

# Milk & Honey

Vol. XXIX February, 2015 No. 2

*Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ*

## His Appearing, A Living Hope

A. J. Higgins

Injustice is difficult to endure. Suffering for your mistakes is one thing; but suffering when you are right, and because you are righteous, is another matter. Peter was writing to a people who were suffering because they were Christians. They were suffering for righteousness sake. He did not set before them a long, theological treatise on suffering; nor did he posit a “stiff-upper-lip” counsel. He reminded the believers that they had a hope outside of, and distinct from, this world’s hopes. The nation of Israel had an earthly hope; Gentiles had their vain hopes. We have a living hope, a reality that is absolutely secure. It has been secured by precious blood and is being reserved by the power of God. That hope is deathless, spotless, and timeless: “incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away” (1Peter 1:4). It is reserved for us and we for it (vv 4, 5).

The present may mean the “trial of their faith” (v7) and of ours, but it will eventuate in the fruit of that trial resulting in praise, honor, and glory when He is unveiled to the universe. Nothing that has been of value to Him on earth will ever be lost in eternity. All will have eternal consequences.

### Longing Hearts

What is it that is innate to the human heart and for which it longs? What is it that artists, writers, and even musicians convey in their best works? What does each fairy tale that thrilled us as children, each novel we had to read in school, each poet’s writing, and each news event of the current day contain that resonates within us? We all long for a sense of justice: that right will triumph, that virtue is rewarded, and that goodness prevails.

We recoil at the triumph of evil; we resent when vice is applauded and when virtue is scorned. We desperately want right to triumph over evil.

We all long, as well, for love with the security and significance that it conveys to us; to have a relationship in which the warmth of love so enfolds us as to be made special in the eyes of the one who loves.

Paul sat in a lonely dungeon in Rome awaiting an executioner. He had been unrighteously condemned and was to

be put to death. Paul’s mind went to another Who had been unjustly maligned and crucified. His mind rushed onward to the day of Christ’s appearing. He longed for it, looked for it, and loved it (2Tim 4:8). His appearing! His vindication and glory will then be complete. The world that crucified and cast Him out will see Him return in majesty and glory. He will be “unveiled” for wondering worlds to behold. Right will triumph; justice will be seen; virtue will be recognized and worshiped.

In that day, all that is good will be confirmed and valued by those who enter the kingdom.

What will it be like to be loved eternally, with an uninterrupted enjoyment of that love, never to be obscured by clouds of doubt or winds of change?

At His appearing, every hope will be realized and every heart will be thrilled. In the memorable words of the old preacher’s Good Friday sermon: “It’s Friday now; but Sunday’s coming.” *Truth & Tiding, December, 2014* \*

## The Rapture

William Lincoln

It has been objected by some that the word “rapture” is not found in Scripture. Be it so. The word “caught up” or “caught away,” and the word “rapture,” which is a Latin word, is formed by metatheses\* from the Greek word which is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. The suddenness and secrecy with which the Lord comes, and the saints are “caught away,” is called in 1 Corinthians 15:51, “a mystery”—that is a secret revealed.

The whole action is to occupy only a single moment, or the twinkle of an eye, or even less time still. For “the twinkle of an eye” (1 Cor. 15:52) denotes the casting of the eyelid down and up, but the Greek word here means only the one or the other. Thus the one moment the living saints will be here, at their daily toil, the bodies of the sleeping saints in their graves, when lo! in a moment, ere the clock has ticked once more, all will be gone—the earth swept of all saints, and all gathered up to Christ. \*

\* In Grammar, the transposition of sounds or letters in a word

## Contributions of the Sisters to the Church

Bob Gessner

Free 14 page booklet

# Agnosticism vs. Christianity

Harry Ironside

One Sunday afternoon Dr. Ironside was walking along Market Street and noticed a sizable crowd gathered at the corner of Grant Avenue. He realized by the sound of the band and the singing that this was a Salvation Army meeting, and he joined the circle of people to enjoy the music and testimonies. The lassie captain knew him immediately, for it had hardly been more than a year since he left the Army. She asked him if he would like to give his testimony and he happily assented. While he was telling the Gospel and of his own experience of God's saving grace, he observed a rather well-dressed and intelligent-looking man in the audience, standing a little apart from others. This gentleman took a card out of his pocket and wrote something on it and, as Ironside was concluding his message, walked up to the "ring" and handed it to him.

Still speaking, Harry glanced down at the card and promptly recognized the name of a man who had been giving widely-advertised addresses on the West Coast for some months. He was an official representative of one of the early trade unions, the IWW - the Industrial Workers of the World, facetiously called by its opponents, I Won't Work. This particular man was famed for his ability to incite his hearers to class hatred and animosity toward the capitalistic system. He had passed him the card, Harry realized, for a purpose other than to give him his name, so Harry turned it over and read the penciled words, "Sir, I challenge you to debate with me the question 'Agnosticism vs. Christianity' in the Academy of Science Hall next Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. I will pay all expenses."

Harry read the card aloud to the crowd; he then answered his challenger, "I'm very much interested in this challenge. Frankly, I've already been announced as the speaker at another meeting next Lord's day afternoon at three o'clock, but I think it will be possible to finish in time to reach the Academy of Science by four or, if necessary, to have another speaker take my place at the earlier meeting."

"Therefore," he continued, "I'll be glad to agree to this debate on the following conditions, namely that in order to prove that this gentleman has something worth debating about, he will promise to bring with him to the hall next Sunday two people whose qualifications I shall give in a moment, as proof that agnosticism is of real value in changing human lives and building true character. First, he must promise to bring with him one man who was for years what we commonly call a 'down-and-outer.' I'm not particular as to the exact nature of the sins that wrecked his life and made him an outcast from society whether he

was a drunkard, or a criminal of some kind, or a victim of any sensual appetite. He must be, however, a man who for years was under the power of some evil habits from which he could not deliver himself, but who, on some occasion, attended one of this gentleman's meetings and heard him speak, glorifying agnosticism and denouncing the Bible and Christianity, and whose heart and mind as he listened to such an address were so deeply stirred that he went away from that meeting saying, 'Henceforth I, too, am an agnostic!' or words to that effect, and as a result of embracing that particular philosophy he found that a new power had come into his life. The sins that he once loved, now he hates, and righteousness and goodness are henceforth the ideals of his life. He is now an entirely new man, a credit to himself and an asset to society all because he is an agnostic."

"Secondly," Ironside went on to say, "I would like this gentleman who has challenged me to debate to bring with him to the hall next Sunday one woman and I think he may have more difficulty in finding the woman than the man who was once a poor, wretched, characterless outcast, the slave of degrading passions and the victim of man's corrupt living." "Perhaps," said Harry, nodding in the direction of San Francisco's infamous Barbary Coast, which was only a stone's throw from the spot where he was speaking, "perhaps one who had lived for years in some notorious resort down there on Pacific Street, or in some other hell-hole, utterly lost, ruined, and wretched. But this woman also entered one of this gentleman's meetings and heard him loudly proclaiming his agnosticism and ridiculing the message of the Holy Scriptures. As she listened to him, hope was born in her heart and she said, 'This is just what I need to deliver me from the slavery of sin!' She followed this teaching, then, until she became an intelligent agnostic or infidel. As a result, her whole being revolted against the degradation of the life she had been living. She fled from the infamous place where she had been captive so long and today, rehabilitated, she has won her way back to an honored position in society and is living a clean, virtuous, happy life all because she is an agnostic."

"Now, sir," Harry continued, "if you will promise to bring with you two such people as examples of what agnosticism will do, I will promise to meet you at the Academy of Science Hall at the hour appointed next Sunday, and I'll bring with me at the very least one hundred men and women who for years lived in just such sinful degradation as I have tried to depict but who have been gloriously saved through believing the message of the Gospel which you ridicule. I'll have these men and women with me on the platform as witnesses to the miraculous saving power of Jesus Christ, and as present-day proof of the truth of the Bible."

**Continued on next page**

Quickly turning to the Salvation Army captain, Ironside asked, "Captain, have you any who could go with me to such a meeting?"

"We can give you forty, at least," she exclaimed enthusiastically, "all from this one corps, and we'll furnish a brass band to lead the procession."

"Fine!" Harry said, "Now, sir," facing his challenger, "I shall have no difficulty in picking up at least sixty others from various missions, gospel halls, and evangelical churches. So if you promise faithfully to bring two such 'exhibits' as I have described, I will come marching in at the head of such a procession, with the band playing Onward Christian Soldiers, and I'll be ready for the debate."

His opponent, who had at least some sense of humor, smiled rather sardonically and, with a wave of the hand as if to say, "Nothing doing!" walked away from the scene of the meeting while the crowd applauded and cheered the street preacher who had met the challenge of the agnostic and put him to flight. They recognized immediately that no philosophy of negation, such as agnosticism, could ever make bad men and women good, and yet they knew from observation and experience that this is exactly what Christ has done for centuries and is doing every day.

*Excerpted from the book, Ordained of the Lord: A Biography of Harry Ironside by E. Schuyler English (Loizeaux Brothers). \**

## Present with the Lord

*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:8*

Brother Bob Gessner passed into the Lord's presence on December 8, 2014. It was just like Bob to want no eulogies. I have been very close to Bob for a number of years and really think he would forgive me if this qualifies as a eulogy.

We thank the Lord for bringing Bob and Carolyn into our lives. He had a huge impact on so many that knew him. Bob and his wife helped direct Youth Congress at Greenwood Hills, and their impact on the young people was great! His ministry at Congress, GWH conferences, and the York Bible study was always enjoyed. His simple, yet powerful presentation of the Word had a way of reaching the heart and mind. His life spoke even louder.

Bob served as Secretary of STW since its inception and wrote and compiled many articles for *Milk & Honey*. His booklets are still requested by many (See page 1). His promotion to Glory will leave a vacuum in our lives, but thankfully his family and all of us can be assured he is rejoicing in the presence of His Savior, and the time will come when we will see Bob again and there will never be a parting again. (1 Thess. 4:16-18) [Editor]

*...the dead in Christ shall rise first:  
Then we which are alive and remain  
...so shall we ever be with the Lord  
... comfort one another with these words*

## Riches

Ingimar DeRidder

He did not have a penny  
He could hold up for the crowd;  
and worldly goods, not any,  
of which mortal men are proud.

He had nowhere to lay His head,  
nor on earth a house He owned.  
Sometimes the earth His only bed  
as through fields and towns He roamed.

He did not have a fishing boat,  
nor a donkey on which to ride.  
He had one robe and outer coat  
and left both when He died.

He left behind a blood stained cross  
where He washed away our sin;  
paid in full salvation's cost,  
and did the greatest battle win.

He also left a legacy  
and paid the sinner's debt  
and bought for all Eternity,  
and in Him all needs are met.

## STW Spring Conference

April 11, 2015

David Dunlap, Tom Irwin  
North York Gospel Chapel

Mark your calendar

10AM - 3PM, Lunch served

## York Bible Study Program

February – April 2015

Date	Topic	Teacher
Feb 14	Book of Nehemiah	Bob Spender
March 14	Revelation 1-3	Mike Attwood
April 11	Conference	See information page 1

## 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](http://www.STW1982.com)

# Milk & Honey

Spread The Word, Inc., 2400 Admire Springs Dr.  
Dover, PA 17315



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

*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor. 4:18*

February 2015

## Going With The Flow

Steve Hulshizer

*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.*  
2 Timothy 4:10

Without giving it much thought, if any, the world goes with the flow. Fads, language, dress, hair styles—or lack of hair styles—digital games, sports, all change as the current moves down the stream of time.

Now it is more that fads that change. There seems to be little that restricts the downward spiral of behavior. “If you can’t restrict it, legalize it” seems to be the thinking of the world. Men, women, and young people each do that which is “right in his [their] own eyes.” (Jud. 21:25)

It is true with marriage as well. Divorce in the eyes of many is no different than trading in your car for a new one. Of course this is done with the mentality that the new one is better than the old one, which often does not prove to be the case. Poor children bounce from parent to parent, both of whom are living with someone who is not their parent. All seems to work well until the child gets tired of being a hot potato and takes out his or her frustration on their family, schoolmates, teachers, and authority in general.

Sadly, it is not only the unsaved world that floats along with the current of life. Professing Christians claiming separation from the world do exactly what the world did shortly before. The world has moved further down stream, and the church claims to be separated from it, not knowing it is flowing down stream at the same rate. With discernment often lacking, many do not ascertain the changing scenery along the way and the change that has taken place over time. Churches where the Word of God was honored and adhered to now have replaced solid food with fluffy

sermonettes, or liturgy. Hymns that took the spirit to heavenly heights and spoke of the glory of the Lord, have been replaced with what are often subjective, experiential choruses. This is not to say there are no good contemporary hymns that have both beautiful words and music. There are, but it is not uncommon for them to be written to be performed *for* the saints, and not *by* them.

Now it takes strength to row upstream. Courage too! You are seen as strange, legal, outdated, narrow-minded, and more, and sadly can be by many in the professing church! Thus if one is to withstand the current he must have convictions. Daniel had them! “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank.” (Dan. 1:8)

Many professing Christians lack a knowledge of foundational Biblical truth without which navigating upstream is extremely hard, if not impossible. (John 8:32) The writer to the Hebrews would instruct us “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” (Heb. 2:1 NKJV) The need is to give earnest attention to the truth of the Word, ignoring the counsel and ways of the world, even when by worldly standards they seem successful. (Psa. 1:1) This is true for the individual, and for the local assembly.

As Paul said to Titus concerning overseers, “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught.” (Tit. 1:9) There is nothing like the solid rock of the Word which endures the raging storms and swift currents. (Matt. 7:24-25) That which is built on the shifting sands of time will only be swept along by the flow of the world. Are we like Demas or Daniel? Are we going with the flow or rowing upstream?

— — — — —

“We will not know the things that of the world until we know the things that are of the Father.” \*