a help in the saving of his soul; teach him to pray as soon as he could speak; give him nothing he cries for and only what is good for him if he asks for it politely; to prevent lying, punish no fault which is freely confessed, but never allow a rebellious, sinful act to go unnoticed; commend and reward good behavior; and strictly observe all the promises you have made to your child.

Charles went away to school when he was eight years old. He was a brilliant scholar, and earned his M. A. degree by age 22. He then became a college tutor at Oxford. When this was completed, he left for America, with his brother John, but they did not stay, and returned home to England. Even with all of his religious training, Charles could not preach the gospel, for he was not yet saved.

Soon after their return, he was stricken with a serious illness, and was convicted of his spiritual need before a holy God. He was saved by God's grace on May 20, 1738, at the age of 31. He wrote his first hymn shortly after his conversion.

In the remaining 50 years of his life, he wrote over 6,000 hymns and songs of praise. He and his brother John published 39 volumes of hymns and poetry together.

The two brothers traveled the English countryside, preaching and singing the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They reached rural farmers and illiterate coal miners, and had a heart to bring the gospel to those who would never attend religious services. They did this for many years,

covering over a quarter of a million miles, and saw an untold number of souls saved for eternity.

The common themes of Charles' hymns were the grace and mercy of God, His redeeming power, and the work of the cross. Some of his more well-known hymns include; Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Jesus—Lover of My Soul, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. He paraphrased the Psalms, and put them into poetry as hymns. He was one of the first to introduce the Lord Jesus into these "Psalm-hymns," and took criticism for this, even from his own siblings. His hymns have stood time's test.

The influence of the Wesley brothers upon the gospel in England, has been memorialized. One wrote "John set the country weeping, Charles set it singing; those tears of bitter repentance, and those songs of plenteous redemption were the outward and visible evidence of the mightiest spiritual surge in the nation's experience. This movement, that brought new life to the world in the 18th century, stands crystallized in the throbbing verse of Charles Wesley."

Charles wrote hymns and poems into his 80s. Shortly before his death, he dictated these final words to his wife, and entitled it "A Last Wish."

In age and feebleness extreme,
Who shall a feeble worm redeem?
Jesus! My only hope Thou art,
Strength of my failing flesh and heart.
O could I catch one smile from Thee,
And drop into eternity!

His best-known hymn echoes his favorite themes – the redeeming grace of God extended to a lost captive and an unworthy sinner, but which lifted him to the lofty place of the very presence of God. These words will never grow old. How many times have they touched our hearts, and captivated our souls!

And can it be that I should gain,
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies; *

The Author of Our Destiny

Warren Henderson

Twelve is the number of *perfect administration* in Scripture; thus, twelve tribes composed the nation of Israel, the Church was founded on the teachings of the twelve apostles. Consequently, the New Jerusalem has twelve gates, one named after each tribe of Israel, and twelve foundations, one named after each apostle (Rev. 21:12-14). The number *ten* is used to represent *responsibility* in Scripture; for example, the Ten Commandments made the Jews directly accountable to God for their behavior. This partly explains why Jerusalem had only ten gates in Nehemiah's day, but ultimately will have twelve gates in the Kingdom Age: Israel had not yet reached perfection after their Babylonian exile was over; therefore, they were to remember that they were directly accountable to God while being guided into maturity.

After acknowledging Christ as their Messiah, and receiving the Holy Spirit the nation will have achieved their spiritual destiny – full maturity and irrevocable communion with God. They, Ezekiel tells us, will then know the Lord and His faithful abiding presence in a new way, in fact, Jerusalem itself will be referred to as *Yahweh-Shammah*, meaning “the Lord is present” or “the Lord is there” (Ezek. 48:35). Here then is the complete fulfillment of what the angel told Joseph just prior to the birth of Christ: “*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*” (Matt. 1:23). God veiled in flesh offered Himself to Israel, but was rejected; however, at His Second Advent the Lord Jesus will be admired by those He came to save – this is the power of the gospel message and the majesty of God!

After witnessing in a vision the glory of the Lord departing the temple (Ezek. 10-11), it must have been thrilling for Ezekiel to now see the glory of the Lord among His people again. For the Jew, this will be the most wonderful feature of the Millennial Kingdom; God among them again and in His temple.

The Jews will never again commit spiritual adultery; therefore, God will never have a reason to depart from them. The entire planet will be filled with the knowledge, blessings, and glory of God in Christ. All Gentile nations will learn of God holiness and just how much He loves His once adulterous wife, the nation of Israel. In the Millennial Kingdom, there will be no such questions as: Who is the Lord? or “Where is the Lord?” His presence will be cherish and His glory extolled by all. Happy is the soul that has been awed by a view of God's majesty.

Ezekiel began his prophecy by describing the magnificent grandeur of God and he concludes with a description of God's glory in His millennial temple. It reminds us of John's apocalypse, which likewise commences with a description of Christ's glorious splendor and concludes with the glory of God filling the New Jerusalem, all of the new earth, and indeed all of the new heavens. But most importantly, the Creator is once more in full communion with the only creature that was fashioned in His image and likeness – redeemed man. Whether His covenant people of old or once estranged Gentiles, God graciously offers salvation for all that will trust in Him, the result of which is full communion with Him for eternity in Christ-like maturity. Beloved, that is a destiny we should both long for and live for! *

Keep Close

C.H. Mackintosh

One frequently observes this in the history of Christians: the evils which in later years prove their greatest snares are those against which there is the greatest watchfulness at first. Most happy is it when the spirit of watchfulness increases with our increasing knowledge of the tendencies and capabilities of our hearts. But this is not always the way; on the contrary, how frequently do we find Christians of some years standing indulging in things which at first their consciences would have shrunk from. This may seem to be but a growing out of a legal spirit; should it not rather be viewed as a growing out of a tender and sensitive conscience? To grow in the knowledge of truth is to grow in the knowledge of God, and to grow in the knowledge of God is to grow in practical holiness. The conscience that can let pass without reproof things from which it would formerly have shrunk is, it is much to be feared, instead of being under the action of the truth of God, under the hardening influence of the deceitfulness of sin. *

Cause of Strife

C.H. Mackintosh

Every age of the Church's history illustrates and proves the truth of the statement that self and its odious workings are the producing causes of strife, contention, and division, always. Turn where you will, from the days of the apostles down to the days in which our lot is cast, and you will find unmortified self to be the fruitful source of strife and schism. And, on the other hand, you will find that to sink self and its interests is the true secret of peace, harmony, and brotherly love. *

Gifts to Commended Workers

It would be appreciated if checks sent to STW for distribution to workers were *received* no later than 12/29/16.

Living by Faith

C.H. Macintosh

“The just shall live by faith.” This weighty statement occurs in the second chapter of the prophet Habakkuk, and it is quoted by an apostle in three of his inspired epistles; namely, Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, with a distinct application in each. In Romans 1:17, it is applied to the great question of righteousness. The blessed Apostle declares himself not ashamed of the gospel, “For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith (or, on the principle of faith, to faith): as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

In the third of Galatians, where the Apostle is seeking to recall those erring assemblies to the foundation of Christianity, he says, “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”

Finally, in the tenth of Hebrews, where the object is to exhort believers to hold fast their confidence, we read: “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith.” Here we have faith presented not only as the ground of righteousness, but as the vital principle by which we are to live day by day, from the starting post to the goal of the Christian course. There is no other way of righteousness- no other way of living-but by faith. It is by faith we are justified and by faith we live. By faith we stand and by faith we walk.

The life of faith embraces all that in anywise concerns us in body, soul, and spirit. To live by faith is to walk with God; to cling to Him; to lean on Him; to draw from Him exhaustless springs; to find all our resources in Him; and to have Him as a perfect covering for our eyes, and a satisfying object for our hearts; to know Him as our only resource in all difficulties and all trials. It is to be absolutely, completely, and continually shut up to Him-to be undividedly dependent upon Him, apart from and above every creature confidence, every human hope, and every earthly expectation. *

York Bible Study Program

November 12 Brian Gunning Headship
December 10 Tom Irwin Genesis in the NT
10 AM - 3PM Lunch served.

Let us know how many will be coming.

You may contact us thru our web site
www.FoodForSaints.com

Tools Forbidden

Steve Hulshizer

And there shalt thou build an altar unto the LORD thy God, an altar of stones: thou shalt not lift up any iron tool upon them. Deut. 27:5

Man, including Christians, finds it easy to “attend church,” sit through a message and participate in the music and prayers. They can walk out with the feeling they have done their spiritual duty for the day.

Those who in response to Christ’s request practice the breaking bread each Lord’s Day are not exempt. In the last decade or two there has been the feeling that we need something or someone to stir up worship which is lacking from the saints. In an attempt to accomplish this there have been a number of tools utilized. A worship leader, a worship group, a pre-programed meeting with hymns and verses, preassigned oral participants, and lively music.

When this approach is taken there is a basic truth missed or ignored. True worship cannot be somehow generated, or pumped up by external sources. They tend to touch the senses, not the heart. True worship is far more than excitement, liturgy, or a repeated practice. True worship flows from within and is the result of the apprehension and appreciation of the truth concerning God and the Lord Jesus.

If saints are going through the week with little or no time apprehending and/or appreciating the beauty of Christ and the perfection of His person and work, such props can hide the true condition of the heart. The individual has experienced stirring music and listened to others pray and read. As such he can leave feeling he has worshipped.

However, when the worship meeting is held in simplicity as Christ described there are no props and when one sits in silence the true condition of his heart will soon be revealed. The absence of worship coming from an overflowing heart is very evident. No natural tools can enhance the Lord’s simple request, and, in fact, may hide the true condition of our hearts. It all comes down to the individual’s spiritual condition. The Lord does not want man’s tool work in an effort to generate worship or enhance His request, but true worship from hearts filled with Christ. *

Milk & Honey Information

There is no charge for Milk & Honey. It, like all ministries of Spread The Word, is supported entirely by the freewill offerings of the Lord’s people. All gifts are tax deductible.

Publisher: **Spread The Word, Inc.**

2400 Admire Springs Dr.
Dover, PA 17315

Editor: Stephen Hulshizer

Fax/Phone (717) 467-5729 phone/fax

Web/Contact www.STW1982.com

Milk & Honey

A non-profit ministry of
Spread The Word, Inc., 2400 Admire Springs Dr.
Dover, PA 17315



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 333
York, PA

FoodForSaints.com.com

October 2016

Love Not The World

William MacDonald

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15)

The world is presented in the New Testament as a kingdom that is opposed to God. Satan is its ruler, and all nonbelievers are subjects. This kingdom makes its appeal to man through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. It is a society in which man tries to make himself happy without God, and in which the name of Christ is unwelcome. Dr. Gleason L. Archer Jr. says that the world is “the organized system of rebellion, self-seeking and enmity toward God which characterizes the human race in opposition to God.”

The world has its own amusements, politics, art, music, religion, thought-patterns and life-style. It seeks to force everyone to conform and hates those who refuse. This explains its hatred of the Lord Jesus.

Christ died to deliver us from the world. Now the world is crucified to us and we to it. It is positive treason for believers to love the world in any of its forms. In fact, the Apostle John says that those who love the world are the enemies of God.

Believers are not of the world, but they are sent into it to testify against it, to denounce its works as evil, and to preach salvation from it through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians are called to walk in separation from the world. In the past, this may have been too narrowly limited to dancing, theaters, smoking, drinking, card playing and

gambling. But it includes much more. Much of what comes over the TV is worldly, appealing to the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh. Pride is worldly, whether it be pride of titles, degrees, salary, heritage or a big name. Luxurious living is worldly, whether palatial homes, gourmet foods, attention-getting clothing and jewelry or prestige cars. So is a life of ease and pleasure, spent largely on travel cruises, shopping sprees, sports and recreation. Our ambitions for ourselves and for our children may be worldly, even while we appear to be spiritual and pious. Finally, sex outside of marriage is a form of worldliness.

The more devoted we are to the Savior and the more sold-out we are to Him, the less time we will have for worldly pleasures and amusements. C. Stacey Woods said, “The measure of our devotion to Christ is the measure of our separation from the world.”

We are but strangers here, we do not crave
A home on earth, which gave Thee but a grave;
Thy cross has severed ties which bound us here,
Thyself our treasure in a brighter sphere.

J. G. Deck

From “Truths to Live By - One Day at a Time”

The Most Dangerous Of All!

Of all the temptations to which God’s children are exposed, growing rich is perhaps the most dangerous of all because it is a snare that they do not dread. Spurgeon

FREE BOOKLET

Lord’s Supper

14 page booklet — Write for free copy

Steve Hulshizer